

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
NOVEMBER 11, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Sarah DeVries at 6:00 p.m. on November 11, 2014, in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair
Joel Bertolino
Tami Hoines
Luke Holdbrook

Member Absent: Rusty Niemi, Vice Chair

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/District Clerk

GUESTS: Claire Schoening, Rylee Perkins, Rick Hibbs, Stacie Nardinger, Chris DeVries, Ward Braten, Sanford Langager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 13, 2014 as presented. (YES-- DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Mr. Ator stated the expenditure on his credit card to TeamCheer was for the pink jerseys for the volleyball team for Pack the Place in Pink.

Mr. Ator noted the payment to I State Truck Center for \$4698.72 for repairs on the activity bus. He stated vehicle maintenance is expensive and repairs on that bus are running between eight and ten thousand dollars per year. He stated he wanted to let the Board know and if Board members want any changes on the use of the bus, they can contact him.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for November 2014 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

PERSONNEL

High School Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach – Mr. Ator recommended the Board hire Tessa Rouane as high school boys' assistant basketball coach at a stipend rate of \$1650. He stated everyone he talked with felt she would be an asset to the program.

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to hire Tessa Rouane as high school boys' assistant basketball coach at the stipend rate of \$1650. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

PART-TIME PARAPROFESSIONAL – Mr. Ator stated there were seven applicants for the paraprofessional position, four from certified teachers. He stated he is recommending hiring Deborah Hill for sixteen hours per week at \$12.50 per hour to be paid from contingency funds from the special education co-op.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to hire Deborah Hill for the part-time paraprofessional position for sixteen hours per week at \$12.50 per hour to be paid with contingency funds from the co-op. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT – Mr. Ator stated he is recommending the Board approve the out-of-district attendance of student Sydney McQuire, who is residing with her aunt in Boyd.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the out-of-district attendance of Sydney McQuire. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS – Mr. Ator asked for approval to add Tessa Rouane, Jennifer Sandy, and Severin Krautmann to the substitute teacher list, pending receiving clear background checks.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve adding Tessa Rouane, Jennifer Sandy, and Severin Krautmann to the substitute teacher list, pending receiving clear background checks. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

STUDENT TEACHERS – Mr. Ator stated he is pursuing getting two student teachers for second semester for kindergarten and sixth grade. He stated both those teachers have asked for extended spring leave for personal reasons and the student teachers would then be familiar with the classrooms to be able to substitute for the last month or so. He added he will be meeting with the students and their advisor on Friday and wanted to keep the Board informed.

NEW BUSINESS

SENIOR TRIP PRESENTATION – Rick Hibbs, Claire Schoening, and Rylee Perkins requested approval of their plans for a senior trip to Seattle, Washington.

Rylee Perkins stated the trip would be five days long and will require missing three school days.

Mr. Ator stated he is concerned about the budget for the trip and the fact there is nothing built in for unexpected expenses.

Mrs. Nardinger stated it looks like only three students will be going on the trip and that will free up about \$2200.

Mr. Ator stated that will be helpful but advised no more activities be added to the trip. He stated if this group is given three school days for their trip, we need to look at changing it to three days in the handbook instead of two. He stated he wouldn't feel comfortable letting the group go on the trip without a school employee as a chaperone.

Mr. Ator stated what he needs from the Board is a motion to allow the senior class to utilize their class funds for this trip, allow them to miss three days of school for the trip, and have a school employee as a chaperone.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the senior class utilizing their class funds for a trip to Seattle, miss three days of school for the trip, and a school employee will accompany the group as a chaperone. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to change criteria #3 in the Student Handbook to allow the senior class to miss three school days for

the senior trip and add a criterion #8 that a school employee accompanies the class as a chaperone. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

STAFF APPRECIATION EVENT – Mr. Ator stated the last few years the staff Christmas Party has been held at the Roberts Café and he would like to do so again. He asked for approval to use up to \$900 for a staff dinner at the Roberts Café.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve using up to \$900 for the staff Christmas party. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

BUS PURCHASE REQUEST FOR BIDS – Mr. Ator stated he would like to start the bid process for a new route bus.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to allow the superintendent to begin the bid process for a school bus. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

USE OF OFFICIALS FOR JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL – Mr. Ator stated hiring MOA officials for junior high basketball is very expensive and he would like the opportunity to create more officials and give some students skills in officiating. He added he and Bob Carter are both MOA officials.

Ms. DeVries asked if the students would have any training before going on the floor to officiate.

Mr. Ator stated students interested would be given instruction via internet on the basketball rules clinic and concussion testing.

Ms. DeVries asked if students are interested. Mr. Ator stated he is targeting some younger students so we'll have them longer and there are also four adults who can step in if needed.

Mr. Bertolino stated it sounds like a good learning experience for the students.

Ms. DeVries stated Mr. Ator could go forward with his plan.

ALTACARE CONTRACT – Mr. Ator stated the teachers met with Calvin Mann on November 5 and voted unanimously in favor of having an Altacare program and recommended the Board approve a contract with Altacare for services in Roberts. He asked that a Board member sit in on the interviews for staff for the program.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve signing the contract with Altacare for services at Roberts School. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

GRADING SCALE AND GPA CALCULATIONS – Mr. Ator stated a change was made in our grading scale that took away the additional value a student could receive for having an A+ which could possibly put their GPA over a 4.0. He stated a parent expressed concern because the value of an A- can drop a student from having a 4.0 GPA.

Mr. Ator stated schools have had difficulty determining valedictorian and salutatorian status if the grading scale only has one value for an A. He stated he would recommend keeping the grade scale as it is but if the Board wants to see a change, they could make a motion to do so.

No further action was taken.

SNOW REMOVAL BID REVIEW – Mr. Ator stated last year All Seasons Service did snow removal for the school at \$85.00 per hour and he plans on continuing with them this year.

TEACHER EVALUATION – Mr. Ator stated the packet contains a copy of the teacher evaluation tool the teachers voted unanimously to use. He stated the tool is a growth model and attaining the top level is very difficult. He added a page for goals has been added.

Mr. Ator recommended acceptance of the teacher evaluation tool.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to accept the teacher evaluation tool recommended by the superintendent. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

OLD BUSINESS

2014-2015 STAFF HANDBOOK/COURSE CATALOG – Mr. Ator stated now that the student handbook has been revised, the staff handbook will be the next to be considered by the leadership team.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

ACTIVITIES REPORT – Mr. Ator reported on the following activities:

High school football – Season is over and he recommended continuation of the co-op with Red Lodge and in the spring, consider adding the junior high program.

High school cross country – The high school boys' team took 12th at state. Recommended continuation of the program and commended Ms. Reinhart on success of the program.

High school volleyball – Tied for fifth at the district tournament.

Basketball – All coaches have been hired and junior high girls' season is underway. Thanks to Dan Kosel for getting tickets to the Rocky Mountain College basketball games for the high school teams.

Mr. Ator stated there seems to always be a question of whether or not teams will stop to eat after games or come straight home so students aren't out so late.

Ms. DeVries stated there needs to be more communication between coaches and parents and we may need to set some guidelines.

Mr. Ator stated he can put it on the schedule if the team will be stopping after the game or not.

FFA – FFA had the Haunted Shop for Halloween, competed at the NILE, and will leave Thursday for the John Deere Expo on Thursday.

JMG – Junior high program has started an after school snack program. High school JMG students painted GO ROCKETS on bales.

BPA – Conducted a blood drive and will host the craft fair on November 22.

ACADEMIC UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated a draft copy of the 2015-2016 class schedule is included in the packet. He stated it has major changes at the elementary level made to utilize teacher strengths at that level. He added this model has been piloted around the state.

MCEL – Mr. Ator stated he went to a workshop on five-year planning which stressed identifying problems the district may have in five years. He stated he also attended a legislative update on funding and plans for Pre-K education.

Mr. Ator stated preliminary budget projections from the Office of Public Instruction show we will have about a \$70,000-\$80,000 increase in next year's budget if we maintain our current student count and Senate Bill 175 is not altered. He added another educational issue will be school choice, which would take public dollars to fund private schools.

Mr. Ator stated the Governor's big push in this legislature will be to fund Pre-K instruction in the public schools. He stated if the Governor's proposal passes, there will be grant money available for starting a Pre-K program and we should probably look at having a program.

TEAMS TRAINING – Mr. Ator stated he attended training on the TEAMS program and it was very beneficial and should make completing the fall report much easier.

AD CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT MEETING – Mr. Ator stated he attended a meeting in Harlowton to discuss bringing back District 5C so we have three conferences. He stated he feels it should be kept the way it is as there is a need to redistrict the entire state.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated he will be attending MASS regional meetings in Billings on November 19 and December 17, 2014.

LEVY OPTIONS – Mr. Ator stated he would be nervous about not running some type of levy this next spring, whether it is a general fund, technology, or building reserve levy. He stated with a technology or building reserve levy, a resolution is created to include what the money would be spent on and ask for that amount. He stated the amount of general fund levy depends on what is needed and where the district's general fund budget cap is.

Mr. Ator stated he would like to get out and talk to people to see what kind of support there would be for each levy option.

NEGOTIATIONS – Mr. Ator stated if the Board and employees decide to begin negotiations earlier this year, the Board would need to create a negotiating committee.

It was determined that Tami Hoines and either Joel Bertolino or Sarah DeVries will serve on the negotiating committee.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVES – Mr. Ator stated the idea of a retirement incentive was brought to him by a teacher who has been in the district for some time and would probably retire if the district offers an incentive. He stated there could be a cost savings realized by offering the incentive and feels we should consider it.

RECESS

Ms. DeVries called to a short recess at 8:25 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

Ms. DeVries called for an executive session at 8:31 p.m. stating the next item of business involves an individual and it is her determination that the privacy rights of the individual supersede the merits of public disclosure. She returned the meeting to regular session at 8:59 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk