

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
OCTOBER 16, 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 October 16, 2023 in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Michelle Swansborough, Chair  
Joel Bertolino  
Nick Dobbel  
Mariah Holdbrook

Absent: Brandon Crane, Vice Chair

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

Guests: Randy DeVries, Sanford Langager, Peter Wisniewski, Alan Schuyler, Deb Hill, Lacy Kircher

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

In the minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting, vote on approval of the contract with Wellbeing for Everyone LLC, a correction to the vote was noted with Michelle Swansborough, Brandon Crane, Joel Bertolino, and Mariah Holdbrook voting yes and Nick Dobbel voting no.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting September 26, 2023 as corrected. (YES: Swansborough, Bertolino, Dobbel, Holdbrook. NO—none).

**WARRANTS**

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Nick Dobbel and carried unanimously to approve voiding warrant 49505. (YES: Swansborough, Bertolino, Dobbel, Holdbrook. NO—none).

Motion was made by Joe Bertolino, seconded by Mariah Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve warrants 49671 through 49722 as presented. (YES: Swansborough, Bertolino, Dobbel, Holdbrook. NO—none).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **TEACHER REPORTS**

ACTIVITIES REPORT -- Mr. Ator stated the Activities Report is included in the agenda material and includes the following:

1. Twelve boys are out for junior high basketball with the first game today.
2. High school volleyball team is #3 in the conference, district tournament will be October 26-28 in Absarokee.
3. Our third annual volleyball tournament was a success and is planned again next year for the first Saturday in October.
4. Cross Country is headed to state this weekend in Kalispell.
5. Elementary and junior high football is over and high school heads into playoffs soon.
6. FFA members are attending the NILE this week.
7. Student Council executive council is attending State Student Council Convention.
8. Ten students attending OPI Youth Service Days in Great Falls.
9. High school basketball practice begins November 16 and both teams will open the season at the Lockwood tournament on December 1.

LITERACY REPORT – Caitlin Hall reported the following for the Literacy Report:

1. Fall assessments and data collected in September.
2. Interventions have started K-8 based on fall data.
3. New writing framework is being rolled out and will be a big goal this year.
4. Review of goals for the Literacy Grant.

TEACHER REPORTS – Ressa Herta and Peter Wisniewski gave teacher reports for the month.

Ms. Herta reported on what is happening in her first grade classroom and presented examples of artwork done by the students.

Mr. Wisniewski gave an update on special education happenings with some individual student highlights.

Mr. Wisniewski gave an update on the evolution of his role from facilities director to safety director and delegating more duties of his role.

## **STAFFING**

SUBSTITUTES -- Mr. Ator recommended adding Becky Wipplinger and Tahlia Black to the substitute list.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Nick Dobbel and carried unanimously to approve adding Becky Wipplinger and Tahlia Black to the substitute list. (YES—Swansborough, Bertolino, Dobbel, Holdbrook. NO—none).

SUB PAY – Mr. Ator stated after surveying other class C schools about the rate of pay for substitutes, he is recommending an increase in substitute pay from \$9.29 per hour to \$12.50 per hour which computes to \$100 per day.

Motion was made by Mariah Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve increasing the pay rate for substitutes from \$9.29 per hour to \$12.50 per hour, resulting in a daily rate of \$100. (YES—Swansborough, Bertolino, Dobbel, Holdbrook. NO—none).

**BOYS' BASKETBALL ASSISTANT** – Mr. Ator reported after conducting interviews on Thursday night, he is recommending Kennedee Blankenship be hired for the assistant high school boys' basketball coaching position.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Nick Dobbel and carried unanimously to hire Kennedee Blankenship for the assistant high school boys' basketball coaching position. (YES—Swansborough, Bertolino, Dobbel, Holdbrook. NO—none).

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**POLICY UPDATES AND REVIEW**

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**SCHEDULE** – Mr. Ator reported the next meeting dates are scheduled for November 15, December 20, and January 17.

**LEVY PROCESS AND TIMELINES** – The date for the Community Foundation Meeting was set for Thursday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m.

**INTEGRATED STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN** – Mr. Ator stated a comprehensive needs assessment is a component of the district's Integrated Strategic Action Plan which needs to be completed as part of the accreditation process. He stated this identifies the district's educational goals and strategies for meeting them and state requirements.

Mr. Ator stated part of this process is defining a school district graduate profile that shows the competencies, values, and traits students should have by the time they graduate. He added he will be working with students, staff, and community on the graduate profile and it will probably be modified every few years.

Michelle Swansborough stated it is important for students to be involved with working on the profile.

Mariah Holdbrook stated this is for all students, not just those headed for college.

**SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS** – Michelle Swansborough called for an executive session at 7:20 p.m. stating the next item of business involves an individual and it is her determination that the individual's right to privacy supersede the merits of public disclosure. She returned the meeting to regular session at 8:15 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Michelle Swansborough called for adjournment at 8:15 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk