

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
OCTOBER 13, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:00 p.m. on October 13, 2015, in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair
Rusty Niemi, Vice Chair
Joel Bertolino
Deborah Hill
Sanford Langager

Alex Ator, Superintendent
Nancy Langager, Executive Assistant

GUESTS: Carter Moore, Gus Dines, Makayla Dies, Meadow Smith, Ryan DeVries, Brooke Miller, Brittany Prinkki, Kylee Everett, Mariah Holdbrook, Shawn Perkins, Rees Newton, Ward Braten, Myrna Lastusky, Abby Chaska, Ron Prinkki, Mitzy Carter, Albert Dines, Jessie Dines, Stacie Nardinger, Rhonda Schmaltz, Ty Allen, Dan Kosel, James Binando, Jake Krum, Melissa Bertolino, Tessie Kosel, Erika Binando, Avery Walker, Bobby Carter, Crystal Wright, Amanda Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015 meeting as presented. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for October 2015 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jess Mysse reported to the Board on his experience at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference he attended this summer. He stated about 100 youth attended the conference and it was a life changing experience.

ATHLETIC CO-OP

Mr. Ator stated at the September board meeting, an athletic co-op with Belfry was discussed and no interested parties attended the meeting. He stated the survey results about the idea of having a co-op were about 60%/40% in favor of doing so and the Board took action to begin the process.

Mr. Ator stated after the meeting, survey responses have been about 50% in favor of a co-op and 50% opposed. He added concerns expressed include the number of practices and games to be held in Belfry with few or no students from the school participating.

Mr. Ator stated if we are going to co-op, it will be done fairly. He stated we were in a previous co-op where we weren't treated fairly and he won't do that to another school. He added the co-op was considered to help out the volleyball team and if we don't co-op, students need to do their best in both academics and activities. He stated we can also completely throw out the idea.

After listening to comments from members of the audience, motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to rescind the motion approved at the September 8, 2015 meeting to enter into an athletic co-op with Belfry. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

Deborah Hill commented that even though she voted for the motion, she doesn't like going back on her word to Belfry.

Myrna Lastusky stated the Board and Mr. Ator put a great deal of time and effort into this item and we need to thank them for that.

PERSONNEL

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACHING ASSISTANT – Mr. Ator stated the advertisement for an assistant for the high school girls' basketball team has been in the paper and there are a couple individuals who may be interested.

TEACHER REPORTS

Myrna Lastusky and Rees Newton presented teacher reports for the month.

Mrs. Lastusky stated the Destiny Program purchased for the library and with grant money and it is a big asset. She reported an All for Books fundraiser is currently running and the Book Fair will be held on November 5 in conjunction with Parent/Teacher conferences. She added her appreciation to Karen Hastings who has been volunteering in the library.

Mrs. Newton stated there are six third graders this year and she is enjoying teaching them and working with other staff as they share teaching duties. She stated the longer day has resulted in more time to teach and is working well.

RECESS

Ms. DeVries called for a short break at 7:00 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

BUS ROUTE AMENDMENT – Mr. Ator stated there have been two additions to bus routes that need Board approval. He stated the first is on Route 1 to pick up a student on Shorey Road which adds six miles each way to the route. He added the second is on Route 2 to pick up a student at the junction of Red Lodge Creek and Stovall Lane that adds 10 miles each way.

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to Route 1 and Route 2 as recommended by the superintendent. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

YWCCSS CO-OP CONTINGENCY FUNDS – Mr. Ator stated the number of students needing special education services is greater than we anticipated. He stated he would like to apply for contingency funds from the co-op so the aide hired this fall spends the majority of her time with special education students and we hire a third certified substitute teacher. He added we can apply for \$7500 in additional funding and recommended we do so.

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to apply to the Yellowstone West Carbon County Special Services Cooperative for \$7500 in contingency funding due to the increase in special education needs. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

SENIOR TRIP – Stacie Nardinger stated the senior class is looking at going to Denver for their senior trip. She stated the trip would take place the last week of school when seniors have already completed their work. She added graduation would be on June 4, 2016, Saturday after school is out.

MONTANA YOUTH TRANSITIONS CONFERENCE – Mr. Ator stated Crystal Wright would like to take three students to the Montana Youth Transitions Conference in Great Falls.

Mrs. Wright reported this conference concentrates on transitioning into the next phase of life and skills to be successful. She added the cost will be around \$700 and this is a great opportunity for a couple of her students.

After discussion, it was decided a motion by the Board was not necessary and Mr. Ator could use his discretion on the expenses. Board members did express support of the trip.

BID FOR PLAYGROUND UPDATES – Mr. Ator stated he is waiting on a bid from Keith Thomas for putting pea gravel on the playground for safety purposes at the direction of our insurance company. He stated he is guessing this will run about \$10,000.

Mrs. Hill stated she would like to see more bids.

Mr. Langager stated he can make some phone calls to other vendors. He asked Mr. Ator to contact the Roberts Community Foundations about possibly helping with the project.

SPEECH AND DEBATE PROGRAM INFORMATION – Mr. Ator stated Ms. Chaska and Mr. Krum have expressed interest in having a Speech and Debate team. He stated this is an MHSA activity and there are meets we could go to in the Billings area. He added there are two students definitely interested and possibly as many as five.

Mr. Ator stated cost of the program is advisor stipend (\$1125), travel, and participation fee with MHSA. He stated if the program is approved, he will advertise in-house for an advisor.

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried to approve the addition of Speech and Debate as an MHSA activity and pay the accompanying expenses. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

Mrs. Hill volunteered to participate in the interviews.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY DUES – Mr. Ator stated the dues for membership in National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society have increased from \$85 per year for each group to \$350 per year for each group. He suggested continuing to recognize the students who qualify for membership in the groups but not paying the dues.

Ms. DeVries stated if we aren't receiving huge benefits from membership, the large increase in dues isn't justified.

After discussion, it was decided to not pay the dues for National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

1. The cross country team continues to do well and will be attending the state meet in Great Falls on October 24.
2. Volleyball district tournament is coming up and Roberts is sitting in 7th place. The band will be attending the tournament.
3. Four BPA members attended a leadership conference at Fairmont Hot Springs.
4. FFA will be attending the NILE for livestock judging.

ACADEMICS REPORT – Mr. Ator reported there are only two students who need to finish MAPS testing. He stated our goal is for 75% to 85% of our students to score above average on the tests and currently 62% are scoring above average.

Mrs. Hill asked if we have a plan to work on weaknesses and are we also using the AIMS web testing.

Mr. Ator stated we will get a plan in place when we get the data. He stated repeating the test in the coming years will improve our scores.

Mrs. Hill stated she would like to be informed of the plan when it is drawn up.

BUILDING PROJECTS REPORT – Mr. Ator stated most of the building projects have been completed.

4 DAY WEEK UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated complaints he received in the last month about the four-day week involved homework and getting home late from a cross country meet.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated he will be attending MCEL this week, MASS and AD meetings, district volleyball tournament, and is taking a personal day on the 27th.

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE -- Ms. DeVries stated the next agenda item involves students and it is her determination that the individuals' rights to privacy supersede the merits of public disclosure. She called for an executive session at 8:45 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 8:47 p.m.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the out-of-district contracts for N.H. and J.H. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk