

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
APRIL 10, 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 April 10, 2012, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Frank Ropp, Chair  
Sanford Langager, Vice Chair  
Joel Bertolino  
Sarah DeVries  
Carl Easthouse (via telephone at 7:20 p.m.)

Elliott Crump, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, District Clerk

GUESTS: Jeff Krook, Ward Braten, Doug Schoonover, Annette Hart, Crystal Wright, Kelly Horton, Tyrel Newsome, Chase Burgan, Trevor Krook

**BOARD TRAINING SESSION**

The Board met with Stephanie Zickafoose, Director of the Yellowstone-West/Carbon County Special Services Cooperative, for training on special education.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting March 13 and special meeting March 27, 2012 as presented. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

**CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS**

Sanford Langager asked about the warrant to the Class of 2012 for \$1,000 for trip per diem. Mrs. Obert stated that warrant was written from the JMG (Jobs for Montana's Graduates) grant for per diem meals for the senior trip.

Mr. Langager asked if that money is for school events.

Mr. Bertolino asked if clubs within the school apply for funding from that grant.

Mr. Crump stated some funding from JMG was used last year to send the BPA to nationals. He stated the district does send students on an educational trip their senior year that they pay for.

Mr. Langager stated BPA is a school funded program that is going on a national trip and asked which group would benefit most from the funding.

Kelly Horton stated she is pretty sure the BPA is going to be able to meet the expense of going to the national conference.

Mr. Langager asked if we've ever used grant money before for the senior trip and has it been approved by JMG. He also asked how many are going on the senior trip.

McKenzie Ropp stated there are seven students and two chaperones going on the trip. She stated the seniors have already put in \$200 and will have to put in another \$200 if this money isn't used. She added the seniors going on the trip are all in JMG.

Mr. Ropp asked if the issue was brought to Mr. Crump. Mr. Crump stated Mrs. Nardinger brought the request to him for approval and he approved it because if he didn't, the seniors wouldn't be able to go on the trip. He added JMG money was used to send BPA to nationals last year and the senior trip will be very educational but we can contact JMG to get final approval.

Carl Easthouse joined the meeting via telephone at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Ropp informed him the Board is discussing the funding for the senior trip from the JMG grant.

Mr. Easthouse asked if this is because the class is short of funding. Mr. Crump stated the seniors going on the trip have each paid \$200 for the trip and are still short on funding.

Mr. Langager asked if the BPA comes up short, is there additional funding for them.

Mr. Easthouse asked if the senior trip is longer this year.

Mr. Crump stated he doesn't know if it's longer but the students are missing more days of school.

Mr. Easthouse stated in the future he would like to avoid this type request.

Mr. Langager asked if the seniors have any more fundraisers planned. Ms. Ropp stated they could do burritos again but seem to be hitting up the same people all the time.

Mr. Ropp suggested the Board approve the warrants with the exception of warrant 38220 which could be given conditional approval until JMG can be contacted.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for April, 2012 as presented with the exception of warrant 38220 which is given conditional approval until the JMG program can be contacted for approval of use of the funds. (YES—Langager, Bertolino, DeVries, Easthouse. NO—none. Abstained: Ropp (conflict of interest as daughter is a senior.)

#### **FFA PRESENTATION**

Trevor Krook, a member of the FFA, reviewed the activities and events the group has undertaken this year, including competitions and fundraisers.

Mr. Krook stated members of FFA are interested in going to the national conference October 24-27, 2012 in Indianapolis. He stated there would be a maximum of six people and they would take the district bus with others from around the FFA district. He stated the students would be missing four days of school and the cost is \$544 per person.

Mr. Krook stated the conference is held the same time as volleyball district and possibly the first round of football playoffs.

Mr. Bertolino asked what the group would do at the conference.

Mr. Krook stated no one from the chapter qualified to compete at nationals but they would take workshops and other learning experiences.

Ward Braten stated there are about 60,000 people from all fifty states and Puerto Rico attending the conference.

Jeff Krook stated he attended in 1980 and it was an experience he will never forget.

Mr. Bertolino stated he would be in favor of letting the group go.

#### **STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Ropp stated the next item to come before the Board involves a student and it is his determination that the privacy rights of the individual supersede the public's right to know and called for a closed session at 7:45 p.m. The meeting was returned to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

#### **TEACHER REPORTS**

Doug Schoonover and Kelly Horton presented teacher reports.

Mr. Schoonover stated the year is going well and there are no major problems. He stated the writing assessment has been done but he doesn't have the results back yet. He added the Promethean Board in his room is being used.

Mr. Bertolino asked if Mr. Schoonover has any discipline problems and he stated he doesn't.

Kelly Horton thanked the Board for the opportunity to teach at Roberts and stated she has enjoyed the year without too many problems.

Ms. Horton stated she is pretty comfortable the BPA will have sufficient funds to go to the national competition. She added she took fourteen students to state BPA and two qualified for nationals and four others will be going on Torch Awards.

Ms. Horton stated she took some students to Helena for the Economics Challenge in March. She added they didn't compete that well but we may have an economics class next year. She stated she is writing a grant to hopefully get new chairs for her classroom that are comfortable and ergonomically correct.

Mr. Bertolino asked if she is getting the resources she needs to be successful in the classroom.

Ms. Horton stated she could really use some keyboarding software and more advanced computer books for the freshmen and sophomores.

#### **4H SIGN PROPOSAL**

Jeff Krook stated the Rock Creek Ranchers 4H Club received a grant a number of years ago to design and make a sign to welcome visitors to the community. He stated at the time, Tracy Timmons approached the Board about putting the sign on district property.

Mr. Krook stated the sign, a four foot by eight foot sheet of steel, is now ready and asked if the Board is willing to put it on the property.

Mr. Ropp asked if a permit is needed to put up the sign. He stated if it is put on the track field, we may have to check on where the sprinkler system is installed.

Mr. Crump stated he will need to check with the insurance company about the liability.

Mr. Ropp stated we need to get some questions answered and asked Mr. Krook to work with Mr. Crump.

#### **PERSONNEL**

RESIGNATION – Mr. Crump stated he received a letter of resignation from Liz Kaufman as Assistant Cook, to be effective at the end of the school year and recommended the Board accept it.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Liz Kaufman as Assistant Cook at the end of this school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries, Easthouse. NO—none).

Mr. Crump stated he will post the position in-house first and then advertise it.

Mr. Crump recommended discussing next year's budget before acting on the recommendations for tenured and non-tenured teachers.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

2012-2013 BUDGET – Mr. Crump stated because of the underfunded schools lawsuit, we recently received word next year's budget will be increased by about \$7,000 to \$1,014,892.74. He stated the Board had discussed running a \$30,000 mill levy and asked if this changes that decision.

Sarah DeVries asked Mr. Crump how he feels.

Mr. Crump stated he feels the community would support a levy and this budget will still be very tight.

Mr. Bertolino stated he still feels the community will pass a levy.

Jeff Krook asked how low a levy could be run to give a little cushion in the budget.

Mr. Crump stated if we're going to run a levy, it needs to be high enough so we don't have to run another one next year. He added \$30,000 pays for a teacher, \$20,000 doesn't.

Crystal Wright stated if the district doesn't run a mill levy there won't be funding for another teacher in the elementary.

Mr. Bertolino asked what configuration we're looking at in the elementary.

Mr. Crump stated there could be several different options, depending on how the numbers work out.

Elta Ayre encouraged the Board to have kindergarten as a separate class as it is more appealing for parents looking to move here. She stated the community will support the additional levy for adding another teacher.

Mr. Ropp asked where the additional teacher would be put. Mrs. Wright stated probably kindergarten but the students going into the fourth grade are a very needy class.

Mr. Ropp stated he feels it would be beneficial for the students to have another teacher.

Mr. Crump stated this Board has spent a great deal of time supporting combination classes. He added we're leaving people out of this conversation who should be included.

Mrs. DeVries stated when we talked about the levy previously, it wasn't for another teacher.

Mr. Langager stated we need to do everything we can to keep the students here.

Mr. Easthouse stated if we run the mill levy for an additional teacher, is the budget still short.

Mr. Crump stated there are different options to consider and we need to talk with all the teachers.

Mrs. DeVries stated it sounds like no matter what we do, the mill levy is needed.

Mr. Langager stated his concern is those in the community living on fixed incomes.

Mr. Easthouse stated whatever is done, we need to let the community know the need.

Mr. Bertolino stated he sees the mill levy as needed just to maintain our budget.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve running a \$30,000 mill levy proposition for the general fund. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries, Easthouse. NO—none.)

(Mr. Easthouse left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.)

#### **PERSONNEL (continued)**

**RECOMMENDATION FOR TENURED TEACHERS** – Mr. Crump recommended the renewal of all tenured teachers in the district for the 2012-2013 school year. (Mary Allen, Ward Braten, Michael Creeden, Annette Hart, Deborah Hill, J.D. Jones, Julie Jones, Stacie Nardinger, George Nelson, and Rezina Zeiler).

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to renew all tenured teachers in the district for the 2012-2013 school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

**RECOMMENDATION FOR TEACHERS UP FOR TENURE** – Mr. Crump recommended tenure be granted to Crystal Wright and she be renewed for the 2012-2013 school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to grant tenure to Crystal Wright and renew her contract for the 2012-2013 school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

**RECOMMENDATION FOR NON-TENURED TEACHERS** – Mr. Crump recommended the renewal of Kelly Horton for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to renew Kelly Horton for the 2012-2013 school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended the renewal of Kyle Neibauer for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to renew Kyle Neibauer for the 2012-2013 school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended the renewal of Jené Reinhardt for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to renew Jené Reinhardt for the 2012-2013 school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended the renewal of Douglas Schoonover for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried to renew Douglas Schoonover for the 2012-2013 school year. (YES—Ropp, Langager, DeVries. NO--Bertolino.)

## **RECESS**

Mr. Ropp called for a short recess at 9:25 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 9:34 p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**DRIVER EDUCATION** –Mr. Crump stated he has been in contact with Tom McMakin and he is interested in running the driver education program this summer. He stated two years ago the district paid Mr. McMakin \$2600.00 to run the program and he is requesting the same amount plus mileage of about \$357. He stated his recommendation is to hire Mr. McMakin for the program for \$2600 and mileage of \$357.

Mr. Langager asked if we have a car for the program.

Mr. Crump stated we need to work out the details and see if we can get a car donated or if we have to rent one. He added the program is supposed to be self-supporting so we need to raise the cost to \$175 per student and need twelve students to cover the costs.

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to offer the driver education position to Tom McMakin for \$2600 and mileage (\$357) and increase the per student cost to \$175.00. YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

**HEALTH INSURANCE RATE** – Mr. Crump stated we received the rate quote for health insurance for next year from the Joint Powers Trust. He stated it contains a 7% increase, with an option to reduce that to a 4% increase with 70% employee attendance at wellness seminars and one more year on the contract. He added under this option (Option 4) the cost for single coverage will increase \$16.02 per month to \$426.88.

Mr. Ropp stated health insurance premiums are part of negotiations with the teachers.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Sarah DeVries and approved unanimously to renew the contract with the Joint Powers Trust for health insurance for the 2012-2013 school year, Option 4, which contains a 4% premium increase. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

**WILLIE NELSON GRANT** – Mr. Crump stated the district received a Willie Nelson grant from the Red Lodge Community Foundation for special education materials. He stated the \$5477 grant will be used to purchase equipment such as iPads and Earobics.

**TECHNOLOGY GRANT** – Mr. Crump stated last year the district received grant funding from Northwestern Energy and the Roberts Community Foundation for technology. He stated he would like to use that funding to purchase ActiVotes for use with the Promethean Boards.

Mrs. DeVries asked how many handsets will be purchased. Mr. Crump stated he will purchase 48 handsets.

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to approve the use of the technology grant received last year to purchase ActiVotes for use with the Promethean Boards. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries. NO—none).

**GYM FLOOR RE-COAT SERVICES** – Mr. Crump stated he received the bids from Bruco for refinishing the gym floor. He stated Mr. Nelson has asked about refinishing the floors twice a year as they do get very hard use but it would be difficult unless we changed the product we're using for the finish. He stated he will try to find more information.

**2012-2013 CALENDAR** – Mr. Crump stated he is bringing the first version of next year's calendar to the Board before taking it to the teachers next week. He stated this option begins on August 28, 2012, ends on May 24, 2013 and is 170 full days and three half days with one extra day for a snow day.

TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS – Mr. Crump stated the Board has received a letter from the teachers requesting negotiations be opened for the 2012-2013 year. He stated items for negotiation include the health insurance premium increase and discussion of discretionary days.

It was determined Mr. Ropp and Mr. Bertolino would be the Board's representatives for teacher negotiations.

**OLD BUSINESS (continued)**

FOOTBALL COOPERATIVE – Mr. Crump stated the football cooperative with Roberts and Fromberg was approved by the Montana High School Association. He stated he spoke with George Nelson about the junior high football program and it was suggested the Board have an open meeting with the parents of students who would be involved to see what they would like to do.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Crump stated the May meeting is scheduled for May 8 but that is the same day as the elections. He recommended moving the Board meeting to May 9 or May 15.

It was determined the May Board meeting would be held on May 15, 2012.

PROGRAM UPDATE – Mr. Crump stated all three schools in the district have been granted regular accreditation.

Mr. Crump stated he received the results of the MAPS testing and asked what numbers the Board would like to see. He stated he is not a firm believer in standardized testing and doesn't want to teach to the test. He added he was only surprised by the scores of two students.

Mrs. Hart stated the testing is helpful if a district has a big turnover in staff. She stated it is also helpful to see the blips in a student's life.

Mr. Ropp asked if we have to have so much testing to keep the powers to be happy.

Mr. Crump stated we take the tests but don't teach to the test.

Mr. Crump stated the class schedule for next year was included in the Board packet. He stated there are no new classes this year but we are offering an economics course.

Mr. Crump stated with the common core, there are increased standards for math and all seniors need to be ready to take calculus.

Mr. Langager stated his concern with Mr. Creeden in the elementary wing as he feels the elementary teachers should be teaching elementary social studies. He asked if our students are performing well on the on-line classes.

Mr. Crump stated they are performing at about the same level they would be in regular classes. He stated we need to offer the classes so the students learn how to take them.

Mr. Langager stated we need to be sure students don't fall behind in their regular coursework.

Mr. Crump stated we are also going to have to get more information about dual credit classes.

Mr. Crump stated the last legislature created the possibility for two or more districts to form multi-district agreements and transfer money from any fund to finance those agreements. He stated the state is offering a two million dollar incentive for districts to share that participate in these agreements. He stated there are those who believe the incentive is being offered to get districts to work together or it is being offered as a way to consolidate districts. He added a multi-district agreement could be helpful to fund expenses of the football cooperative.

Mr. Langager asked that class sponsors be put on next month's agenda for discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ropp adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
APRIL 17, 2012**

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Frank Ropp at 6:03 p.m. on April 17, 2012, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Frank Ropp, Chair  
Sanford Langager, Vice Chair  
Joel Bertolino  
Sarah DeVries  
Carl Easthouse

Elliott Crump, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

Guests: Chris DeVries, George Nelson, Stacey Nelson, Jené Reinhardt, Elta Ayre, Trish Ayre, Kali Nuttall, Kate Hibbs, Carrie Daniels, McKenzie Ropp, Kylee McDonnell, Breann Carlson, Cindy McDonnell, Cindy Miller, Stacie Nardinger, Rezina Zeiler, Brad Abbe, Richard Hibbs, Wyatt Abbe

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting started with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**JMG FUNDING**

Stacie Nardinger stated because of the concern expressed by the Board about using JMG funding for the senior trip, the class is requesting the money be returned to the JMG program. She added those going on the trip will each pay an additional \$130 to make up the deficit.

Mrs. Nardinger outlined the reasons the class is short of funds. She stated the billing misunderstanding with Gerber Tours came to \$917.00.

Kylee McDonnell gave a breakdown of the fundraising done this year, what was anticipated from each fundraiser, and what was actually raised.

Mrs. Nardinger stated when talking with representatives from the JMG program, it was requested the school allow students to attend the Career Development Conference next year. She added it falls between BPA nationals and the senior trip but she would like to take those students in JMG who don't go to the BPA national conference to the CDC.

Sanford Langager asked if the seniors will have any spending money. Mrs. Nardinger stated any spending money will be out of pocket but there are two meals provided per day.

Mr. Langager stated he has been trying to think of a fundraiser for the class.

Mrs. Nardinger stated the students only have eleven days of school left.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Ropp opened the meeting up to public comment. The following spoke to the Board:

Kate Hibbs -- Mrs. Zeiler and Mrs. Nardinger were the seniors' choice for chaperones for the trip. This school and Mrs. Nardinger have prepared students well to succeed after graduation.

Cindy McDonnell – Students should be able to attend the JMG Career Development Conference even if they are going to BPA nationals. This has been an awful year and the Board needs to lighten up. You have to respect the kids if you want them to respect you.

McKenzie Ropp – Using JMG funds for the senior trip shouldn't have been a big deal as JMG funding was used last year for BPA nationals. The seniors feel like they are being picked on and the integrity of the advisors questioned.

Kylee McDonnell – If the students can't have coffee, the staff shouldn't be able to either.

Cindy Miller – Thanks to the advisors for taking the students on this trip.

Elta Ayre – She is distressed and disappointed that this situation came up with the Board as these students and advisors have worked hard. The school has gotten too strict, the students don't want to be here and enrollment will go down if it continues. Her children have gotten an excellent education here but there are too many rules.

Mrs. Ayre stated the welding area in the shop is in serious shape and needs to be fixed. She added her husband has come before to help the students with welding but he won't come back until the welding tables are secured, air hoses are off the floor and the shop has been rearranged and cleaned up. She added others in the community would probably be willing to donate some time to expose the students to the different areas of the trades.

Richard Hibbs – There is a definite need for people in the trades and are many good jobs out there. He stated he is a machinist and if the school gets a lathe, he would volunteer some time for instruction.

Brad Abbe – There are many good jobs in the trades and our students aren't being prepared for them. There should be more emphasis on shop classes.

Mr. Langager stated the Board hasn't added any new rules, just started enforcing them.

#### **JMG FUNDING (continued)**

Motion was made by Carl Easthouse, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to void warrant #38220 to the Class of 2012 for \$1,000. (YES—Ropp, Langager, Bertolino, DeVries, Easthouse. NO—none).

#### **JANITORIAL POSITION**

Mr. Crump stated there were two applicants for the janitorial position and he has interviewed one and hopes to interview the other soon.

#### **GYM FLOOR RE-COAT SERVICE**

Mr. Crump stated Bruco has done our gym floors for the past few years but he did call another company about applying a different coating, water based instead of oil based, so it could be applied twice a year.

George Nelson stated by the end of the basketball season, our floor is very slippery. He stated the gym is used for so many activities now and it is difficult to keep the floor in decent shape.

Mr. Ropp asked if there is a safety concern. Mr. Nelson stated it gets very slippery.

Mr. Langager asked if a water based coating is cheaper.

Mr. Nelson stated he thinks it is and that is why it could be applied twice a year. He stated we also need to replace all the light bulbs in the gym.

#### **NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. Ropp stated negotiations have begun with the teachers but will be contingent on passage of the mill levy. He stated the most contentious item will probably be working out some details with discretionary days. He stated other items include coverage of increase in premiums for health insurance, steps and lanes, bonus possibility.

#### **MILL LEVY**

Mr. Ropp stated we need to develop a strategy to inform the public of the upcoming mill levy election.

Mrs. DeVries asked if we're sending out a mailing.

Mr. Easthouse stated it should be more than just in the newsletter, a formal mailing to all registered voters in the district and then hold a public meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Crump stated if we can have the letter out by April 24, we could hold the meeting on May 1.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Crump stated he is working with the Haddock Corporation on getting the student handsets to go with the Promethean Board, using some technology grant money and some funding from National PTA. He stated he and Mr. Bertolino have also been working on a grant with the Boy & Girls Club.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ropp adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk