

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:00 p.m. on February 10, 2015, in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair
Rusty Niemi, Vice Chair
Tami Hoines
Luke Holdbrook

Absent: Joel Bertolino

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

GUESTS: Ward Braten, Jackie Ronning, Stacie Nardinger, Chris DeVries, James Binando

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 13, 2015 and special meeting on January 27, 2015. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for February, 2015 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

PERSONNEL

OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENT – Mr. Ator reported Celia Therrell, a junior high student from Red Lodge, has transferred to the district. He added he feels she will be a good addition to our school and there were no issues at her previous school.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the Out of District Student Agreement for Celia Therrell. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

RESIGNATIONS – Mr. Ator reported Doug Schoonover has accepted the retirement incentive and will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve the retirement incentive for Doug Schoonover with his resignation at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

Mr. Ator stated he is working on the job description for the position and will do some preliminary posting.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS – Mr. Ator recommended adding Breah Parks, Brenna Robinson, and Neal Coon to the substitute teacher list. He stated these are our student teachers and the fiancée of one of them.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve adding Breah Parks, Brenna Robinson, and Neal Coon to the substitute teacher list. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

MATERNITY LEAVE – Mr. Ator reported Jackie Ronning and Courtney Halvorsen have submitted requests for maternity leave. He added a past practice has been, at the superintendent’s discretion, to pay the teacher 15% of their daily salary for submitting lesson plans in a timely manner during the leave time. He recommended maternity leave requests be approved and pay 15% of each teacher’s daily salary for submitting lesson plans during the leave.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve maternity leave requests for Jackie Ronning and Courtney Halvorsen and pay 15% of each teacher’s daily rate for submitting lesson plans in a timely manner. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

NEW BUSINESS

STUDENT ATTENDANCE – Mr. Ator stated the student isn’t in attendance so this item will be bypassed and the policy followed.

SPECIAL ED CO-OP AGES 3-5 SERVICES – Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the following:

“For the 2015-2016 school year, the Roberts School District will provide special education services to its eligible 3-5 year olds through its existing special education program. In making this decision the district recognizes that participation in the Cooperative center-based special needs program is decided each February through board motion for each district.”

(YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

CLASS OF 2014 FUNDS – Mr. Ator stated the Class of 2014 left a balance of \$1058.05 in their class account and have not directly specified how the money should be spent but did indicate they wanted to donate to the library fund in honor of Mary Allen. He recommended the balance of the Class of 2014 funds be transferred to the library fund in honor of Mary Allen.

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to transfer \$1058.05 from the Class of 2014 fund to the library fund in honor of Mary Allen. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES – Mr. Ator stated included in the Board packet are class schedules for next year for a four day week and a five day week.

Mr. Holdbrook asked if study hall is still scheduled at the end of the day.

Mr. Ator stated the two schedules are basically the same with 57 minute periods in the four day schedule and 51 minutes in the five day schedule. He stated what he would like is approval of content of the schedules, not the time frame.

Ms. Hoines asked who worked with him on the schedule. Mr. Ator stated he consulted with Mrs. Nardinger, teachers, and students and have actually tracked students through it. He added he has been working on this since November.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve both versions of the 2015-2016 schedule. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

DONATION OF BUS – Mr. Ator stated the owner of the Lost Village has a small bus that he would like to donate to the school. He stated concerns he has are if the bus is in running condition and if it were donated by the bar, we would not be able to accept it.

Mr. Ator added depending on the size and condition of the vehicle, it could be useful as the driver doesn't have to have a CDL.

Mr. Niemi stated it would be worth the trip to go look at it with someone who has some mechanical knowledge and report at the March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NEGOTIATIONS – Mr. Ator stated the negotiation team has not met again because of the four day week discussion.

REVIEW OF BIDS FOR NEW BUS – Mr. Ator stated a meeting was held with bus drivers and trustees to discuss the bus routes and no change to the number of routes is being considered at this time. He stated because of that decision, it is probably time to order a new route bus for next year. He stated the bid received from I State Truck Center that he would recommend be accepted is \$98335 which includes \$5500 for activity bus style seats.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the bid from I State Truck Center for a new route bus for \$98335, which includes an upgrade in seats. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

2015-2016 CALENDAR – Mr. Ator noted this item is listed as a discussion item and no final decisions on the four-day week will be made at this meeting. He stated he conducted the survey and reviewed the results of the different questions asked. He added that out of the 71 surveys completed, 65% were in favor of a four day week, 25% in favor of a five day week, and the rest were uncertain.

Mr. Ator stated consideration of the four day week is not a financial decision as there really is no cost savings. He stated educationally some students will do better in a four day week while others will do better in a five day week. He stated what he would like to accomplish is to offer something at Roberts that isn't offered at other area schools. He stated his recommendation is to schedule a community meeting in March.

It was determined the community meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT – Ms. DeVries called for an executive session at 7:15 p.m. stating the next item to be discussed involves an individual and it is her determination that the individual's right to privacy supersedes the public's right to know. She returned the meeting to regular session at 7:27 p.m.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve contracts for superintendent Alex Ator for the next three years as presented in the Board packet. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

ATHLETIC CO-OP –Mr. Ator stated he has had conversations with both Red Lodge and Bridger about an athletic co-op. He added we are currently in a co-op with Red Lodge for football and could co-op with them for other sports on a pay to play basis. He stated Bridger will put discussion on their Board agenda in April but the biggest hesitation with them is the roads. He added he won't put a bus on the back roads to Bridger which means we would have to travel the long way around.

Mr. Ator stated Bridger's administration and Board is also very hesitant and the earliest we would be considering this co-op would be the 2016-2017 year.

Mr. Ator stated there may be some other events at Red Lodge we want to consider co-oping such as speech, drama, and golf.

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

1. High school boys' basketball team will have a play-off game with either Reed Point/Rapelje or Custer/Hystam next week. He added the girls' schedule depends on the results of this weekend's games.
2. Junior High Boys' Basketball has started with 15 boys, two of which are home-schooled.
3. FFA competed at Park City with the Agronomy team finishing 9th out of 19. Roberts will be hosting an FFA event on February 24.
4. BPA members are working on their state projects.

Mr. Ator stated the state BPA and FFA conventions are both in Billings and asked if we allow them to stay in Billings rather than driving back and forth. He added his recommendation would be to let them stay as they have events and activities in the evening and early morning.

Mr. Ator stated Mrs. Lastusky has been researching the best system for automating the library and feels the best system for us is the Destiny Library Management System with a startup cost of around \$1700. He stated we could use money given for the library from the Boys and Girls Club and still have enough to fund the Accelerated Reader program for the next couple year.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve using funding from the Boys and Girls Club to pay for the Destiny Library Management System startup costs and yearly fees if money is available after paying yearly fees for the Accelerated Reader program. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

ACADEMICS REPORT – Mr. Ator stated the eligibility list for the third quarter is the best it has been all year with some students who have been on the list all year are off.

Mr. Ator stated the staff has worked hard on making this happen and he would like to thank both them and the students. He added enforcing some policies has really changed the focus back to academics.

Mr. Ator stated Courtney Halvorsen and Adam Ruhnke are continuing training on the math curriculum through ACE. He added he has two teachers targeted for training on classroom management strategies which he hopes to schedule by the end of the year.

MASS UPDATE --- Mr. Ator stated it looks like schools will get the inflationary increase that was written into the school funding bill last session.

LEVY UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated based on the current funding level, the district will receive \$33,000 more in direct state aid next year, plus the inflationary increase if it is approved.

Ms. DeVries asked if Mr. Ator still believes we need to run a mill levy. Mr. Ator stated he does and would like to have the conversation with the Board to see if we should run separate levies for general fund, technology, and building reserve or put them together into one big one.

Mr. Niemi stated it is important to tell people what the money will be used for so it is probably better to run three separate ones.

Mr. Ator stated the advantage of running separate levies is it designates funds specifically for technology and building reserve to keep up with those items.

.BUILDING UPDATE – Mr. Ator reported the AltaCare program is set up and the wrestling club is using the old gym again.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator reported the following calendar items:

2/9	Sick leave for doctor appointments
2/25	Local MASS meeting
3/16 – 3/17	MASS state meeting in Helena

Mr. Ator asked for feedback on taking a Board member or staff member with him to the MASS meeting in Helena. He stated it is important to attend this meeting as it is an opportunity to meet with legislators and let them hear our success stories as there are plenty of people telling them horrible stories about education. He added we do a great job educating children in Montana and we need them to hear that.

Mrs. Obert asked that her evaluation be scheduled at the end of the regular Board meeting in March.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk