

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
MARCH 13, 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 March 13, 2023 in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Michelle Swansborough, Chair  
Brandon Crane, Vice Chair  
Joel Bertolino  
Mariah Holdbrook  
Sam Langager

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Kyle Young, Connie Cooper, Bentley Bertolino, Kennedee Blankenship, Tera Bayer, Nick Dobbel, Sarah Shoopman, Parker Predmore, Naomi Gross

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SENIOR TRIP**

Mr. Ator reported the plan for the senior trip has changed as rising prices made going to Phoenix financially impossible. He stated they would now like to drive to Salt Lake City on Thursday, March 16 through Sunday, March 19.

Naomi Gross reviewed the budget for the trip and the educational experiences such as the Botanical Gardens, Clark Planetarium, and Heritage Park.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Sam Langager and carried unanimously to approve the change in plans for the senior trip from Phoenix to Salt Lake City as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Sam Langager, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2023 special meeting and February 22 regular meeting as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

**WARRANTS**

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve warrants 49050-49107 as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

Sarah Shoopman reported the following for activities:

1. The high school girls' basketball team defeated Jordan, Broadus, and Ekalaka to place first in the Southern C Divisional tournament and earned a spot at the state tournament for the first time in the program's history. She added the team played Manhattan Christian and Chinook but lost to both teams.
2. Joe Allen made first team all-conference and Nate Weber was chosen for second team all-conference.
3. Bentley Bertolino, Taylee Chirrick, Hailey Croft, Laynee Holdbrook, and Jozelyn Payovich were all chosen as first team all-conference with Taylee Chirrick named to the All-State team.
4. FFA will be attending the state conference in Great Falls at the end of the month and BPA is currently at their state conference.
5. High school track started today.
6. Prom is scheduled for April 15.

## STAFFING

SUBSTITUTE LIST – Mr. Ator recommended adding Stacy Barraque to the substitute teacher and bus driver list.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to add Stacy Barraque to the substitute teacher and bus driver list. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

RESIGNATIONS – Mr. Ator stated Sam Langager has submitted a letter of resignation from the board effective May 16, 2023 as he will be moving in the near future. He recommended accepting the letter of resignation.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Sam Langager effective May 16, 2023. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

The board expressed its appreciation to Mr. Langager for his service and stated he will be missed.

STAFF – Mr. Ator stated Theresa Kosel has expressed interest in finishing out the year as the PE teacher. He stated our options to do so would be to hire her on a short-term contract at a cost of approximately \$7,762 or retain her as a substitute at a daily rate at a cost around \$4,000 with possibly some overtime for track.

Mr. Ator stated Ms. Kosel may be interested in applying for the PE position next year.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sam Langager and carried unanimously to give an administrative directive to the superintendent to pursue hiring Theresa Kosel as a substitute at a daily rate for PE. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none. Abstained: Bertolino (conflict of interest)).

**NEW BUSINESS**

GENERAL LEVY PLANNING – Mr. Ator reported he put together a spreadsheet showing levy amounts in \$25,000 increments and the effect on homeowners in different dollar amounts (see attached).

Michelle Swansborough asked how much new levy money the district will need to be comfortable.

Mr. Ator stated if there is no levy, the budget will be very tight. He stated we haven't asked for a levy in quite some time, the last being the Tech Levy and Building Reserve Levy in 2015. He added the bond was paid off for the gym which dropped a lot of mills for taxpayers.

After discussion from the board, motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Mariah Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve putting a mill levy of \$175,000 on the ballot. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

**OLD BUSINESS**

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO IMPOSE AN INCREASE IN LEVIES – Mr. Ator stated last year we levied permissive levies in the amount of \$53,260 to put additional funds in the Tuition Fund, Adult Education Fund, and Transportation Fund. He stated this year we are only asking for an increase of \$4148 in the Transportation Fund. He asked for approval of the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies as presented (see attached).

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Sam Langager and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies as presented. (YES—Swansborough, Crane, Bertolino, Holdbrook, Langager. NO—none).

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

MEETING DATES -- Mr. Ator stated the next meeting date will be a special meeting on March 30, 2023, and regular meetings on April 19 and May 17.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Michelle Swansborough called for adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk

## Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies

As an essential part of its budgeting process, the Roberts School District #5 Board of Trustees is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Roberts School District #5 Board of Trustees estimates the following increases/decreases in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district:

Fund Supported	Estimated Change in Revenues*	Estimated Change in Mills*	Estimated Impact Home of \$100,000*	Estimated Impact Home of \$200,000*
Bus Depreciation	\$0.00 increase	0 mill increase	\$0.00 increase	\$0.00 increase
Transportation	\$4,142 increase	1.8 mill increase	\$2.43 increase	\$4.86 increase
Tuition	\$0.00	0 mill increase	\$0.00 increase	\$0.00 increase
Building Reserve Elementary	\$0.00 increase	0 mill increase	\$0.00 increase	\$0.00 increase
Building Reserve High School	\$0.00 increase	0 mill increase	\$0.00 increase	\$0.00 increase
Adult Education	\$0.00 increase	0 mill increase	\$0.00 increase	\$0.00 increase
Total	\$4,142 increase	1.8 mill increase	\$2.43 increase	\$4.86 increase

\*Impacts above are based on current certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year.

Regarding the building reserve levy referenced above, the following are school facility maintenance projects anticipated to be completed at this time:

1. Construction and Repairs of Existing Facilities
2. Electrical and Mechanical System Upgrades
3. Weatherization of Existing Facilities
4. General Grounds and Facilities Maintenance

22-23	Approved	23-24 Without a Vote	New Money From State	% Increase	Mill Value
1270383		1321894	51511	4.05%	2299

Wages and Insurance Increase will eat about 75% of the New State Aid

We currently pay 2 staff and significant amounts of supplement materials of the literacy grant next school year. Could potentially be extended for 3-5 more years. Approx \$100,000/year ESSER funds or "Covid" Funds have done all our custodial or cleaning purchases or about \$20,000/year

We also pay 2 staff members out of Covid Funds which also sunset in the next 2 years. Approximately \$90,000/year

Considering above in 2 years, \$2100,000 or so is a break even budget to current services with a grant cut to PD. We are also currently overstaffed in some areas via choice. But all 4 positions covered by grants are not completely able to be cut. This conversation also does not include raises after 23-24.

Mill Amount	Levy Amount	Cost Increase on 100k Home per year	Monthly Increase on 100k Home	Cost Increase on 200k Home per year	Monthly Increase on 200k Home	Cost Increase on 300k Home per year	Monthly Increase on 300k Home	Cost Increase on 400k Home per year	Monthly Increase on 400k Home	Total Increase to District	% Increase to District
0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51,511	4.05%
2.17	5,000	\$2,94	\$0.24	\$5,87	\$0.49	\$8,81	\$0.73	\$11,74	\$0.98	56,511	4.45%
10.87	25,000	\$14.68	\$1.22	\$29,35	\$2.45	\$44,03	\$3.67	\$58,70	\$4.89	76,511	6.02%
21.75	50,000	\$29.35	\$2.45	\$58,70	\$4.89	\$88,05	\$7.34	\$117,40	\$9.78	101,511	7.99%
32.62	75,000	\$44.03	\$3.67	\$88,05	\$7.34	\$132,08	\$11.01	\$176,10	\$14.68	126,511	9.96%
39.15	90,000	\$52.83	\$4.40	\$105,66	\$8.81	\$156,49	\$13.21	\$211,32	\$17.61	141,511	11.14%
43.50	100,000	\$58.70	\$4.89	\$117,40	\$9.78	\$176,10	\$14.68	\$234,80	\$19.57	151,511	11.93%
54.37	125,000	\$73.38	\$6.11	\$146,75	\$12.23	\$220,13	\$18.34	\$293,50	\$24.46	176,511	13.89%
65.25	150,000	\$88.05	\$7.34	\$176,10	\$14.68	\$264,15	\$22.01	\$352,20	\$29.35	201,511	15.86%
76.12	175,000	\$102.73	\$8.56	\$205,45	\$17.12	\$308,18	\$25.68	\$410,90	\$34.24	226,511	17.83%
86.99	200,000	\$117.40	\$9.78	\$234,80	\$19.57	\$352,20	\$29.35	\$469,60	\$39.13	251,511	19.80%

Basically Maximum Ask is 205,000

89.17      205,000      \$120.34      \$10.03      \$240.67      \$20.06      \$361.01      \$30.08      \$481.34      \$40.11      256,511      20.19%

The yellow range would take alot of pressure off the current budget and allow us to forward for the next couple fiscal years. The lower end of the yellow range would likely mean another left in the next 2 or 3 years. The higher end of the yellow range would let us be pretty good for a while and do some forward planning. The real question is how hard can you push and still get it to pass?