

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
JANUARY 18, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Chair Michelle Swansborough at 6:00 p.m. on January 18, 2023 in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Michelle Swansborough, Chair  
Brandon Crane, Vice Chair  
Joel Bertolino  
Mariah Holdbrook (arrived at 6:17 p.m.)  
Sam Langager

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Misty Pitts, Cheyanne Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Katy Rausch, Alan Schuyler, Sarah Shoopman, Bob Moore, Jackie Ronning

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 regular meeting and December 20, 2022 special meeting as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Langager. NO—none).

**WARRANTS**

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve warrants 48923-48980 as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Langager. NO—none).

**PARENT PETITION FOR EXTRA ABSENCES**

Mr. Ator stated Sarah Mitchell and her daughter Cheyanne Mitchell are here to ask the board to allow absences above those allowed in the attendance policy for days she was absent because of competitive shooting events.

Cheyenne Mitchell stated she competes in competitive shooting for 4H and also a shooting club and really loves it but missed three extra days during the first semester because of the travel involved and may need extra days in the spring.

Mr. Ator recommended allowing additional absences for Cheyanne Mitchell for competitive shooting events as long as the student stays in good standing and makes up the work missed.

Motion was made by Sam Langager, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to grant three additional absences to Cheyanne Mitchell for the first semester and up to four days

in the second semester with proof of schedule or registration for events. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Langager. NO—none). (Mariah Holdbrook arrived at 6:17 p.m.)

Mr. Ator stated he has four or five students he is working with to make up lost time and there may be some students who are looking at losing credits because of absences.

## **TEACHER REPORTS**

Misty Pitts, Katy Rausch, and Sam McCrone gave teacher reports for the month.

Mr. McCrone reported he is teaching health at the junior high level and has brought in a speaker on drugs and alcohol and has another scheduled to address changes in the body.

Mr. Ator stated that program will come from either the Carbon County Health Department or Beartooth Billings Clinic.

Miss Rausch reported she is teaching fifth and sixth grade math and science. She stated she attended a workshop in Bozeman this summer that showed her how to rearrange her room to make the flow better and that has been helpful.

Ms. Rausch stated we are having a science fair on April 13 that is mandatory for grades 7 through 12 but 5 and 6 can also participate. She added we will be reaching out to the community for volunteers to judge the event.

Mrs. Pitts reported through the Scholastic Book Fair, 1508 new books have been added to classrooms and the library and scholastic dollars have been used to purchase other things for the library.

Mrs. Pitts stated the school participates in the Kindle program through the Masonic Lodge that awards several Kindles to students each year. She added during I Love to Read month we will be doing a tournament of books.

Mrs. Pitts stated there are 8 students in preschool and we are using a new curriculum this year that includes science, math, and social studies instruction. She added the students will be coming to the library every other week until the end of the year.

**ACTIVITIES REPORT** – Sarah Shoopman reported the following for activities:

1. High School Basketball is underway with the girls' team ranked #1 in the conference and the boys' team #4. District tournament will be in Columbus.
2. At the MHSA Annual Meeting it was decided volleyball will return to the coin toss and switching sides of the court each set. No dunking in warm-ups in basketball will be allowed, and the number of practices required before playing in a contest was reduced from 10 to 8. Penalties will be added in track to ensure athletes are entered correctly on rosters.
3. FFA members are competing in several different competitions.
4. BPA is getting ready for state competition.
5. Junior high boys' basketball begins February 13.
6. There has been concern with the language and behavior of our athletes and both teams have been talked to and warned about consequences of violations.
7. Prom is tentatively scheduled for April 15

LITERACY UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated the Literacy Report is in the packet.

**NEW BUSINESS**

FACILITIES UPDATE – Mr. Ator introduced Bob Moore, an account executive with McKinstry, who spoke to the board about what a Facilities Audit entails and the Design Build system his company uses to help district with facility projects.

Mr. Ator stated with the centennial reunion coming up, it would be nice to have a plan of improvements for the school facility for the next three to five years.

Mr. Moore stated he has looked at all the buildings in the district but an actual Facilities Assessment would cost tens of thousands of dollars.

**STAFFING**

ACTIVITIES – Mr. Ator stated he formally resigned from the junior high boys’ basketball coaching position and Jacquie Jessen resigned from the assistant coaching position. He stated there has been some interest in the assistant coaching position so he will give it another few days to see if we can fill the spots.

SUBSTITUTE LIST – Mr. Ator asked to add Amy Bailey and Barbara Larson to the substitute list.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Sam Langager and carried unanimously to add Amy Bailey and Barbara Larson to the substitute list. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

ART – Mr. Ator stated the Art Guild did not receive grant funding for junior high art but he would like to keep that instruction going for the second semester with district funding.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to continue funding junior high art instruction for the second semester with district funding. (Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

FACILITY DIRECTOR INSURANCE – Mr. Ator reported Mr. Wisniewski’s business license and insurance are up for renewal. He stated last year the board paid the fees as we needed the license to file for permits for the bathroom remodel and asked if the district should continue to pay for the license and insurance. He added he doesn’t feel we need the license to finish the bathroom project.

Brandon Crane and Joel Bertolino both indicated they didn’t feel the district needs to pay the license and insurance.

No motion was made by the board.

2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR – Mr. Ator stated the teachers have recommended adopting a school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year beginning for the teachers on August 16, 2023 and students on August 21, 2023 and ending on Mary 30, 2024. He added a snow day is also built into this calendar.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 school calendar beginning on August 16, 2023 for teachers,

August 21, 2023 for students and ending on May 30, 2024. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Ator stated he sent out superintendent evaluation forms and would like to have them returned by the first week in February.

**MEETING DATES**

Mr. Ator stated the next meeting date will be held on February 22, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Michelle Swansborough called for adjournment at 8:18 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk