

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
DECEMBER 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Vice Chair Michelle Swansborough at 5:30 p.m. on December 15, 2021 in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Joel Bertolino, Chair (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)  
Michelle Swansborough, Vice Chair  
Brandon Crane  
Sam Langager (via telephone until arrival at 6:05 p.m.)

Absent: Tyler Allen

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Sanford Langager, John Holdbrook, Lindsay Thompson, Jesse Hall, Darryl Grove, Lacy Kircher, Kelley Guasp and Caitlin Hall (virtual)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sam Langager and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2021 special meeting and November 17, 2021 regular meeting as presented. (YES— Swansborough, Crane, Langager. NO—none).

**WARRANTS**

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sam Langager, and carried unanimously to approve warrants 47683-47762 as written. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Langager. NO—none).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sanford Langager stated in 1963 prayer was outlawed in school and we need to put Christ back into the school. He encouraged trustees as elected officials to spend time in classrooms and see what is going on. He also encouraged the Board to join others in supporting the State Superintendent of Public instruction Elsie Arntzen.

(Joel Bertolino arrived at 5:40 p.m.)

John Holbrook stated he has been a supporter of the school for over 30 years but is seeing things he doesn't like. He stated the fall issue of the student newsletter included senior biographies and some of the comments shouldn't have been published. He added the poor sportsmanship being displayed by parents and fans needs to be addressed.

Jesse Hall stated as advisor for the student newsletter, he did edit some of the seniors' comments but will display more editorial oversight.

Lacy Kircher stated teachers aren't enforcing the rules and classrooms are disruptive.

### **TEACHER REPORTS**

Jesse Hall, Darryl Grove, and Lindsay Thompson gave teacher reports for the month.

Mr. Hall stated having everyone back in the school has been positive and although Covid is still having an effect, it is much less.

Mr. Hall reported his classes have just finished writing projects and in the three years he has been here, writing skills have improved significantly with students taking both first and second place in the Voice of Democracy contest.

Darryl Grove reported he has 21 students in the combined 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade class and they have started getting into FFA, parliamentary procedures, and small shop projects. He added he also has a class of ninth and tenth graders and a class of eleventh and twelfth graders.

Mr. Grove stated he took 18 FFA members to the Montana Ag Expo with Karla Bissonnette and Tessie Kosel helping chaperone.

Mr. Ator stated a few years ago the board decided to not let junior high students go on overnight trips and if there are members who now wish to reconsider this decision, please let him know.

Lindsay Thompson stated this year she teaches kindergarten, character education for the elementary, is involved with MTSS and on the leadership team for the literacy grant. She added she would always be willing to volunteer as an FFA chaperone.

Sarah Shoopman gave the following activities report for the month:

1. Junior High Girls Basketball is over
2. High school basketball starts tomorrow and we will have junior varsity teams for both boys and girls
3. BPA competed at regional competition on December 7.

### **STAFFING**

ADDITIONS TO SUB LIST – Mr. Ator recommended adding Jennifer Larson to the substitute teacher list.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to add Jennifer Larson to the substitute teacher list. (YES—Bertolino, Swansborough, Crane, Langager. NO—none.)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

ELECTION CALENDAR – Mrs. Obert stated the Election Calendar is in the board packet and Michelle Swansborough's term is up in May.

RED LODGE/BELFRY/ROBERTS FOOTBALL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – Mr. Ator asked for board approval to renew the agreement for the Red Lodge/Belfry/Roberts football cooperative.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sam Langager and carried unanimously that the Roberts School District moves to support the commitment to the Red Lodge, Belfry, Roberts Cooperative for the next three academic years. (YES—Bertolino, Swansborough, Crane, Langager. NO—none).

COVID REOPENING PLANS—Mr. Ator stated approval is needed for the latest update of the Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan. He added this is basically the same thing as approved this summer except for a few revisions, one of which is to remove all Covid-19 protocols on January 4, 2022.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Sam Langager and carried unanimously to approve the recommended changes to the district’s Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan. (YES—Bertolino, Swansborough, Crane, Langager. NO—none).

**OLD BUSINESS**

BUS ROUTE AMENDMENTS – Nothing to amend, remove from agenda.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

LITERACY REPORT—Mr. Ator stated the amount of the Literacy Grant for this year has been increased to \$307,704.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – Mr. Ator stated he hopes to give his evaluation information to the board in January and have the evaluation in February.

NEXT MEETING – Mr. Ator stated tentative meeting dates for the next few months are either January 19 or 26<sup>th</sup>, depending on who is available, February 16 (district basketball tournament) and March 16, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Bertolino called for adjournment at 6:40 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk