

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
JANUARY 13, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Vice Chair Rusty Niemi at 6:00 p.m. on January 13, 2015, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)  
Rusty Niemi, Vice Chair  
Joel Bertolino  
Tami Hoines  
Luke Holdbrook

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

GUESTS: Ward Braten, Jackie Ronning, Courtney Halvorsen, Rees Newton, Chris DeVries

**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 December 9, 2014 as presented. (YES-- Niemi, Bertolino, 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 January, 2015 as presented. (YES- Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

**ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE REPORT**

Mr. Ator reported Crystal Wright, Stacie Nardinger, and Rees Newton attended an Assessment Conference last week and asked Mrs. Newton to report.

Mrs. Newton stated the conference dealt with the new standardized testing for students. She stated the person administering the test must be certified, anyone assisting must be trained and a log needs to be kept listing everyone who is trained. She stated it is also important to have the technology needed for the testing.

Mrs. Newton stated there can be accommodations for students but they have to be accommodations already used by the student in the classroom.

Mrs. Newton stated this test is designed to keep getting harder as the student advances as it is designed to find the student skill level.

**PERSONNEL**

STUDENT TEACHERS – Mr. Ator reported both student teachers started after the Christmas break and both seem to be a good fit. He added they have asked to start an after-school cheer program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ELECTION CALENDAR** – Mrs. Obert stated the calendar for the May 5, 2015 trustee election was included in the Board packet.

**AUDIT BID** –Mrs. Obert asked for approval of the audit bid from Strom & Associates for auditing the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 years in the amount of \$9000 which includes \$1000 for conversion of statements to the GASB 34 format and preparation of the notes to the financial statements.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the bid of \$9000 from Strom & Associates for auditing the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years, including \$1000 for conversion of statements to the GASB 34 format and preparation of the notes to the financial statements. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

**SOCIAL SECURITY REQUEST** – Mrs. Obert stated until 1993, the district was divided into a high school district and an elementary district. She stated in 1963 the elementary district formally requested participation in the Social Security system but the high school district did not. She added the district combined into a K-12 district in 1993 and now the Social Security Administration has determined that coverage for employees who were high school district employees needs to be requested, although there is no longer a high school district.

Mrs. Obert asked the Board to pass a motion requesting the process be started to request social security coverage for employees who are also enrolled in retirement systems.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to begin the process to request social security coverage for employees of Roberts School District #5 enrolled in retirement systems. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

**MHSA PROPOSALS** – Mr. Ator stated the MHSA Annual Meeting is being held in Kalispell this year and he is not intending to attend unless directed by the board to do so. He stated there are only two proposals that would affect us and one of those, dealing with transgender athletes, will be handled through an MHSA committee. He stated the other proposal deals with removing the rule against play on Sunday and changing it to allow practice six of seven days per week.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**2014-2015 STAFF HANDBOOK/COURSE CATALOG** – Mr. Ator stated he is removing this item from the agenda and he will look at them for the 2015-2016 year.

**NEGOTIATIONS** – Mr. Ator stated negotiations are on hold pending possible changes in the school week.

**BIDS FOR NEW BUS** – Mr. Ator stated before a new bus is ordered he would like to look at the routes to see if we should continue with three or make changes. He stated he would like to have one or two trustees, Jeff Krook (member of the leadership team), and himself to meet and look at what we're doing with transportation.

Joel Bertolino and Rusty Niemi agreed to meet with Jeff Krook and Mr. Ator.

**DISCUSSION ON FOUR DAY VERSUS 5 DAY SCHOOL WEEK** -- Mr. Ator stated he would like discussion with trustees on a four day school week versus a five day school week.

Ms. DeVries expressed concern with getting students into town on Friday for games.

Mr. Ator stated no one he has talked with in the community about a four day week has mentioned the issue of daycare. He stated some schools offer an enrichment program on Friday morning staffed by teachers on a rotating basis.

Mr. Bertolino asked what would draw a parent to Roberts because of the four day week.

Mr. Holdbrook stated the opportunity to have more time for families would be a draw.

Mr. Ator stated the staff in the building and the 20 parents he has spoken with feel it is something to be explored. He added he would like to continue to talk with parents and put out information and perhaps a survey out to the community.

Ms. DeVries stated she feels it is really important to get input from the community.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**ATHLETIC CO-OP** – Mr. Ator stated he has talked with administrators from Bridger, Joliet, and Red Lodge and all expressed interest in a sports co-op, with Red Lodge and Joliet both being a pay to play situation where students could go play on their teams such as we did with football this year. He stated he really doesn't want to have different co-ops for different sports.

Mr. Ator stated in terms of identity, Bridger would be a better fit for us but they are not interested in co-oping football because they would have to go to 8- man football instead of 6-man. He added he feels it is too late to look at this for next year and he doesn't feel there would be total board support for it.

Ms. DeVries stated she hasn't been supportive of the co-op situation but it may be what we need to do to have success with our sports teams.

Mr. Ator stated public education does so many things for the bottom 40-50% of the students but this would affect the top 10-20% to show them hard work does pay off.

Mr. Ator asked if trustees would rather co-op to keep the students in the valley or co-op with a Class C school.

Ms. DeVries and Mr. Holdbrook indicated they would want to co-op with a Class C school, Mr. Bertolino would be in favor of staying in the valley, and Mr. Niemi and Ms. Hoines stated they were on the fence.

Ms. DeVries stated we need to talk to the students and see what their preferences are. She and Mr. Niemi stated they would serve on a committee to explore the issue and suggested Ms. Reinhardt and Mrs. Nardinger also be members.

**ACTIVITIES REPORT** – Mrs. Nardinger stated she just returned from the BPA regional competition and all 17 students qualified for the state competition, 12 of which took first place.

Mr. Ator stated Roberts will be hosting an FFA competition in February.

**ACADEMIC REPORT** – Mr. Ator stated Friday is the last day of the first semester and we will have some out-of-district students on probation second semester. He added we also have a senior going ½ days next semester.

**MASS MEETING** – Mr. Ator stated the last MASS meeting was very quiet and the group was entertained by a string quartet from the Billings Public Schools.

**LEVY UPDATE** – Mr. Ator stated he is looking at the possibility of asking for a large levy to allow us to keep growing.

BUILDING UPDATE – Mr. Ator reported the old boiler room has been all cleaned up. He added Dan Nardinger worked really hard on this project.

Mr. Ator stated positions for the AltaCare program have been hired and they will begin on February 2.

Mr. Ator stated the internet has been crashing frequently lately due to outdated wireless access points. He added the bid for updating the system is \$2497.20 from Rimrock Computers and his recommendation is to accept the bid.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve the bid of \$2497.20 from Rimrock Computers for updating the wireless access system. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none).

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

Board of Regents meeting in Helena on January 19 to discuss teaching degrees in specialized areas that restrict teaching at a small school  
MASS meeting in Billings January 28, 2015  
Aim Higher meeting in Billings on January 28, 2015

**RECESS**

Ms. DeVries called to a short recess at 8:11 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 8:15 p.m.

Ms. DeVries called for an executive session at 8:18 p.m. stating the next item of business involves the superintendent evaluation 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 9:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk