

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:30 p.m. on February 22, 2021 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair
Tyler Allen
Brandon Crane
Michelle Swansborough

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Sarah Shoopman, Shannyn Wilson, Kelley Guasp, Jackie Ronning, Nancy Langager (all virtual), Sanford Langager, Sam Langager, Kali Langager, Lacy Kircher, Danielle Hall

MINUTES

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

WARRANTS

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve warrants 46800-46867 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ator stated lifting the mask mandate by the governor has caused questions and concerns and he wanted to share the results of a survey of staff regarding masking. He added of the 21 staff members responding, 71.4% feel what we have been doing has worked and should continue until more people have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Tyler Allen stated he still questions why students have to wear masks in school but then we allow them to play sports without it.

Mr. Ator stated as a board we discussed whether or not we were comfortable with the inherent risks of participating in sports. He added our number one priority was keeping the school open and although there was a risk in playing sports, the students really need to be able to participate.

Michelle Swansborough stated not every student is involved in sports and our job as a board is to protect all students the best we can.

Sarah DeVries stated the board made the choice to continue with sports.

Mr. Ator stated the CDC is still recommending masks be worn and people stay socially distanced. He added we need to remember that students are together for eight hours per day.

Joel Bertolino said the board discussed not having sports but decided to take on the additional risk as it is important to the students.

Mr. Ator stated the purpose of the mask is to prevent a person from infecting others. He added with Covid 19, there is a significant chance of infecting others while not showing any symptoms.

Sanford Langager stated there is information about the negative impact of masks and wearing it should be left up to the individual.

Mrs. Swansborough stated as a board, we have to use the information available to us and think of the safety of everyone.

Mr. Ator stated masks are one tool but we also make sure the students are spaced out and washing their hands.

Brandon Crane stated as we get more information, we can look at the data again and perhaps survey the staff again.

Lacy Kircher asked that we look at information from other schools who have dropped the mask mandate.

STAFFING

RESIGNATION – Mr. Ator stated Jaclyn Jessen has submitted a letter of resignation for a track coaching position and recommended the resignation be accepted.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Jaclyn Jessen from a track coaching position. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

NEW HIRES – Mr. Ator recommended hiring Sam McCrone as high school assistant track coach at the standard rate of \$1675.00.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to hire Sam McCrone as high school track assistant coach at the standard rate of \$1675.00. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

Mr. Ator recommended hiring Jaclyn Jessen as assistant junior high boys' basketball coach at the standard rate of \$875.00.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to hire Jaclyn Jessen as assistant junior high boys' basketball coach at the standard rate of \$875.00.

Mr. Ator stated we really need to think about hiring a third track coach and his recommendation would be to hire a junior high head coach. The board indicated Mr. Ator should advertise the position.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT BID – Mr. Ator stated the bid from Strom and Associates for the next two-year audit is \$13,000 and recommended it be accepted.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Strom & Associates for the next two-year audit of \$13,000 as recommended by the superintendent. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

TRUSTEE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ELECTION – Mr. Ator stated the resolution trustees need to approve calling for the trustee election on May 4, 2021 was included in the agenda material.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to approve the Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election necessary to hold the trustee election on May 4, 2021. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT – Mr. Ator stated the numbers reported on the spring count day justify petitioning the Office of Public Instruction for a budget amendment of \$13,078.79, which would be funded with additional state assistance. He asked for approval of the petition included in the board packet.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the Petition for Permission to Adopt a Resolution for a Budget Amendment to be submitted to the Office of Public Instruction. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

POWER SCHOOL CONTRACT – Mr. Ator stated the renewal for our student data system, PowerSchool, is coming up in a few months. He stated the other system widely used by schools and the Office of Public Instruction is Infinite Campus. He added if we used Infinite Campus for student data, there would be one less system where data is reported.

Mr. Ator was directed to explore switching to Infinite Campus before renewing with PowerSchool for another year.

OLD BUSINESS

LEVY RESOLUTION – Mr. Ator stated the levy resolution for permissive levies will be brought to the board in March.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-2022 – Mr. Ator stated the proposed 2021-2022 school year is in the board packet. He stated it has a start date of August 23, 2021 and end date of June 2, 2022 and recommended its approval.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar as presented with a start date of August 23, 2021 and end date of June 2, 2022. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

LITERACY UPDATE – Mrs. Ronning reported the following for literacy:

1. MAP testing was done in January in reading for grades K-10 and compared with a year ago, all but two grade levels met or exceeded their projected growth.
2. Testing from fall to winter for reading showed all but one grade met projections.
3. Dibels testing shows all students are growing but we are starting to see some specific concerns that we will address.
4. Intervention needs are still being identified but we are seeing how some needs could be addressed in better ways so are trying to fill the shelves with what we need to help different children.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE – Sarah Shoopman reported the following for activities:

1. High school boys' basketball team got an amazing win in the playoff game and advanced to the district tournament. She added the team has worked hard and grown with each game this year. Their support of the girls' team was really appreciated.
2. High school girls' basketball team ended up third in the conference, took third in the district tournament and is headed to the divisional tournament on Wednesday.
3. Junior high boys' basketball starts tomorrow and there are seventeen boys out for the team.
4. FFA has been busy and a state officer came to speak to the group. There will be a display in the foyer for National FFA Week and a chapter dinner.
5. State BPA will be a virtual event on March 15.

MEETING DATES – Mr. Ator stated meeting dates for the next few months are March 17, April 21, and May 19. He asked that trustees look at their calendars and get back to him with conflicts.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated he is basically here although he has been taking some Friday mornings off. He added his evaluation is scheduled at the end of next month's meeting and asked that materials be returned to him by March 5.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries called for adjournment at 8:30 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk

