

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
FEBRUARY 9, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5 was called to order by Chair Randy Weimer at 7:00 p.m. on February 9, 2011 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Randy Weimer, Chair
Tracy Timmons, Vice Chair
Sanford Langager
Frank Ropp

Absent: Carl Easthouse

Elliott Crump, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, District Clerk

GUESTS: Doug Andersen, Julie Jones, J.D. Jones, Elta Ayre, Sue Schwend, Arik Petersen, Marty Tomlin, Roly DeVries, Trisha Ayre

MINUTES

Motion was made by Tracy Timmons, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting January 11, 2011 as presented. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Langager, Ropp. NO—none.)

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Mrs. Timmons asked if the warrant to MUST was the final payment. Mrs. Obert stated this payment completes our obligation to MUST for the premium adjustment all members of the group were assessed last year.

Mr. Ropp asked about the payment to Trane. Mr. Crump stated this was for some work done to get heat in the library and they did do some training on that system and the system in the new gym. He added we're still sitting on another invoice for \$1400 from Trane that we don't feel we should have to pay.

Mrs. Timmons asked if the final payment has been made on the senior trip. Mr. Crump stated the trip was reduced by one day but it is all paid.

Motion was made by Tracy Timmons, seconded by Frank Ropp and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for February, 2011, as presented. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

TEACHER REPORTS

J.D. Jones, Julie Jones, and Doug Andersen presented teacher reports for the month.

Mr. Jones stated his number one objective in teaching is to prepare the students for what they face once they leave Roberts School. He stated he lets each of his students know he cares about them and their future. He added he has a strict curriculum and tries to work on attitude, respect, academic priority, punctuality, and a good work ethic.

Mr. Jones stated he actively pursues feedback from his graduating students and he received some interesting comments from last year's seniors who felt the chemistry class they took from him was actually harder than the college chemistry class they took. He added one student surprised him who didn't appear to work very hard while here in school but had a 4.0 grade point average in college the first semester.

Mr. Jones stated we do have some students who don't have academics as their number one priority and their apathy bothers him.

Mr. Weimer asked if he is seeing this across the grades. Mr. Jones stated he is.

Mrs. Timmons asked how he addresses this.

Mr. Jones stated he makes a lot of speeches, demands the students respect themselves, other people, and property and also speaks to them individually.

Mrs. Timmons asked if there is anything the Board can do to help.

Mr. Jones stated he is rather at a loss of what to do but the students come to school in sweats, pajamas, and slippers and that isn't good. He added on the other hand he is seeing success with many of the students.

Mrs. Timmons stated she appreciates the way Mr. Jones upholds his standards with his curriculum.

Mr. Ropp stated his daughter really appreciated having had chemistry from Mr. Jones because her college class was easy for her and it freed up time for other classes.

Mrs. Jones stated it took a while to get going in music this year because of the number of new students she had but things are going well now. She stated at midterm she made a switch and put the fourth graders in music with the third graders so she has the fifth graders by themselves.

Mrs. Jones stated the music festival is March 22 and she is also hoping to have four students participate in solos and duets the next week.

Mr. Ropp asked if there are enough instruments. Mrs. Jones stated she has a budget of \$1,000 for instrument repair and that has been helpful. She added Mrs. Allen received a grant for some new instruments and the Roberts Community Foundation usually has some funds for instruments if needed.

Mr. Andersen stated he has also been talking with last year's seniors and asked them what is important to teach in business classes. He stated they told him communication skills, research, and presentation are key elements. He added he also found he has to push the students hard but he has seen results in his classes and BPA both.

Mr. Andersen stated the curriculum areas are going well and recommended teaching keyboarding earlier than the seventh grade. He stated he would also like to see a multi-media course dealing with networking back in the schedule. He added the Theater class will be presenting a murder mystery dinner theater in March and BPA state convention is March 13-15.

Mr. Weimer asked how we're doing with technology. Mr. Andersen stated the district is keeping up.

STUDENT REPORT

Trisha Ayre reported on the following items for the students:

1. First semester is over
2. Elementary ski day was well attended
3. Grades 7-12 attended an assembly in Red Lodge – Unstoppable Me
4. Class pictures have been taken
5. National Guard Obstacle Course was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students
6. Students in band went to the Alberta Bair Theater to see the Black Violin
7. FFA students competed at district competition and the JV team took first in agronomy
8. Senior Night was held for basketball
9. BPA sponsored a blood drive

Mr. Crump asked if Miss Ayre enjoyed the Unstoppable Me presentation. Miss Ayre stated she did.

Mr. Weimer asked if the Student Council constitution has been drafted yet. Miss Ayre stated they're working on it.

Miss Ayre stated she attended the Hugh O'Brien (HOBY) Leadership Conference in Missoula last summer, a conference mainly run by students to learn to become a better leader.

Mr. Langager asked if she would recommend the conference to others and Miss Ayre stated she would.

BUS MAINTENANCE

Mr. Weimer stated there have been some major bus repairs this year and the budget is getting low for that item. He stated he asked Roly DeVries to attend the meeting to see what we're looking at for repairs for the rest of the year.

Roly DeVries stated there have been some major repairs done this year and problems with a differential led to a drive line repair. He stated it is difficult to predict when busses will break but most other repairs have been routine this year.

Mr. Langager reported the State of Montana is trying to save money by going longer between oil changes and asked if that is a possibility.

Mr. DeVries stated most of the state vehicles run on the highway and busses are on a stop and go schedule. He stated the new activity bus is only run on the highway and he tried going 5000 miles between oil changes and the oil came out just like sludge.

Mr. Weimer asked how many times a year the oil is changed. Mr. DeVries stated it is changed three to four times per year per bus and costs about \$280 for each change.

Mrs. Timmons asked how much life we have left on our busses.

Mr. DeVries stated the 2002 and 2004 busses will be the next replacements.

Mr. Langager asked how much the old activity bus gets used. Mr. DeVries stated it is used for junior high games but not much on the route.

Mr. Crump asked if we could try going over three thousand miles between oil changes on one bus and see what happens.

Mr. DeVries stated he will try it on one bus.

PERSONNEL

LONG TERM SUB –Mr. Crump stated we are still working on getting a sub for Mrs. Wright and have several possibilities. He stated he is recommending that person be paid at the base salary daily rate of \$133.34.

Mrs. Timmons asked why we would pay that rate rather than the sub rate.

Mr. Crump stated two of the possibilities are certified teachers and the other is Mrs. Hogan. He added Mrs. Hogan wouldn't be able to take the position at sub rate as she already makes more than that at her regular job and because of the length of time for the leave, he is recommending the higher rate.

Mr. Weimer asked if Mr. Crump is going to post the position or if he is comfortable with the three possibilities he has. Mr. Crump stated he is comfortable with what he has.

EVALUATIONS -- Mr. Weimer stated we need to set a date for evaluation of the superintendent and business manager/clerk. He stated he would like to have those completed before March 1.

It was determined trustees would submit their individual evaluations to Mr. Weimer by February 23 and the evaluations would be held on February 28 at 6:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

FROMBERG SPORTS CO-OP – Mr. Weimer stated Mr. Crump has been asked to consider expanding the co-op with Fromberg to include all sports.

Mrs. Timmons stated is we can field our own teams, do we need to do that.

Mr. Crump stated he feels we either need to have our own team in a sport or offer another sport.

Mrs. Timmons asked how we would offer another sport.

Mr. Crump stated there may be students interested in cross country rather than football.

Mr. Langager stated we need to stay away from co-op situations.

Mr. Weimer stated it sounds like our response to Fromberg is we aren't interested in talking about expanding the co-op.

TOBACCO POLICY – Mr. Crump stated the Office of Public Instruction is encouraging districts to adopt a comprehensive tobacco free school policy that meets the state mandates.

Mrs. Timmons stated we've already adopted a tobacco free school policy and we need to compare it to this one to see if there are major differences.

BPA/FFA STATE ROOMING REQUESTS – Mr. Crump stated both BPA and FFA have their state conventions in Billings and are requesting the district provide them with hotel rooms for those events so they don't travel back and forth to Roberts.

Motion was made by Tracy Timmons, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to approve the requests from BPA and FFA to stay in Billings during their state conventions at the district's expense.

BUS REQUEST – Mr. Crump stated he included a letter in the Board packet from Mike and Tiffany Gebhardt requesting bus service for their child so he doesn't have to cross the highway to get to school.

Mrs. Timmons asked if there is a legal concern with stopping a school bus on the highway.

Mr. Langager stated we are the only district that doesn't stop on the highway.

Mr. Weimer stated he doesn't think it would be an issue to stop.

Mr. Crump stated having children cross the highway is probably a bigger safety issue than stopping a bus on the highway.

RECESS

Mr. Weimer called for a short recess at 8:45 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 8:55 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

MHSA ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS – Mr. Crump reviewed the results of the MHSA Annual Meeting proposals for the Board. He stated the one that may be most important to our district is the proposal to allow eighth graders to move up and play at the junior varsity level. He added previously they could only be used at the varsity level.

BPA BONUS – Mr. Crump stated last month the Board discussed a stipend for Mr. Andersen for BPA. He stated his concern is when teachers signed contracts, it included the extra curriculum stipend schedule and the stipend for BPA had been taken out of that schedule. He stated to add the stipend back in at this point would be a violation of the contract. He added he feels the position should be compensated and the Board could give Mr. Andersen a bonus for all his work with BPA and add the position to the stipend schedule next year.

Mr. Weimer stated that may be opening up a can of worms.

Mr. Crump stated Mr. Andersen's work is valuable and it does need to be compensated.

Mr. Langager stated if it can't be paid as a stipend this year our only option would be a bonus. He asked what amount should be given.

Mr. Crump stated he feels it should be the same as would be given for pep band if it pep band wasn't a part of the regular school day and that would be \$1,000.

Motion was made by Frank Ropp, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to give a \$1,000 bonus to Doug Andersen for his time devoted to BPA after school hours. (YES—Weimer, Timmons, Langager, Ropp. NO—none).

BOILER LICENSE – Mr. Crump stated we are still waiting on Brian Roat to sign off on Mrs. Easthouse's hours so she can schedule the test.

HEATING SYSTEM – Mr. Crump stated Conditioned Air has made two trips to the school to work on the heat and he is a little disappointed in the amount of the bills. He stated work was done on some areas and a bid submitted for further work but that work doesn't need to be done right now. He stated the next item to be looked into is the heat in the special education room.

Mr. Weimer asked if it would be worth putting some ceiling fans in this summer to control the heat upstairs.

Mr. Crump stated it is the opinion of the rep from Conditioned Air that if we want it to be cool upstairs, we would have to put in a cooling system.

Mr. Weimer asked if Mr. Crump is happy with the work of Conditioned Air.

Mr. Crump stated he is for the most part.

MISCELLANEOUS – Mr. Weimer asked how the new Promethean Boards are working. Mr. Crump stated they are awesome.

Mr. Weimer asked if we've ordered more boards. Mr. Crump stated we've haven't as yet.

Mrs. Timmons asked if we have a bid on the brick project.

Mr. Langager stated we had a bid for that last year. Mr. Crump stated he will be checking on that project.

Mr. Ropp asked if we have any old computers that can perhaps be given away. Mr. Crump stated he will check with Mr. Dantic.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Crump stated he will be attending class in Billings the next four weeks on Tuesday night.

SNOW REMOVAL – Mr. Crump stated some teachers have expressed concern with snow in the parking lot.

Mr. Weimer asked if the county would plow the lot. Mr. Crump stated John Prinkki indicated they would do it if they had time.

Mr. Crump stated Mrs. Easthouse brought up concern with the amount of walkway to be kept clear and if it is the custodians' responsibility to do that, they need better equipment.

Mrs. Timmons stated perhaps we should invest in a pickup with a plow blade.

Mr. Langager stated there is no asphalt on the parking lot which makes it difficult to plow.

Mr. Ropp stated we could spend more time fixing the blade than moving snow.

Sue Schwend stated Curt Schwend has the equipment to do snow removal and may be interested in putting in a bid.

Mr. Crump stated Roly DeVries could also do the job.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Mr. Crump stated the Governor’s education funding proposal was presented today but there is a lot of conversation going on and it is difficult to tell what will happen. He stated there has been talk of changes in the Transportation Fund to include bussing for athletic trips and talk of taking reserves from the Retirement Fund for the shortfall for PERS and TRS.

STUDENT UPDATE – Mr. Crump stated two students transferred out of the district and two exchange students came in.

Mrs. Timmons asked if we have any information on why the students left.

Mr. Crump stated one student left for athletic reasons and one left because the family is moving and they wanted the student to get used to the new surroundings.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Weimer adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk

UNOFFICIAL