

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
NOVEMBER 15, 2017**

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 15, 2017, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair  
James Binando  
Sanford Langager

Absent: Tyler Allen, Joel Bertolino

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Courtney Halvorsen, Jon Milligan, Joellen Brennan, Ashley McCoy

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by James Binando and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting as presented. (YES— DeVries, Binando, Langager. NO—none).

**CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS**

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by James Binando and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for November, 2017 as presented. (YES— DeVries, Binando, Langager. NO—none).

**TEACHER REPORTS**

Ashley McCoy, Jon Milligan, and Joellen Brennan gave teacher reports for the month.

Ms. McCoy thanked the Board for sending her to training this summer in Red Lodge to help connect our curriculum to the common core standards. She stated because of the training, she is revamping some of her projects and feels she is much better prepared and more confident to do that.

Ms. McCoy stated she and other high school teachers are teaming up for some cross-curricular fourth quarter student projects.

Mr. Ator stated one of Ms. McCoy's references said she takes professional development seriously and implements it immediately and he has found that to be very true.

Mr. Milligan stated he is teaching physics and physical science this semester and there is definitely a learning curve with both those classes. He added there is quite a bit of math involved and he has been working with Mrs. Brennan on that.

Mr. Milligan stated the junior high program was not quite what he expected it to be and he is working with Mr. Nelson on shifting earth science to the fifth and sixth grade level.

Mr. Milligan thanked the Board for all the equipment that was purchased for the science department this summer.

Mr. Ator stated Mr. Milligan's teaching is very hands-on and there are always students in his room doing something.

Mrs. Brennan reported she is having a blast with her math classes. She stated the students are doing math labs and showed some of the projects done in those labs.

Mr. Binando asked if the students are academically where they need to be.

Mrs. Brennan stated there are holes in the students' math learning and she is trying hard to find them. She stated there are students in higher level classes who don't know basic math facts.

Mr. Ator stated Mrs. Brennan definitely uses a very hands-on teaching style. He stated there may have been a problem in the past with moving forward in math classes before the students were ready.

### **STAFFING**

ROUTE BUS DRIVER – Mr. Ator stated the person who has been working on certification for bus driving is taking his test tomorrow in Lewistown. He added a person interested in a custodial position also expressed interest in the driving position.

CONCESSIONS MANAGER – Mr. Ator stated Lacy Langager has submitted an application for the Concessions Manager position. He stated action will be taken on that item next month.

VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL ASSISTANT COACH – Mr. Ator stated two people have expressed interest in the assistant coaching position but one would not be able to be at most practices and the other won't be available until mid-December.

Mr. Langager asked if compatibility with the head coach would be an issue for either person. Mr. Ator stated both would be fine.

Mr. Milligan stated as long as the team is doing morning practice, he could help.

Mr. Ator stated he will pursue having Jon Milligan help out until the other person is available in December.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

STAFF APPRECIATION EVENT – Mr. Ator stated last year we waited until after Christmas to have the staff appreciation event and he is planning on doing the same this year.

CERTIFIED NEGOTIATIONS – Mr. Ator stated Ms. DeVries and Mr. Langager will be meeting with the teacher negotiators after this meeting.

Mr. Ator stated in 2012, language for the use of discretionary days was changed in the contract for certified staff. He stated when contracts were issued for the 2014-2015 year, the language was inadvertently changed back to the old language. He stated no one had noticed until questions came up with negotiations this year. He stated for the remainder of this year we have to go by the language of the contract but this item needs to be renegotiated.

Mr. Ator added language regarding a sick leave bank was also inadvertently eliminated.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

CARPET BIDS – Mr. Ator stated the original estimate of payment for the vandalism claim was around \$14,000, then it was reduced to \$10,000 and now he received a check for a little over four thousand dollars for settlement of the claim. He stated he is not happy with this situation and will be making some calls.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE** – Mr. Ator reported he will be on vacation the week of Thanksgiving and is planning to attend a grant conference for the literacy grant on December 5.

**EVALUATION TIMELINE** – Mr. Ator stated he will distribute his evaluation in December for review in January.

Mr. Binando stated perhaps there should be a staff survey included with the evaluation.

Ms. DeVries stated the MTSBA advises against doing staff surveys with the superintendent evaluation.

**REVIEW OF CRISIS PLAN** – Mr. Ator stated the Safety Committee will be working on the district's very outdated Crisis Plan. He added we need to have one that is short and concise.

**MONTANA COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY PROGRAM GRANT** – Mr. Ator stated the deadline for the Montana Comprehensive Literacy Program grant is December 15, 2017. He stated putting this application together is a great deal of work but it is worth \$250,000 each year for three or four years. He added probably about 60% of those who apply will receive funding.

**ADA WEBSITE COMPLIANCE** – Mr. Ator reported a family in Michigan with a blind child has been targeting websites of organizations that receive federal funding to see if they are ADA compliant and if not, submitting complaints to the Office for Civil Rights.

Mr. Ator stated some schools have completely taken their websites down rather than risk an OCR complaint. He stated there are other things that can be done and we have added a disclaimer on our website with contact information in case anyone is having problems accessing the site.

**STAFF REPORTS** – Student Council, Mrs. Halvorsen – Student Council raised \$360 from the Pink Night fundraiser that will be donated to the St. Vincent Mammography Bus. Next project will be in conjunction with the Christmas concert.

Library, Mrs. Lastusky – The book fair is over and special thanks to Miss Aiko for buying every elementary student the book of their choice.

**LETTER FOR RCF** – Mr. Ator read a letter written by Andy VanOrnum for the Roberts Community Foundation newsletter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries called for adjournment at 7:45 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk