

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
APRIL 15, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:02 p.m. on April 15, 2014, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair  
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair  
Tami Hoines  
Luke Holdbrook  
Rusty Niemi

Elliott Crump, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/District Clerk

GUESTS: Adam Ruhnke, Chris DeVries, Stacie Nardinger, Courtney Halvorsen, Jackie Ronning, Mitzy Carter, Ward Braten, Doug Schoonover, Mary Allen

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 13, 2014 as presented. (YES: DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO: none).

**CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS**

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve the claims, sequence, and voided checks for April, 2014 as presented. (YES: DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO: none).

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Crump asked that the Student Attendance item be postponed as the student is not in attendance.

**TEACHER REPORTS**

Doug Schoonover and Mitzy Carter gave the teacher reports for April.

Mr. Schoonover stated everyone is looking with trepidation at the Common Core Standards but when looking at the ACT prep book for English, it is all about punctuation and that hasn't changed for many years.

Mr. Schoonover stated there are some attendance issues and some students are in danger of not passing but it always seems to be an uphill struggle in the fourth quarter.

Mrs. Carter stated she will be taking two students to Indianapolis for BPA Nationals at the end of April. She stated she is looking at using different software for the yearbook which would allow the buyer to choose a soft or hard cover.

Mr. Bertolino stated he really enjoys reading the articles on the website. Mr. Crump stated those are done by the journalism class.

## **PERSONNEL**

**LIBRARIAN INTERVIEWS** – Mr. Crump stated there are two candidates for the Librarian position and he needs to schedule interviews with them. He stated Mrs. Allen will be on the panel but asked which board members will attend.

Ms. DeVries stated she would be available if the interviews are scheduled on Wednesday, April 23. Mr. Niemi stated he would serve on the interview team.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TENURED TEACHERS** – Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Ward Braten, Julie Jones, Stacie Nardinger, George Nelson, Jené Reinhardt, Doug Schoonover, and Crystal Wright, all tenured teachers.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the renewal of contracts for tenured teachers Ward Braten, Julie Jones, Stacie Nardinger, George Nelson, Jené Reinhardt, Doug Schoonover, and Crystal Wright. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON-TENURED TEACHERS** -- Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for non-tenured teacher Clark Begger.

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Clark Begger. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for non-tenured teacher Mitzy Carter.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Mitzy Carter. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for non-tenured teacher Courtney Halvorsen.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Courtney Halvorsen. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for non-tenured teacher Rees Newton.

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Rees Newton. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for non-tenured teacher Sheila Roberts.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Sheila Roberts. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for non-tenured teacher Jackie Ronning.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Jackie Ronning. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

Mr. Crump recommended contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for non-tenured teacher Adam Ruhnke.

Motion was made by Rusty Niemi, seconded by Tami Hoines and carried unanimously to approve contract renewal for the 2014-2015 school year for Adam Ruhnke. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**ELECTION CANCELLATION** – Mrs. Obert stated since the number of candidates running for Board positions is less than the number of openings, the Trustee Election to be held on May 6, 2014, has been cancelled.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR** – Mr. Crump stated two options for next year's calendar are included in the packet and he recommended adopting Option 2 with a start date of August 27, 2014 and end date of May 29, 2015.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve Option 2 for next year's calendar with a start date of August 26, 2014 and end date of May 29, 2015. (YES— DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

**TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS** – Mr. Crump stated the certified staff has submitted a request to begin negotiations. It was determined Ms. DeVries and Mr. Bertolino will serve as district negotiators.

**MHSA DUES** – Mr. Crump asked for approval of the annual dues and catastrophic insurance with the Montana High School Association to allow the district to participate in extra-curricular events next year. He stated the total is \$2430.00.

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to approve the annual dues and catastrophic insurance in the amount of \$2430.00 with the Montana High School Association. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

**MSPLIP AGREEMENT** – Mr. Crump stated the program the district is insured under for property and liability insurance, MSPLIP, is asking for a new three-year commitment with the guarantee the maximum rate increase each year could not exceed 6%. He stated he doesn't know of any reason the district would change carriers so asked for approval of the three-year commitment.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to approve the three-year commitment with MSPLIP. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

**DRIVER'S EDUCATION**—Mr. Crump stated the district has struggled to have enough students and an instructor for driver's education the past few years but this year there are about 15 students interested in taking driver's education.

Mr. Crump stated Adam Ruhnke is interested in obtaining the certification for driver's education. He recommended the district hire Mr. Ruhnke for \$2800 (an increase from \$2600 because of the number of students pre-enrolled) for driver education with the stipulation he obtain his provisional certification by July. He added to help pay with the cost of the certification, he is asking that Mr. Ruhnke be paid half of the stipend before the course begins with the remainder paid after the course is completed and that the district pay travel expenses (mileage, lodging, food) for Mr. Ruhnke to attend the training.

Ms. Hoines asked what we do for a driver's education car and Mr. Crump stated Archie Cochrane Ford has supplied it in the past.

Motion was made by Luke Holdbrook, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to hire Adam Ruhnke to teach driver's education if he receives his certification by July 1 and to pay him \$2800, half before the course begins to help with the training and half after course completion as well as travel expenses for attending training. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**FOOTBALL COOP** – Mr. Crump stated he contacted Fromberg and the MHSA with the request to dissolve the football co-op. He stated Fromberg still needs to submit its letter to the MHSA.

Mr. Crump stated the MHSA won't let us co-op with Bridger as it would force them to move up into 8-man football and schedules have already been set for next fall. He stated they may allow us to go to Red Lodge or Joliet and those schools are talking to their boards.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**ELEMENTARY CONFIGURATION** – Mr. Crump stated he spoke with the elementary staff and they would like to see the following elementary configuration next year:

- Ronning – Kindergarten
- Roberts – Grades 1 and 2 combination
- Newton – Grade 3
- Nelson – Grades 4 and 5 combination
- Halvorsen – Grade 6

Ms. DeVries asked if Mrs. Hogan would continue as aide for grades one and two. Mr. Crump stated he hoped so.

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to give preliminary approval of the elementary configuration as recommended by the elementary teachers with the possibility of revisions when final enrollment numbers are known. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

**STUDENT UPDATE** – Mr. Crump stated our student count is at 115.

### **SUPERINTENDENT HIRING**

Ms. DeVries stated at an earlier meeting, the Board agreed to consider two candidates, Alex Ator and David Jamison, for the superintendent position.

Ms. Hoines stated she went back and reviewed the points the Board felt were important when considering who to interview such as small town background, principal and teaching experience, and leadership and after looking at that, her choice is Alex Ator.

Mr. Bertolino stated he feels Alex Ator would be the best choice.

Ms. DeVries stated she feels Mr. Ator may have a better idea of the variety of duties for a superintendent.

Mr. Niemi stated Alex Ator is his choice.

Mr. Holdbrook asked if we're looking at a one-year or two-year contract.

Mr. Bertolino stated he would rather look at a one-year contract with the possibility of a two or three-year contract at the end of the first year.

Ms. DeVries stated we advertised the salary for the position at \$65,000 and she feels that is where it should be set. She added benefits include vacation, sick leave, health insurance, and six (6) personal days. She stated in the event Mr. Ator declines the offer, the same offer could be extended to David Jamison.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Rusty Niemi and carried unanimously to offer the superintendent position to Alex Ator with a one-year contract for \$65,000 and benefits, pending the results of a background check. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook, Niemi. NO—none).

**RECESS**

Ms. DeVries called for a short recess at 7:10 p.m. and returned the meeting to regular session at 7:15 p.m.

**BUSINESS MANAGER/CLERK EVALUATION**

Ms. DeVries called for a closed session at 7:15 p.m. stating the next item to come before the Board is the evaluation of the Business Manager/Clerk and it is her determination that the demands of individual privacy exceed the merits of public disclosure.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries returned the meeting to regular session and called for adjournment at 8:00 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 2, 2014**

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:00 p.m. on April 2, 2014, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair  
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair  
Tami Hoines  
Luke Holdbrook

JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/District Clerk

GUESTS: Chris DeVries, Elta Ayre, Ward Braten, Stacie Nardinger

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elta Ayre thanked the Board for allowing Mrs. Langager to put notices on the marquee when Mr. Crump is absent. She added it was nice to have the thank you to St. Vincent's for providing CPR training to students and condolences for deaths in the community on the marquee.

**SUPERINTENDENT HIRING PROCESS**

Tami Hoines stated the surveys completed by community members were compiled and showed qualities the community wants in a superintendent include authority and accountability, fair and consistent discipline, to be the face of the Rockets, and to be familiar with a small rural town.

The Board discussed the applications received and decided to interview the following three applicants: Alexander Ator, David Jamison, and Robert Smith.

The Board developed a list of questions to be asked of each applicant.

It was decided interviews would be conducted on Thursday, April 10, 2014 beginning at 12:00 noon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:10 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 3, 2014**

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 7:30 p.m. on April 3, 2014, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair  
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair  
Tami Hoines  
Luke Holdbrook

Absent: Rusty Niemi

Elliott Crump, Superintendent

GUESTS: Bill Hogan, Clark Begger, Jeff Krook, Mariah Holdbrook, Shawn Perkins

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BRIDGER AAU VOLLEYBALL USE OF FACILITY**

Motion was made by Tami Hoines, seconded by Luke Holdbrook and carried unanimously to allow the Bridger AAU volleyball team to use our gym for practice tonight and next Thursday but the coach needs to contact Mr. Crump before any further use is allowed. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Hoines, Holdbrook. NO—none.)

**COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON JH/HS FOOTBALL**

Discussion was held by the Board with community members about options for football in Roberts. It was decided to explore options for our students to play at Red Lodge, Bridger, or Joliet and to poll the students to see the interest in playing football. Contacting the MHSAA to see about playing a JV schedule was also discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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 10, 2014**

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 8:05 p.m. on April 10, 2014, in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair  
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair  
Tami Hoines  
Luke Holdbrook  
Rusty Niemi

JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/District Clerk

GUESTS: Amanda Smith, Deb Hogan, Jackie Ronning, Chris DeVries, Courtney Halvorsen, Ward Braten, Mitzy Carter, Danni Lynn Nardinger, Kelsey Pratt, Stacie Nardinger, Mariah Holdbrook, Kauner Pratt, Steve Keebler, Patricia Keebler

**SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEWS**

Sarah DeVries stated the Board interviewed three candidates for the superintendent position today and would now discuss those interviews. She stated the candidates interviewed were Alex Ator, David Jamison, and Robert Smith.

The Board reviewed the candidates' answers to the questions during the interview.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk