

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
MARCH 15, 2016**

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 March 15, 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: Amanda Smith, Jackie Ronning, Courtney Halvorsen, James Binando, Adam Ruhnke

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting as presented. (YES— DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

**CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS**

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for February 25 and March, 2016 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

**PERSONNEL**

RESIGNATION – Mr. Ator stated included in the Board packet is a letter of resignation from Rees Newton from all duties as of June 3, 2016 and recommended the resignation be accepted. He stated duties include elementary teaching, coaching junior high girls' basketball, and FFA advisor.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Deborah Hill and carried unanimously to accept the resignation from Rees Newton from all duties as of June 3, 2016. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

Mr. Ator stated the other pending resignation is still not finalized.

Mr. Ator stated next month is contract month and he plans on once again advertising the Athletic Director position to see if any staff is interested. He stated Adam Ruhnke will be teaching driver education this summer with adjusted dates to begin a little later as he will also be teaching the program in Park City. He added Mr. Ruhnke would like to attend the state driver education conference. The Board indicated its approval of Mr. Ruhnke attending the convention.

**TEACHER REPORTS**

Jackie Ronning and Courtney Halvorsen presented teacher reports for the month.

Mrs. Ronning distributed samples of her lesson plans and pacing guide for kindergarten and outlined a day in her classroom. She stated Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for April 29 and

she is inviting all the preschool children to her classroom on Wednesday afternoons in May to get them acquainted with school.

Mrs. Ronning stated she is one of the advisors for student council this year at the high school level and has really enjoyed the experience.

Mrs. Hill asked how the long afternoon is for the kindergarten students.

Mrs. Ronning stated the schedule for kindergarten has been great this year and she feels most of her students are more ready to come back to school on Monday because of the four day week.

Mrs. Hill asked if the students have art with the art teacher. Mrs. Ronning stated they do.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated she teaches math and science to a wide range of elementary/junior high students and she is really enjoying teaching three levels of math.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated having junior high science has been a whole new experience. She stated she adjusted the fifth and sixth grade science program to use the interactive science so it is used in grades K-8.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated she is also helping advise student council.

Mrs. Hill asked how common core math is going.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated common core math is harder for those students who struggle with math.

Mrs. Hill asked what she thinks of common core math.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated there are parts of it, such as the problem solving piece, she really likes and wouldn't give up.

Mrs. Hill stated she has heard the science curriculum for the fifth and sixth graders is also very difficult.

Mr. Ator stated the difficulty was in trying to teach both levels at the same time.

Mrs. Halvorsen stated she scrapped that idea and teaches them all the same material.

Mr. Langager asked if she likes doing the three levels of science as well as the math. Mrs. Halvorsen stated she doesn't enjoy the science as much as the math.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**GYM FLOOR BIDS** – Mr. Ator stated he received bids from Hanson Chemical (\$4195.22) and Bruco (\$4701.06) for refinishing the gym floors this summer. He stated Western Hardwood submitted a bid for sanding the floor down but the cost of that would be close to \$50,000.

Mr. Ator recommended the Board accept the bid from Hanson Chemical for \$4195.22 to refinish the two gym floors.

Motion was made by Sanford Langager, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Hanson Chemical in the amount of \$4195.22 to refinish the gym floors this summer. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

**LEVY AMOUNTS** – Mr. Ator stated our general fund budget this year was \$1,125,325.64 and will increase by about \$20,500 to \$1,145,893.57 next year without a levy. He stated staff raises for next year will cost about \$35,000, depending on staffing, but we have had a very good year and

are looking to finish the year with a pretty big surplus. He added he is comfortable not asking for a levy increase for next year unless we decide to make major staffing changes.

Mr. Langager asked if staffing changes would be moving teachers from part-time to full-time.

Mr. Ator stated it depends on the position and our enrollment numbers. He stated 125 students is the cap for using the small school alliance for library services and if we go over that number, we need a full-time librarian.

### **RECESS**

Ms. DeVries called for a recess at 7:06 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 7:13 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

PLAYGROUND UPDATE – Cy Baldwin will be getting us a bid on the playground project.

16-17 SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated he is waiting to see the staffing configuration before completing the schedule.

BUILDING SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES – Mr. Ator stated when discussing building security last month, the board indicated it would like information on the cost of expanding the project to include more than the front door and a fingerprint system for entry into the old gym. He added the original bid from ComTech was for \$7420 for the front door and the additional security would add \$10,520 to that bid for a total of \$17,940.

Mr. Bertolino stated spending the additional money would deal with security issues for a number of years.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to accept the bids from ComTech in the amount of \$17,940 for building security equipment and installation. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

Mr. Ator recommended the board accept the bid from Rimrock Computer Company in the amount of \$4978.93 for technology purchases.

Motion was made by Deborah Hill, seconded by Sanford Langager and carried unanimously to approve the bid from Rimrock Computer Company in the amount of \$4978.93 for technology purchases. (YES—DeVries, Niemi, Bertolino, Hill, Langager. NO—none).

BUSINESS MANAGER/CLERK EVALUATION – Executive session at end of meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

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

1. The track season has begun.
2. Junior high boys' basketball is about halfway through its season.

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

1. BPA attended the state convention with Ryan Miller qualifying for the national convention with a fifth place finish in Java Programming. Three other seniors, Brittany Prinkki, Carter Moore, and Abe Hernandez qualified for the national convention in Torch Award.
2. State FFA Convention will be held in Bozeman and Mrs. Newton will be taking about ten members to the event.

BUILDING PROJECTS REPORT – Mr. Ator stated we are short on custodial help as one of our substitutes is on vacation but she should be back soon to assist the custodians.

Mr. Ator stated he asked for a bid on paving the parking lot and around the building as board members had asked how expensive it would be. He stated the bid he received from Wharton Asphalt breaks the area into four different lots with a cost for each and total cost of \$103,660.

FOUR-DAY WEEK UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated he is planning on doing a follow-up survey on the four-day week but will probably wait until summer.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator stated items on his calendar for March include the following:

- March 15 – State BPA awards in Billings
- March 17 – AD meeting in Laurel
- March 29-31 – Vacation

TWO YEAR FISCAL AUDIT – Mr. Ator stated the only finding in the two-year audit of the district funds is a shortage of instructional hours in grades 4-6 because of recess.

Mrs. Hill stated recess was always way too long.

Mr. Ator stated the time shortage only amounted to two minutes per day.

YEAR-END FUNDS – Mr. Ator asked trustees to email him with items they would like to see funded with year-end funds.

**BUSINESS MANAGER/CLERK EVALUATION**

Ms. DeVries called for an executive session at 8:32 p.m. stating the next item to come before the Board involves an individual and it is her determination that the individual's rights to privacy supersede the merits of public disclosure. The evaluation of the Business Manager/Clerk was then conducted.

**REGULAR SESSION**

The meeting was returned to regular session at 8:45 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk