

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
MARCH 9, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5 was called to order by Chair Randy Weimer at 7:00 p.m. on March 9, 2011 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Randy Weimer, Chair
Tracy Timmons, Vice Chair
Carl Easthouse (via telephone)
Sanford Langager
Frank Ropp

Elliott Crump, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, District Clerk

GUESTS: Heather Gorsuch, Sarah DeVries, Tisa Wright, George Nelson, Jene Reinhardt, Arik Petersen, Jean Petersen, Heather Miller, Janine Johnson, Ryan Zimmerman, Ann Zimmerman, Mariah Holdbrook, Luke Holdbrook, Nanette Tomlin, Marty Tomlin, Patti Prinkki, Deborah Hill, Crystal Wright

MINUTES

Mrs. Timmons noted the following correction to the regular meeting minutes of February 9, 2011, Page 4, under consideration of bus route, her concern wasn't with stopping on the highway but with stopping on private property.

Mr. Crump stated the bus is stopping on the highway and not on private property.

Motion was made by Tracy Timmons, seconded by Frank Ropp and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meetings February 9 and 28 and regular meeting February 9, 2011 as amended. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none.)

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Mrs. Timmons asked about the payment for \$1398 for the heating system. Mr. Crump stated that payment covered two separate events, one when the system went down and was fixed and restarted and a second scheduled time for adjustments, recalibration, and moving the thermostat in the shop.

Mrs. Timmons asked if the repairs Conditioned Air made have kept the system working. Mr. Crump stated they have but the library continues to be a problem area.

Mr. Ropp asked if we still have to deal with Trane on that system and Mr. Crump stated we do.

Mr. Langager asked why there are two payments to Mr. Neibauer. Mrs. Obert stated the second check is the stipend for coaching.

Motion was made by Tracy Timmons, seconded by Frank Ropp and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for March, 2011, as presented. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

TEACHER REPORTS

George Nelson and Jene Reinhardt presented teacher reports for the month.

Mr. Nelson presented a rough draft for the creation of a Booster Club, looking at the fundraising, expenses, and obligations for each class. He stated he would like to put an article in the April newsletter about starting a booster club as a way to get the community involved in the school.

Mr. Nelson stated once the club is up and running, if a coach needs new uniforms, perhaps the club would fund half the cost with the district picking up the other half.

Mr. Nelson stated a booster club needs to be a separate entity from the school with staff and coaches not holding leadership roles in the organization. He asked for approval to place an article in the newsletter and schedule a public meeting to see about getting organized if there is interest.

Mr. Weimer stated it sounds like a great idea and as this would be a separate club, he doesn't see where Board approval is needed.

Mr. Easthouse asked if the money raised by the club would go through the school and Mr. Nelson stated it wouldn't.

Mrs. Hill stated her husband was on the board for the booster club in Bozeman and belonging was a matter of pride. She stated there was a great deal of community involvement.

Mr. Nelson stated the club in Joliet put on a junior high basketball tournament and netted \$7,000.

Mrs. Timmons asked Tisa Wright if she sees any conflict with the Roberts Community Foundation with calling it a booster club.

Mrs. Wright stated one of the foundation's levels for contributors is "Booster" but she doesn't think there will be a problem. She added she will bring it up at the next RCF meeting.

Ms. Reinhardt thanked the Board for the opportunity to be in Roberts and stated she is having a great year with classes and sports activities. She added she attended the scheduling meeting today for next year's athletics and everything is pretty much scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deborah Hill stated her room received one of the Promethean boards purchased with the help of a grant between Northwestern Energy, RCF, and the district and it is incredible. She added it is a great learning tool and the students love it.

Mariah Holdbrook stated there was a meeting held at her house last Thursday and she would like to clear up any misunderstandings about its purpose. She stated the meeting was held to discuss ways the community can support the school. She added another meeting is scheduled this week to hopefully move forward on some type of parent organization.

Mr. Langager thanked Mrs. Holdbrook for heading up the discussion as we are all here for the children and this is the right way to go about it.

Mr. Weimer asked Mrs. Hill if the Promethean board is a good learning tool for the lower grades and is it comparable to the SmartBoard.

Mrs. Hill stated she hasn't used the SmartBoard so can't make a comparison but the board she is using is very applicable to the lower grades.

Mrs. Timmons asked what would usually be done in the time the board is being used.

Mrs. Hill stated today the class worked on maps on the board and has done spelling, penmanship, math, as well as internet research.

Mr. Crump stated the students' comments on the Promethean board have been posted on the website.

Mr. Weimer stated there has been a lot of discussion this year about purchasing more boards.

Tisa Wright asked if the district also has some SmartBoards.

Mr. Crump stated there are SmartBoards in three rooms and Promethean boards in two rooms. He stated the Promethean board appears to be sturdier, easier for the students to use, and less costly as well as professional development comes with it.

PARENT LETTER

Mr. Weimer called for an executive session at 7:37 p.m. stating the next item to come before the Board involves the privacy rights of individuals and those privacy rights supersede the merits of public disclosure. The meeting was returned to regular session at 8:17 p.m.

Jean Petersen read the following portion of the letter sent to the district and board on February 20, 2011:

“With long thought, research, observation and evaluation we have decided to withdraw our son, Trent Petersen, from Roberts School. We feel it is in his best interest for us to move him, even at this late date in the second semester. This is not a decision we’re making rashly or taking lightly, as well as it’s not a decision we’ve wanted to make and are truly disheartened to do so. But again, it is made solely with the best interests of our child at hand that we make this choice.

Unfortunately, we feel he is not thriving. His grades reflect consistent decreases and his AIMS web scores show him at below average ranges. His behavior and demeanor towards learning are concerning. We feel we’re losing precious time and ground if we don’t get on top of this quickly with him. So we will move him to a district which offers more resources, Title programs and other intervention opportunities.”

Mrs. Petersen stated they moved their son for very objective reasons and there are some assumptions going around that are not fact. She stated they still have a child in Roberts School and a three-year old and are proud members of the Roberts school and community. She thanked Mr. Crump and the teachers for the chance to explain their decision and asked that if people have questions, they come talk with them rather than make assumptions.

PERSONNEL

LONG TERM SUB – Mr. Crump stated he is recommending Daisha Douglas as substitute teacher for Mrs. Wright for the duration of her maternity leave at the rate of \$133.34 per day.

Mrs. Wright stated Ms. Douglas has been in her room for a couple of days and the students are comfortable with her.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Tracy Timmons and carried unanimously to hire Daisha Douglas as a substitute teacher for the duration of Crystal Wright’s maternity leave at the rate of \$133.34 per day.

(YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

NEW BUSINESS

2011-2012 CALENDAR – Mr. Crump stated it is time to start looking at putting together next year’s calendar and he would like some input from the Board. He stated some people were enthused about the later start date for this school year but we did lose seven days of instruction.

Mr. Crump stated instead of scheduling days off in advance, would it be possible to put some discretionary days at the end of the year so adjustments could be made as needed. He added if a majority of the students are going to be gone for an event or game, maybe that could be a day off.

Mrs. Timmons stated parents need enough notice to make arrangements for children when school is not in session.

Mr. Crump stated certain days would stay the same, such as the holidays, but the calendar was reduced to 170 days of instruction for this year and our students are very active so miss a great deal of time. He added there are schools that have a day off in the high school but still have classes at the elementary level.

Mrs. Hill stated if the older siblings are competing somewhere, the younger children usually go to watch.

Mr. Crump stated he would draft some options for the calendar for the Board’s review.

TRUSTEE RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR ELECTION – Motion was made by Tracy Timmons, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to approve the attached resolution calling for the regular school election on May 3, 2011 (see attachment A). (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

BLEACHER RENTAL – Mr. Crump stated Randy DeVries has requested to borrow our bleachers this summer for seating for a tractor pull.

Mrs. Timmons stated she has no problem with the request as long as it is clear that any damage done to the bleachers would be the responsibility of Mr. DeVries.

Mr. Ropp stated another family asked to rent the cafeteria for a family event and the district asked for a deposit.

Mr. Crump stated he would talk to some other people and ask for ideas.

Mr. Ropp stated the bleachers would have to come back in the same condition as when they were taken.

TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Crump stated he spoke to the Board previously about purchasing Elmo document cameras for approximately \$1500 per camera. He stated he received an advertisement and was able to purchase a document camera for \$199.00 that was put with the new board in Mrs. Hill's room. He added he would like to have them for science, history, math, and English and added whenever we put a Promethean board in a room.

Mr. Crump requested \$1,000 to purchase document cameras for the other rooms that already have SmartBoards or Promethean boards.

Motion was made by Frank Ropp, seconded by Tracy Timmons and carried unanimously to approve \$1,000 for the purchase of five (5) document cameras for use with existing SmartBoards or Promethean boards. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

Mr. Crump stated trustees received a copy of a bid from Rimrock Computer Company in the amount of \$3,063.40 for a new server to back up the server now being used.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Tracy Timmons and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a new server from Rimrock Computer Company in the amount of \$3,063.40. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

Mr. Crump stated the server will be backed up off site.

Mr. Crump stated the district now has three mobile laptop computers students check out for AP classes. He stated he would like to expand the number to six and eventually to ten so we have a classroom set teachers can use. He stated five to seven computers would cost between five and seven thousand and two would be used as updated equipment for teachers.

Motion was made by Tracy Timmons, seconded by Frank Ropp and carried unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 for five to seven more laptop computers. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

Mr. Langager stated we need to come up with a policy regarding social networking. Mr. Crump stated he would work on that.

RECESS

Mr. Weimer called for a short recess at 8:50 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 9:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

ATHLETICS – Mr. Crump stated he informed Fromberg School that the district would like to maintain its own program in any sport where we can field a team. He stated next year will be the last year of a three-year co-op for football and the schedule will be the same as this year with the first two games in Roberts. He added if we have the numbers to field our own team, the co-op would be void but right now we may have seven or eight students

interested in football. He stated we need to meet with those students and their parents to see how they would like to proceed.

Mr. Weimer stated we also have some issues with putting freshmen on a varsity team.

Mr. Easthouse asked if we could look at running just a junior varsity schedule. Mr. Crump stated he would check that possibility.

Mr. Weimer asked Mr. Crump to inform Fromberg we will not be co-opting for junior high football. Mr. Crump stated he did.

Mr. Weimer asked that Mr. Crump schedule an open meeting to discuss the football program the first week of April. It was agreed that meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:00 with the football program the sole agenda item.

BOILER LICENSE – Mr. Crump reported Brian Roat has signed off on Nikki Easthouse's hours so she can take the boiler license exam.

HEATING SYSTEM – Mr. Crump stated Trane came back in to work on the heating system in the library and computer lab but he is still not happy with the temperature in that area and we will continue to work on the problem.

Mr. Easthouse stated when there is a specific Trane system like this, others companies who are called to repair it want to sell you a new system to fix the problem. He stated we need to ask Trane how many times they need to fix the system before it will work.

Mrs. Timmons asked if we've escalated our concerns with this problem to a higher power in the Trane organization.

Mr. Easthouse stated he is wondering if the problem is in the programming.

Mr. Crump stated that is the problem as there is only one sensor for both rooms and the computers in the lab warm up that room and then it turns off the heat for the library.

Mrs. Timmons suggested requesting the same repair person come to look at the system each time.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – Mrs. Timmons stated the representative from Safe Routes to Schools will be in Roberts on March 21 and she, Mr. Ropp, and Mr. Crump will meet with him to discuss a project to address safety issues with children coming to and leaving school. She stated the project would involve CTEP funds so she has also informed the Roberts Council about the project.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Crump reported he will be in the office this month and will be working on policies on March 14 when there is no school. Mr. Crump added Mrs. Langager has done a great job on this project.

Marty Tomlin asked if members of the public can review the policies.

Mr. Crump stated he is welcome to come in and look at the policies.

Mrs. Timmons stated there is a person in her office using a software system called WordPress that would be beneficial for getting the policies posted to the website and she could send that person down to show Mr. Crump how the program works.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Mr. Crump stated nothing has been settled in the legislature regarding school funding but with our reduction in number of students, we are anticipating a budget reduction of \$70,000 to \$100,000 in next year's budget.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES – Mr. Crump stated the second parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for March 17 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. He stated he would like to make the second conference of the year an ongoing thing as it is another opportunity for the community to be in the school. He added members of Student Council will again be available for computer assistance with e-mail, PowerSchool, and the website.

Mr. Crump stated Mrs. Wright has already conducted her conferences and Ms. Reinhardt and Mr. Nelson will be gone coaching the Senior Classic.

CRT TESTING – Mr. Crump stated he and Mrs. Nardinger put together a different schedule for CRT testing this year so they are given on separate days rather than three days in a row. He stated he would like to convince the state to test in May instead of March.

SCHEDULE CHANGE – Mr. Crump stated the second ski day was scheduled for March 7 but because of very cold weather, was changed to April 7.

Mrs. Wright stated she has not been impressed with working with the mountain this year but they are planning on making changes for next year.

Janine Johnson stated her family has ski passes and if her children go with the school for ski days, she has to pay for lessons. She stated she doesn't want her children to feel like they aren't part of the group but she also doesn't want to have to spend \$14 for each child for lessons.

Mrs. Wright stated the decision to require lessons was put in place as a way to address the liability issue.

Mr. Weimer asked how long the lessons last. Mrs. Wright stated they take about an hour and students skiing on their own can then ski with their friends.

Mrs. Johnson stated she also has some questions about being a chaperone for the program. Mrs. Wright stated Mrs. Johnson needs to come speak with her.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING – Mr. Crump stated Rezina Zeiler has requested permission to run an after school tutoring program for math. He stated he feels this would be very valuable and Mrs. Zeiler has done quite a bit of tutoring on her own time.

Mr. Weimer asked which students could go for help. Mr. Crump stated the priority will be those students needing help so there is time to work with them.

Tisa Wright asked what grades would be included. Mr. Crump stated this would be for grades 7-12.

Mariah Holdbrook asked if the program could be expanded to other grades and subjects. Mr. Crump stated the elementary teachers did some after-school tutoring earlier in the year.

Mr. Crump stated his recommendation is to create the after school math program at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. He added payment wouldn't begin until after the teaching day is over at 4:00 p.m. so would be 2.5 hours per week.

Mrs. Timmons asked if other teachers have the understanding they can develop such a program. Mr. Crump stated he has discussed it with the staff but will reiterate the possibility.

Mr. Weimer stated his concern that we offer help for students in need but what do we offer for students at the upper level. Mr. Crump stated students can enroll for advanced placement classes or classes such as advanced literature.

Mariah Holdbrook asked what is done at the elementary level. Mrs. Hill stated in any classroom, each teacher challenges students at their level. She added we are also looking at a new reading program that contains more reading levels.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Mrs. Timmons and carried unanimously to approve the after-school math tutoring program to be paid at \$20.00 per hour for 2.5 hours per week as long as deemed necessary. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Easthouse, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

STUDENT UPDATE – Mr. Crump stated when teachers input grades on report cards, comments must be posted for any failing grade and he is thinking of expanding that to require comments for all grades.

Mr. Crump stated we enrolled a new first grade student today and will have a new second grader and seventh grader tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Weimer adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk

TRUSTEE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees for Roberts School District No. 5, Carbon County, State of Montana, will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 2011, which date is not less than forty (40) days after the passage of this resolution.

The polls will be open from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m.

The purpose of the election is to elect two (2) trustees for three-year terms. Approval of additional levies to operate and maintain the Roberts School(s) for the 2011-2012 school year will also be requested. If it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required, the Board of Trustees authorizes JaLayne Obert, election administrator, to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313, MCA.

Three electors of this district who are qualified to vote at such election are hereby appointed to act as judges at the election at each voting place as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Voting Place</u>
Barbara Stark	PO Box 2075 Roberts MT 59070	Roberts Fire Hall
Connie Bell	HC48, Box 1060 Roberts MT 59070	Roberts Fire Hall
Jane Zumbrun	Route 2 Roberts MT 59070	Roberts Fire Hall

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of this school district is hereby directed to notify the above named election judges of their appointment and to notify the county election administrator of the date of holding said election, and request him/her to close registration and to prepare and furnish election materials as required by law. If any of these judges should not be able to serve, the election administrator will choose a replacement from certified judges.

No further proceedings were conducted relating to the election.

Print Name of Board Chair

Signature of Board Chair

Print Name of District Clerk

Signature of District Clerk

DATED this 9th day of March, 2011

20-20-201 and 13-19-202, MCA
ATTACHMENT A