

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
JANUARY 20, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:00 p.m. on January 20, 2021 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair
Brandon Crane
Michelle Swansborough

ABSENT: Tyler Allen

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Sarah Shoopman, Shannyn Wilson, Kelley Guasp, Jackie Ronning (all virtual)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ator stated in early January Governor Gianforte discussed the existing mask mandate and what needs to happen before it is changed. He stated that includes liability protection for businesses, legislation that would have to be passed by the legislature by a 2/3 majority, and vaccine available for the most vulnerable and until that happens, best practices (which includes masking) will be followed.

Mr. Ator stated the bill addressing liability protection does not include schools and it was not clarified if the most vulnerable must be vaccinated or if vaccine simply has to be available. He added his recommendation is we use the same criteria of needing liability protection and vaccine available for the most vulnerable before lifting the mask mandate.

Mr. Bertolino stated it looks like a lot of people are going in that direction.

Mr. Crane stated it sounds reasonable to him.

Mr. Ator stated Carbon County did remove all its arbitrary mandates but the CDC recommendations still have to be followed. He added the fan policy at sporting events will remain at two people or the family pod.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none),

WARRANTS

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve warrants 46736-46799 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

TEACHER REPORT

Shannyn Wilson gave the teacher report for the month.

Miss Wilson stated she is teaching fourth grade this year and has a mix of in-school and online students this year but is working through it. She reported she is using Eureka for math this year and it is new to both her and the students but it is working well and has higher level elements. She added she really likes the CKLA program for language arts.

Miss Wilson stated she is thankful for the way the school, support staff, and administration has reacted to the situation of being in a pandemic.

Mr. Ator thanked her for her positive energy.

ACTIVITIES – Sarah Shoopman reported on the following for Activities:

1. MHSA Annual Meeting was held virtually and there is nothing significant to report. Post season play will be discussed at the end of the month.
2. High school girls' basketball is in the #1 spot in the conference. Boys' team is improving every game and some JV games have been added. Game times will flip next week with the boys playing before the girls.
3. Music- Elementary winter concert was done virtually.
4. FFA – FFA Week is in February
5. BPA – Both regional and state events will be virtual.

STAFFING

PARAPROFESSIONAL – Mr. Ator recommended hiring Ressa Herta as a paraprofessional at \$11.50 per hour for up to 34 hours per week.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to hire Ressa Herta at \$11.50 per hour for up to 34 hours per week. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

Mr. Ator stated at the December meeting, Lisa Young's contract as paraprofessional was extended to the end of the school year at the current rate of pay and should have included a pay raise of \$.50 per hour.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to rescind the motion of December 16, 2020, concerning the employment of Lisa Young.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to extend the hire of Lisa Young as paraprofessional through June 30, 2021 for 35 hours per week, at \$11.50 per hour, to be effective as of January 1, 2021. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

NEW BUSINESS

SUPT. EVALUATION – Mr. Ator stated his evaluation information is in the board packet and asked that it be done by March 5 and the evaluation done at the March meeting.

LEVY RESOLUTION – Mr. Ator stated Covid-19 has changed the funding picture as federal money has been distributed and even more is expected. He added our levy plan had originally been to run a mill levy once the bond for the gym was paid but he doesn't believe it will be necessary to do so this year. He added the board will need to vote on a resolution for the permissive levies in March.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-2022 – Mr. Ator reported several options for next year's calendar were included in the board packet but no action is required at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

BOILER AND WATER HEATER REPAIR/GYM LIGHT REPAIR – Mr. Ator stated the gym heater is fixed and hopefully the gym light will be replaced on Friday. He added the extra things our staff does is incredible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

LITERACY UPDATE – Mrs. Ronning reported the following for literacy:

1. Literacy spring conference will need to be something we put together for ourselves.
2. Professional development this summer will probably be individual trainings rather than large group trainings. It is time for implementation of what we've learned.
3. Literacy bags for new parents are being put together. We're looking at 50-100 bags.

MEETING DATES – Mr. Ator stated meeting dates for the next few months are February 17 (may conflict with district basketball tournament), March 17, and April 21. He asked that trustees look at their calendars and get back to him with conflicts.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated he has been absent more this year than any other with Covid and having a baby. He added he will also be taking a half day on Fridays to be able to stay home with Ryzen.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries called for adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk