

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
MARCH 16, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Sarah DeVries at 6:05 p.m. on March 16, 2017, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair  
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair  
James Binando  
Deborah Hill

Absent: Sanford Langager

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Jackie Ronning, Courtney Halvorsen, Bryce Dines, Tyler Foss, Shawn Perkins, Jess Mysse, Molly Solano, Travis Sheesley, Misty Prindle

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by James Binando and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting as presented. (YES— DeVries, Bertolino, Binando, Hill. NO—none).

**CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS**

Motion was made by James Binando, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for March, 2017 as presented. (YES— DeVries, Bertolino, Binando, Hill. NO—none).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Ator stated he spoke with a person who owns property close to the school who has concerns with the ditch. He added at some point that person may want to speak with the Board.

**SENIOR TRIP**

Mr. Ator stated members of the senior class are present to request approval for a change of chaperones to James Sigl and Misty Prindle (senior parent).

Mrs. Hill asked if Mr. Ator would be giving Ms. Prindle guidance on the duties of a chaperone. Mr. Ator stated he would.

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve Mindy Prindle as a chaperone for the 2017 senior trip pending administrative approval after training of individual. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Binando, Hill. NO—none).

**TEACHER REPORTS**

Jackie Ronning and Courtney Halvorsen gave the teacher reports for March.

Mrs. Ronning stated she started the year with ten kindergarten students and now has fourteen.

Mrs. Ronning stated the parents of all the students have been very helpful with working with their children at home. She showed some examples of the students' writing skills and stated calendar math was added this year and is very helpful with math skills.

Mrs. Ronning stated she coached junior high volleyball again this year and worked closely with the varsity coaching staff. She added they are working on creating opportunities for the students this summer with both open gyms and camps.

Mrs. Ronning stated she, Mrs. Halvorsen, and Ms. Reinhart are working together as advisors for Student Council. She stated the Montana Association of Student Councils has been reaching out to the group and Ms. Reinhart is taking students to an event Red Lodge is hosting next week.

Mr. Ator stated Mrs. Ronning is always open to new ideas and really takes things to heart.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated she splits her time between teaching math for grades four through six and serving as guidance counselor. She stated she is also secretary of the MBI group.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated she is really seeing the benefit of teaching one subject for three years in a row. She stated using the IXL program has been helpful with MAPS information.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated counseling begins with character education at the elementary level and goes to JMG class for the seniors. She added the emphasis this time of year is on scholarships and how to find a job.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated when she applied for the counseling position she was asked about the possibility of going back to school for a Masters in counseling degree. She stated she really isn't able to go back to school at this time.

Mr. Ator stated until it becomes a problem we'll keep doing what we're doing.

Mr. Ator stated Mrs. Halvorsen is always flexible and goes all in with her job. He stated she puts pressure on herself to do her best.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)**

Marco LaRowe stated he owns land next to the school and would like to meet with district representatives about some concerns he has.

Mr. Ator stated to will work on forming a committee to meet with Mr. LaRowe.

#### **PERSONNEL**

**HIRE CUSTODIAN** – Mr. Ator stated Erin Koch has been a nice addition to the staff and recommended she be hired for the remainder of the school year as custodian.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by James Binando and carried unanimously to hire Erin Koch as custodian for the remainder of the school year. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Binando, Hill. NO—none).

**RESIGNATION** – Mr. Ator stated he received a letter of resignation from Adam Ruhnke as math teacher and recommended the Board accept it.

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Adam Ruhnke for his math teaching position. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Binando, Hill. NO—none).

Mr. Ator stated he will be setting up interviews for the math teaching position and asked if Board members would like to be on the interview committee. Mrs. Hill and Ms. DeVries offered to be on the interview committee.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**LEVY RESOLUTION** – Mr. Ator stated there is currently a bill in the legislature, Senate Bill 307, which would allow the district to permissively levy about \$30,000 in the Building Reserve fund next year. He stated he and Mrs. Obert have looked at all the numbers and feel we will need another \$30,000 in the budget next year so it may make sense to levy it in the Building Reserve rather than running a mill levy.

It was decided the Board would meet in a special meeting on March 31 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss levy options.

**CLASS SCHEDULE** – Mr. Ator stated we aren't looking at major staffing changes next year so can look at the typical rotations for science and history.

Mr. Ator stated one change he is considering for next year is to have Brian Frank teaching at the second grade level part-time and Misty Pitts watching over the Montana Digital Academy classes. He added he is also looking at moving some of the Title I responsibilities into the special education program.

Mr. Ator stated there has been some discussion of extending the school day by a few minutes so students can help take out garbage and wipe down tables at the end of the day. The Board indicated it would be interesting in discussing the idea.

**ROTATION SCHEDULE** – Mr. Ator presented the report of the committee looking at the rotation schedules for areas such as facilities, uniforms, and busses. He stated the report hasn't been finalized but he wanted the board to see the progress.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENT ATTENDANCE** – Mr. Ator asked that this item be tabled.

#### **POLICY UPDATES AND REVIEW**

**GOALS POLICY REWRITE** – Mr. Ator stated MTSBA is very busy with the legislature so he decided to wait on this policy rewrite until the legislature adjourns.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**ACADEMIC REPORT** – Mr. Ator stated the updated evaluation tool was included in the packet and sent electronically for review as this is a change to the current process. He stated it breaks the evaluation into smaller pieces as the committee felt it would allow people to look more closely at each section.

Mrs. Hill stated the tool deals quite a lot with cooperative learning and asked if teachers are trained in that.

Mrs. Ronning stated that shouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Ator reported the director of ACE, Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement, met with the teachers for the PIR day. He stated ACE will be putting on a Building Bridges conference this summer where 35 people get to work with Marie Alcott, the premium curriculum person in the United States, for five days at the Rock Creek Resort in Red Lodge. He stated the cost of the conference is \$1500, which is quite an investment for the district. He stated if we decide to send staff to this training, he would want a commitment from them to stay with the district a certain number of years or repay the district for the training. He asked if the Board is interested in sending a couple teachers to the Building Bridges training with a two year buyback plan.

The Board indicated it would be interested in the proposal.

Mr. Ator stated we have committed heavily to the MBI program but if we send teachers to the curriculum conference, we probably won't attend MBI this summer.

Mr. Ator stated the Friday program is highly successful when we have a planned activity but not well attended otherwise. He stated he is considering having one Friday program per month and a Friday for staff training. He stated he will look through the survey for the four-day week to see who is using the Friday program and contact them.

Mr. Bertolino stated this would give more time for staff training.

Mr. Ator stated in the library, Mrs. Lastusky reports the Kindle giveaway is underway again this year with students doing Accelerated Reading testing for chances to win one of three Kindles. He started the Book Fair is coming soon and the memory books put together by Mary Allen have now been put in binders.

Mr. Ator stated Mrs. Lastusky applied for a Patterson grant and was awarded \$5,000 and some of it is being used to buy some Kindles for the library and new shelving.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR REPORT – Mr. Ator reported the following:

FFA will be attending the state convention at the end of the month.  
Boys' junior high basketball is underway.  
High school track started this week.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator reported on meetings he will be attending this month.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk