

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Vice Chair Joel Bertolino at 6:00 p.m. on November 18, 2020 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair (via teleconferencing)
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair
Brandon Crane

Absent: Tyler Allen, Michelle Swansborough

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Jackie Ronning, Jessica Parpart, Sarah Shoopman (all via teleconferencing), Sam McCrone, Caitlin Hall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting October 21, 2020 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to approve warrants 46554-46635 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane. NO—none).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ator stated the RPPA group is planning a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and would like to use our big pine tree by the parking lot and our bathrooms. He stated he told them they would have to get approval from the County Health Department for the event and they have secured that approval. He added the Church of the Rockies has also asked to use the facility for their annual Christmas Store and was also told to get approval from the County Health Department.

TEACHER REPORTS

Caitlin Hall and Sam McCrone gave teacher reports for the month.

Mrs. Hall stated the fifth and sixth grades are not combined this year and she is teaching the sixth graders. She stated she has been impressed with the students during this pandemic as they have been respectful and their attitudes are great. She stated she is so proud of how everyone in the school has dealt with a bad situation and thankful for the leadership of the board.

Mrs. Hall stated she is using Eureka math and really likes it as it uses stories for the students that are applicable. She added there is a new social studies curriculum this year and the students are improving their note-taking skills while learning ancient history.

Mrs. Hall stated she has been working with the grant educational consultant on improving writing skills. She added she has had a few students distance learning and they are doing well and being very responsible so she feels really good about where we are at this point.

Mr. McCrone reported he teaches PE grades K-12, coaches cross country and boys' basketball. He stated he is amazed with the students here as they are respectful, caring, and responsible and the staff is wonderful. He added he really made the right choice coming to Roberts.

Mr. McCrone stated for students who are distance learning, he has activity logs with a choice of workouts. He added he takes his classes outside as much as possible and the students are doing a good job wiping down equipment after using it.

Mr. McCrone reported the cross country season went well, Gavin Bickel broke the school record and made All-State. He added he has had some open gyms for basketball and is hoping to keep the athletes active and healthy.

Mr. Bertolino asked how many boys are going out for basketball. Mr. McCrone stated there are 10 to 13 boys who have expressed interest.

Mr. Crane and Mr. Bertolino both stated their children like his classes.

Mr. Ator stated the students thoroughly enjoy Mr. McCrone's classes and the high school boys are excited for the basketball season. He added Caitlin Hall is as educated as anyone he has ever worked with and is always working on new things.

STAFFING

PARAPROFESSIONAL – Mr. Ator stated we hired Kyndra Reichart as a paraprofessional on a month to month basis and recommended her employment be terminated as of today.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to terminate the employment of Kyndra Reichart as of today. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane. NO—none).

Mr. Ator recommended hiring Lisa Young as a paraprofessional at \$11.00 per hour, 34 hours per week, with 90 days probation and a satisfactory background check.

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to hire Lisa Young as a paraprofessional at \$11.00 per hour, 34 hours per week, with 90 days probation and a satisfactory background check. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane. NO—none).

ASSISTANT BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH – Mr. Ator recommended hiring Tim Swansborough as the Assistant High School Boys' Basketball coach.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to hire Tim Swansborough as Assistant High School Boys' Basketball Coach. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane. NO—none).

NEW BUSINESS

STAFF APPRECIATION EVENT – Mr. Ator stated we've moved the staff appreciation event to different places and times over the years and he was considering holding it in the gym but that would exceed the recommended number of people to gather in one area.

Mr. Ator stated a couple people have reached out and suggested giving the staff a bonus. He added we received an additional \$9453 in Covid funding and some of the purchases with that money have freed up funding in the general fund. He stated with the money remaining, he would like to purchase 30 chrome books, pay for a month of tech support, and purchase food for a month. He added in lieu of a staff appreciation event, he would like to give staff a bonus of \$300.00.

Mr. Crane, Mr. Bertolino, and Ms. DeVries all stated support for a bonus of \$300 for each staff member.

Mr. Ator stated he will list it on the December agenda as staff bonus instead of staff appreciation event and final approval can be given at that time.

SCHOOL CALENDAR – Mr. Ator asked for approval to change the half day on November 25 and half day on December 23 to vacation days.

Motion was made by Sarah DeVries, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to change the half day of school scheduled for November 25 and December 23 to vacation days. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane. NO—none).

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Sarah DeVries and carried unanimously to amend the school instructional calendar to make the half days scheduled on November 25 and December 23 vacation days. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane. NO--none).

Mr. Ator stated three staff members (10% of staff) have tested positive for Covid 19 but no students have tested positive and all close contacts have been from outside the school. He added we did quarantine a grade level this week because of a potential illness. He asked if we just keep going until we can't go any more or do we take some extra time off, perhaps by going to distance learning on December 21 and 22.

Mr. Crane asked if he is talking about going to distance learning for a few days or just taking the days off.

Mr. Ator stated if we completely take the days off, we run into a problem with shortage of instructional minutes so it would be with distance learning. He asked board members to think about it until the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

LITERACY UPDATE – Mrs. Ronning reported we've added an educational consultant, Danielle Thompson, for grades K-2, and she has been well received and will be of great benefit to us. She added the other consultant is meeting virtually with teachers when it fits in their schedules.

Mrs. stated she just completed eight weeks of training with Jim Knight with a cohort of people from across the country and from talking with them, we are blessed to be in the place we are now.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE – Sarah Shoopman reported the volleyball team came in second at the district tournament and advanced to the divisional tournament. She added the girls had a great season with several receiving conference and state honors.

Mrs. Shoopman stated junior high girls' basketball is in full swing and they showed great teamwork at the last game.

Mrs. Shoopman stated 7-12 FFA got to virtually attend the National FFA convention and the BPA regional competition has been moved to January.

Mr. Ator thanked Mrs. Ronning and Mrs. Shoopman for all they do.

COVID UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated the state Covid money has been allocated and there is also federal Covid money which has to be spent by the end of September, 2021. He stated we do go through a lot of disposable masks and shields but he thinks we will probably see more Covid money after the first of the year.

Mr. Ator stated he has heard some rumblings about what the new governor will do when he takes over and masks still seem to be a big political issue. He added he feels he'll probably be bringing a recommendation to the December meeting for us to continue to stay masked.

Mr. Ator stated the staff has probably said it best that people are burnt out but we are still doing okay.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries called for adjournment at 7:15 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk