

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
JANUARY 19, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Sarah DeVries at 6:05 p.m. on January 19, 2016, in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair
Rusty Niemi, Vice Chair
Joel Bertolino
Deborah Hill
Sanford Langager

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Ward Braten, Adam Ruhnke, Jake Krum

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 meeting as presented. (YES— DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Mr. Ator noted the check for the AltaCare program is fairly large each month and advised trustees those costs are paid by Medicaid.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for January, 2016 as presented. (YES— DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

PERSONNEL

JUNIOR HIGH BOYS' BASKETBALL ASSISTANT – Mr. Ator stated we still have no applicants for the junior high boys' basketball assistant coach position and he would like to reopen it and advertise again. The Board indicated Mr. Ator should proceed with trying to fill the position.

TEACHER REPORTS

Adam Ruhnke and Jake Krum gave teacher reports for the month.

Mr. Ruhnke stated this has been a good year and the students are great and are excelling. He stated the MAPS testing gives him real data on how they are progressing.

Mr. Langager asked if the students are having a hard time transitioning to the common core.

Mr. Ruhnke stated the elementary levels are dealing with it very well so it is pretty much taken care of by the time he gets them in junior high.

Mr. Niemi asked if there have been complaints about homework.

Mr. Ruhnke stated he had gotten some complaints so he backed off on the homework and is giving the students more time in class to get it done.

Mr. Langager asked if the change to the four-day week has been positive.

Mr. Ruhnke stated he would like to wait until the end of the year to answer that but feels the students are adjusting.

Mr. Krum stated the year is going well in English and his classes just completed research writing and speech writing.

Mr. Krum stated the approach he takes with teaching is if he hasn't taught it, the students don't know it. He added he goes step by step so the students really know what they're doing.

Mrs. Hill asked what is planned for second semester.

Mr. Krum stated the students will take the skills they learned in the first semester and apply them in second semester. He stated they will be doing in-class writings and probably another research paper.

NEW BUSINESS

BUS ROUTE AMENDMENTS AND UPDATES – Mr. Ator stated in previous years, there had been a family included on our bus route when the children were staying with their father who actually lived in the Luther district. He stated those children have left the district but another family moved into the area and although it is in the Luther district, they won't provide transportation so the family brought their child to Roberts.

Mr. Ator stated in November the Luther district granted permission for our bus to pick up the student at their home and the county superintendent approved the additional mileage for our route. He stated this resulted in an extension of the route and at this point, the parents on the route should have been notified of the change but it ran for about a month before there were any issues.

Mr. Ator stated there is now one set of parents angry about the change in the route with the father actually getting on the bus today during the afternoon route. He added the mother has previously been warned about her behavior on the school grounds.

Mrs. Hill asked what their problem is. Mr. Ator stated depending on who is riding the bus, the time the bus gets to their stop may vary and they want the driver to call them every day to tell them when he'll be there.

Mr. Ator stated his recommendation is there be no motion and we continue the bus route as it is.

No action was taken on this topic.

YWCCSS 3-5 YEAR OLD SERVICES 16-17 – Mr. Ator stated a motion is needed to give our yearly assurance to the special education co-op to provide services for eligible 3-5 year old children.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Deborah Hill and carried unanimously for the 2016-2017 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, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

BUILDING SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES – Mr. Ator reported we had some problems with a student so the doors have been locked for security and he would like to get a buzzer system for entrance into the school.

Mr. Langager stated he doesn't like to see the doors locked but there does need to be some kind of defense system at the front office.

Mr. Ator stated he doesn't see us ever leaving the doors unlocked again.

Jon Croft of the Carbon County Sheriff's department stated he agrees with the doors being locked because the layout of the building doesn't provide a line of defense but if staff members are armed, they have to be trained and deputized.

Mr. Ator stated we have gotten a couple more cameras and will get bids on the technology piece. He added the next newsletter to go out will have more explanation for parents and community members.

HANDBOOK DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES – Mr. Ator stated students serving out of school suspension no longer receive all 0's on assignments but do the makeup work and lose a 2% reduction in each subject for the quarter for each day of out of school suspension.

Mr. Ator stated he is recommending keeping the 2% reduction in the procedure but cap it at a maximum of 60% so the student doesn't fail a quarter because of a disciplinary issue. He added if we don't make this change now, he is fairly sure the courts will make the change for us.

Mr. Langager stated he doesn't like to set a student up to fail and would rather give them a chance to do the work at home rather than having to retake the classes.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi and seconded by Sanford Langager to amend line (b) of the Out of School Suspension procedure in the student handbook as follows:

b. Students will do all make up work, but will lose a 2% deduction in each subject for the quarter, for each day of out of school suspension. Out of school suspension reduction of grades will be capped when a student's grade is dropped to 60%.

Motion carried. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Langager. NO—Hill).

Mr. Ator requested the Board make the amendment retroactive to the beginning of the school year as it may affect a few students passing semester one classes.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi and seconded by Sanford Langager to make the amendment to the out of school suspension in the student handbook retroactive to the beginning of the school year. Motion carried. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Langager. NO—Hill).

OLD BUSINESS

2016-2017 SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated he is waiting to finalize the 16-17 schedule until the student registrations for second semester are complete.

RECESS

Ms. DeVries called for a short recess at 7:08 p.m. and called the meeting back into order at 7:14 p.m.

POLICY UPDATES/AMENDMENTS – Mr. Ator reviewed the following policies with the Board:

Policy 1400 Board Meetings
Policy 1420F Notice Regarding Public Comment
Policy 1420 School Board Meeting Procedure
Policy 1441 Audience Participation

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

1. Some of the games on the basketball schedule had to be rearranged to accommodate ours and other schools' conflicts.
2. All of the BPA members advanced to the state competition.

ACADEMICS REPORT – Mr. Ator reported the following for academics:

1. Off campus services are now being offered in the shop and a camera was installed in the area.
2. Students taking Montana Digital Academy classes all passed those classes first semester with the GPA being an average of 2.97.
3. Last year 8 students failed semester courses and this year no one did.

BUILDING PROJECTS REPORT – Mr. Ator stated Rick Sederberg will probably be ready to take the boiler operator test next month.

FOUR-DAY WEEK UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated we've had ski days for the Friday program the last two weeks and are scheduled to go to Red Lodge for a presentation by the Billings Symphony this week.

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

1. He attended the Montana High School Association Annual Meeting the last two days. He stated Custer/Hysham appealed to stay in our district but the appeal failed so they will move to another district next year.
2. MASS meeting is scheduled for the end of the month.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – Ms. DeVries stated the next item of business involves an individual and called for an executive session at 7:40 p.m. stating it is her determination that the individual's rights to privacy supersede the merits of public disclosure. The meeting was returned to regular session at 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk