

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Frank Ropp at 6:00 p.m. on November 13, 2012, in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Frank Ropp, Chair
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair
Sarah DeVries
Tami Hoines
Rusty Niemi

Elliott Crump, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, District Clerk

GUESTS: Ward Braten, Katie Bertolino, PJ Bertolino, Elta Ayre, Mike Creeden, Mary Duncan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting October 10, 2012, as presented. (YES—Ropp, Bertolino, DeVries, Hoines, Niemi. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks as presented for November, 2012. (YES—Ropp, Bertolino, DeVries, Hoines, Niemi. NO—none).

FFA REPORT

Katie Bertolino spoke about her attendance at the FFA National Convention. She reported on the various tours and sites visited by the group. She added the main speaker was Scott Hamilton, former Olympic champion, who spoke on giving back to the community.

TEACHER REPORTS

Deborah Hill gave the teacher report for the month.

Mrs. Hill stated she has fifteen students in her class, thirteen third graders and two second graders. She stated she places a big emphasis on reading and still likes the reading program the district purchased, just wishes she had more time for it. She stated all is going well and she is having a good year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Creeden expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ropp for his concern and assistance at a time when he was at a low place.

PERSONNEL

COACHING RECOMMENDATIONS – Mr. Crump stated upon the recommendations of the athletic director and head coaches of each sport, he is recommending the Board approve hiring Crystal Wright as assistant coach for the junior high girls' basketball team and Jon Croft as assistant coach for the high school boys' basketball team at the stipend level contained in the extra-curricular activities stipend schedule.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve Crystal Wright as the junior high girls' assistant basketball coach at the rate of \$800.00 for the season and Jon Croft as the assistant high school boys' basketball coach at a rate of \$1550.00 for the season. (YES—Ropp, Bertolino, DeVries, Hoines, Niemi. NO—none).

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL – Mr. Crump stated there is a new student enrolling tomorrow who will require the services of a full-time aide. He added the Special Education Co-op will assist us with \$7500 for that position this year. He stated he is recommending the district advertise for a special education paraprofessional for 7.5 hours per day at \$12.67 per hour.

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve hiring a special education paraprofessional for a special needs student at \$12.67 per hour. (YES—Ropp, Bertolino, DeVries, Hoines, Niemi. NO—none).

NEW BUSINESS

CHRISTMAS/WINTER HOLIDAY EVENT – Mr. Crump asked if the Board would like to keep the staff Christmas party the same as last year at the Roberts Café. He stated December 17 seems like a good date for the event and if the Board is agreeable, he will consult with the owner.

The Board indicated its approval of the superintendent's recommendation for the staff Christmas party.

ROBERTS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BENCHES – Mr. Crump stated he received an e-mail from Elta Ayre on behalf of the Roberts Community Foundation concerning putting more memorial benches around the school. He stated he would like them to consider purchasing something other than the benches, such as picnic tables on the football field by concessions.

Elta Ayre stated at their last meeting, the foundation board approved ordering six more benches.

NEW SCOREBOARD – Mr. Crump stated there have been issues with our scoreboard turning off in the middle of games. He stated Brian Kessner tried to fix it but was not able to but we could hire an electrician to diagnose the problem or replace the system with a wireless system.

Mr. Crump stated we could look into getting sponsorships to purchase a wireless system.

Mr. Niemi stated he knows this is important but shouldn't we try to figure out what is wrong rather than just replacing the system.

Mr. Bertolino stated this came about because he was checking into updating the marquee for RCF. He stated the representative also sells scoreboards and was able to give us a quote for the wireless system of \$9300.

Mr. Crump stated he would contact the company where we got the scoreboards to see if they have any suggestions, check prices with other companies, and pursue sponsorships if we decide to get a new system.

OUTSIDE LIGHTING – Mr. Crump stated he asked Dan Nardinger to check into options for bulbs for outside lighting at the east end of the gym and by the kitchen. He stated we will be replacing the two lights at the east end of the gym with LED fixtures and use one of those to replace the light for the kitchen.

HOT WATER HEATER – Mr. Crump stated Dan Nardinger thinks he can get a hot water heater for no cost and if so, he will be replacing the hot water heater in the shop.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE – Mr. Crump stated the hard drive in the server failed and has been replaced with a new hard drive with increased memory for \$396.40.

SKI DAYS – Mr. Crump stated Crystal Wright contacted the ski hill about ski days for our students and has tentatively scheduled February 21 and March 11, 2013. He recommended the Board approve those days for ski days.

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve February 21 and March 11, 2013 as ski days. (YES—Ropp, Bertolino, DeVries, Hoines, Niemi. NO—none).

NOTIFICATION OF PENDING CLAIM – Mary Duncan, an attorney with Felt, Martin, Frazier & Weldon, stated our insurance company has appointed her firm to represent the district in a claim that has been filed. She stated the claim was filed by Mike Creeden, a teacher in the district and member of the military who was returned to his teaching position upon his return from active duty but is claiming he should also be given a coaching position in the volleyball program. She stated the claim was filed by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

Ms. Duncan distributed copies of correspondence between the investigator and her firm. She stated the investigation is not yet complete and interviews will be conducted with George Nelson, Jeff Bermes, and any others with information relevant to the claim. She stated she isn't going to discuss general personnel matters or anything except this claim with the Board tonight.

Ms. Duncan distributed training materials on the Board's function in the matter of personnel. She stated the role of the Board is to employ and dismiss personnel on the basis of recommendations of the superintendent and it is not the Board's job to do day to day oversight of staff. She stated as the Board role includes all three governmental functions of judicial, legislative, and executive, it needs to remain unbiased until a claim is brought to the Board in a formal hearing. She stated in a matter such as this when a claim is filed, the Board's role is to cooperate with the insurance company and participate in the litigation strategy.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Ropp called for a closed session to discuss strategy to be followed with respect to litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the district. He returned the meeting to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

WORK STUDY REQUEST – Mr. Niemi stated Katie Bertolino asked him if she could have a work study assignment so she could work at the ranch.

Mr. Crump stated the Board turned down a work study proposal the first year he came but he can check into it if the request comes to him.

OLD BUSINESS

BUS SECURITY – Mr. Ropp stated he spoke with a representative of the insurance company again regarding the security of the busses. He stated it is the responsibility of the district to reasonably maintain protection of our assets and if we do have vandalism, our rates could increase or the company could drop us if we aren't doing our part. He added the insurance company would like to see the keys removed from the busses and the bus barns locked.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to tell the bus drivers to lock the doors to the bus barns at night. (YES—Ropp, Bertolino, DeVries, Hoines, Niemi. NO—none).

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LETTER – Mr. Crump stated the letter to the Montana DOT regarding proposed changes to the highway through town has been sent.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Crump stated he will start basketball practice next week.

PROGRAM UPDATE – Mr. Crump stated some issues have been seen with the seventh graders transitioning to junior high and a class period to assist them will be scheduled. He added they will have to miss FFA or LEGO robotics but the class is needed.

Mr. Crump that Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on November 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ropp adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk