

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
DECEMBER 9, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Vice Chair Rusty Niemi at 6:03 p.m. on December 9, 2014, in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair (arrived at 6:09 p.m.)
Rusty Niemi, Vice Chair
Joel Bertolino
Tami Hoines
Luke Holdbrook

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/District Clerk

GUESTS: Ward Braten, Sanford Langager, Jackie Ronning, Courtney Halvorsen

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 11, 2014 as presented. (YES-- DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for December 2014 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

NEW BUSINESS

SNOW DAY – Mr. Ator stated he called off school on November 25, 2014 because of bad weather. He stated this was a half-day before Thanksgiving and there are probably enough hours in the calendar to cover the lost time. He stated we could also make up the hours and if that is the case, he would recommend extending the Friday schedule until 3:30 p.m. when we have home games in January and February. He asked how the Board feels about the missed time.

Mr. Holdbrook stated he doesn't think we need to make up the time.

Mr. Bertolino asked if there are any issues if the time isn't made up.

Mr. Ator stated there aren't as long as we don't have any more snow days.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried to not make up the half-day of school missed because of bad weather on November 25, 2014. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—Niemi.)

NEGOTIATIONS – Mr. Ator stated Clark Begger and Courtney Halvorsen will be negotiating for the teachers and Ms. DeVries and Ms. Hoines will negotiate for the Board.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE – Mr. Ator stated if the Board is interested in offering a retirement incentive, there needs to be a motion to do so and the last date a person would have to apply. He suggested the last date to apply be the first Monday in February.

Ms. Hoines asked if this would be done every year. Mr. Ator stated this would be for one year only and would have to be considered on a yearly basis.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to offer a retirement incentive to be taken by no later than February 2, 2015, of a maximum of three years health insurance (premiums paid up to \$600 per month) or until the person is eligible to receive Medicare insurance to any currently certified teacher working as a teacher in our district with a minimum of 30 years teaching and 5 in the district. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

Mr. Ator stated there are two people in the district eligible for the incentive and he feels one may take it.

BID FOR NEW BUS – Mr. Ator stated we received a bid from I-State in Billings for a new bus in the amount of \$92,841. He stated there is a seat upgrade we may want to look at to have seats similar to those in the cruiser for \$7500 and there is an upgrade to all-wheel drive for \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Ms. DeVries stated she would be in favor of upgrading the seats and using the bus for junior high activities. She asked which bus would be traded in.

Mr. Ator stated the 1994 bus would be traded in and he has had one person interested in purchasing that bus for the trade-in value.

Mr. Ator recommended tabling action on this matter until after the first of the year.

2015-2016 CALENDAR – Mr. Ator stated a draft of the 2015-2016 calendar was included in the Board packet. He stated this is a 180 day calendar so there are some extra days to play with but there was discussion in negotiations last year of trying to add in more days.

Mr. Ator stated on back of the calendar is feedback from teachers on concerns such as the semester ending after the Christmas break. He stated some of them are giving semester exams before the break and then assigning a project until the end of the semester. He added we may not need two block days for exams.

Mr. Ator stated school would begin on August 26, 2015 and end on May 27, 2016. He asked if the Board is okay with those dates. Board members indicated those dates would be fine.

Mr. Ator stated if the decision is made to take off some of the extra days, he would rather use those days during the year instead of moving up the end date. He added he would like to wait until after negotiations are concluded to finalize the calendar.

OFFICE CLOSURE – Mr. Ator asked that the office be closed from December 20, 2014 to January 4, 2015.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to close the school office from December 20, 2014 to January 4, 2015. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

CLASSIFIED STAFF EVALUATION – Mr. Ator stated he included a copy of the classified staff evaluation in the Board packet. He stated it is the end portion of the evaluation form used for certified staff.

OLD BUSINESS

2014-2015 STAFF HANDBOOK/COURSE CATALOG – Mr. Ator stated he has no update on the staff handbook and course catalog as there hasn't been time to work on them.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

STAFF APPRECIATION EVENT – Mr. Ator stated the staff appreciation event will be held December 10 at the Roberts Café.

STUDENT TEACHERS – Mr. Ator stated student teachers in the kindergarten and sixth grade rooms will be starting after the Christmas break.

Mr. Ator stated we should know by the end of the week if the first choice candidate takes the AltaCare position.

ACTIVITIES REPORT – Mr. Ator reported on the following activities:

Band – Is preparing for the Christmas concert on December 18.

BPA – Did a great job organizing the craft fair at the end of November.

FFA – Will be attending a competition in Columbus.

Basketball – Both high school teams start their seasons on Friday and Saturday. Junior high girls' basketball is over.

Mr. Ator stated we have six girls out for basketball and five will be able to play this weekend. He asked that Board members contact him if they have thoughts about co-oping. He stated the deadline date for expressing interest in co-oping is February 1 and it may be something we need to look at again.

ACADEMIC UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated the 2015—2016 class schedule is almost completed.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated he will be attending a MASS meeting this month and the community luncheon is set for tomorrow. He added he will be on break from December 22 through December 31, 2014.

Mr. Ator stated the MHSA annual meeting is being held in Kalispell this year and it would cost nearly \$1000 for him to attend. He added unless there are proposals that really affect us, he won't be going.

BUILDING UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated the old boiler downstairs has been removed, thanks to Dan Nardinger, Phil Nardinger, and Sanford Langager. He stated he is requesting a maximum of \$2000 from the Deferred Maintenance Fund to finish remodeling of the room.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the expenditure up to \$2000 from the Deferred Maintenance Fund for remodeling the old boiler room. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

RECESS

Ms. DeVries called to a short recess at 6:58 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. DeVries called for an executive session at 7:05 p.m. stating the next item of business involves the superintendent evaluation and it is her determination that the privacy rights of the individual supersede the merits of public disclosure. She returned the meeting to regular session at 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk