

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
MARCH 17, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:00 p.m. on March 17, 2021 in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sarah DeVries, Chair  
Joel Bertolino, Vice Chair  
Tyler Allen  
Brandon Crane  
Michelle Swansborough

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

GUESTS: Brian Frank, Jackie Ronning, Sarah Shoopman, Sanford Langager, Sam Langager, Elta Ayre, Katy Day, Shannyn Wilson (present at meeting)

Kelley Guasp, Lindsay Thompson, Misty Pitts, Katy Rausch, Nancy Langager (all virtual)

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Tyler Allen and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

**WARRANTS**

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to approve warrants 46868-46931 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

**STAFFING**

RESIGNATION – Mr. Ator stated Jessica Parpart submitted a letter of resignation from her teaching position and recommended the resignation be accepted.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Jessica Parpart from her teaching position and thank her for her service to the district. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

NEW HIRES – Mr. Ator recommended hiring Melissa Bertolino as head junior high track coach at the stipend rate of \$1375.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Tyler Allen and carried to hire Melissa Bertolino as head junior high track coach at the stipend rate of \$1375. (YES—DeVries, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none. Abstained: Bertolino (conflict of interest)).

ADDITIONAL STAFFING 2021-2022 – Mr. Ator stated for next year, he would like to utilize Covid funding to keep the elementary grades separate and add an additional .5 special education teacher and .5 elementary teacher. He stated if there were no objections he would begin advertising for the position.

No objections were voiced.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

BATHROOM PLUMBING BID – Mr. Ator stated he is bringing the bathroom plumbing bid up as informational only as he is waiting on a bid from the sewer company but it will be a big project to replace some of the sewer lines that seem to be causing the problem with the toilets clogging. He stated we also have some repairs that need to be made in the old gym locker rooms but that may have to wait until we can address this bigger problem.

### **POLICY UPDATES AND REVIEW**

COVID POLICY REVIEW – Mr. Ator stated the Board has received a significant amount of information on best practices relative to Covid-19. He stated staff who wanted to will be fully vaccinated by the next board meeting and asked that the discussion of removing the mask mandate be delayed by one month. He asked the board to remember these are the people who have come to work all year for the students.

Motion was made by Tyler Allen and seconded by Joel Bertolino to amend Policy 1905 – Covid-19 Emergency Measures to remove the following wording on page 2 of 5:

#### *Masks as Personal Protective Equipment*

*The School District requires all staff and students to wear cotton-based masks to protect colleagues and peers while present in any school building. The School District will provide masks to students and staff and expect that the masks be washed on a regular basis to ensure maximum protection. The Board of Trustees' decision to require and provide masks is based on a review of the circumstances in the community and consultation with local health officials on issues including but not limited to the possibility of exposure and availability of masks.*

Mr. Bertolino stated he would like to hear how others feel, especially the teachers.

Mrs. Swansborough stated she feels we need to wait until everyone has had a chance to be vaccinated before lifting the mask requirement.

Brian Frank stated he visited with every certified staff member and speaking for them, the mask requirement should remain until staff have had the opportunity to have both vaccinations plus two weeks. He added three who were indifferent did note we haven't had any major illnesses this year. He stated this is our work place and we like to be on the side of safety for the students.

Sanford Langager asked where the language that is being considered came from.

Mr. Ator stated it is board policy as recommended by the MTSBA. He stated the governor's order on lifting the mask mandate was that schools should follow the recommendations of the CDC, one of which is masking.

Tyler Allen stated other schools have gone to a policy of personal choice.

Sanford Langager referred to an article written by Dr. James Evans that speaks of being tired of having freedoms taken away because of fear. He added he feels wearing a mask should be a choice.

Elta Ayre stated she is a nurse and has been working with the County Health department in getting people vaccinated. She stated she doesn't think it's asking too much to wait until everyone has had the chance to be vaccinated plus two weeks.

Tyler Allen asked what the risk is to the students.

Mrs. Ayre stated there could be an outbreak and the school would be shut down.

Mrs. Swansborough stated she wants what is best for the students but they actually aren't the population that is at risk, the teachers are, and they are asking us to wait. She added she feels it would be negligent to not grant their request.

Katy Day stated children don't know how to mask correctly so she hopes people will get their vaccinations.

Brian Frank stated of the staff, about half of them wanted to continue masking until the end of the school year.

Jackie Ronning stated this is not just about the students getting sick, it is about the community and keeping the students in activities. She added she doesn't want to see these kids lose another thing.

Mr. Crane stated the teachers have done a lot this year and we should honor their request.

Mr. Bertolino stated the right thing to do is to honor the request by the teachers and help keep things like prom, graduation, and activities going.

Ms. DeVries called for a vote on the motion.

Motion was voted on and failed. (YES—Allen. NO—DeVries, Bertolino, Crane, Swansborough).

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Tyler Allen and carried unanimously to direct the superintendent to include this item on the agenda for April. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—no).

## **TEACHER REPORT**

Katy Rausch gave the teacher report for the month.

Miss Rausch reported she teaches first grade and has four students in her class. She stated the student have been working on a word wall and will continue that through the grades. She added they are also working on digital and analog clocks and spelling.

Miss Rausch stated she has done quite a bit of professional development this year and is appreciative of the opportunity.

Mr. Ator thanked Miss Rausch for joining us on such short notice.

**NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

**BOILER – NEW GYM SYSTEM** – Mr. Ator stated the heater in the new gym goes out about twice a year and the furnace will need to be replaced at some point. He stated Covid money can be spent on improving ventilation and he did get one bid of about \$43,000 for a new boiler. He added he isn't asking for approval now or even for this summer but asked if he should get a couple of bids.

Mr. Ator was directed to pursue bids for the bathroom project and new gym boiler.

**ADDITIONAL CLEANING MATERIALS** – Mr. Ator reported the packet contains a quote from Hanson Chemical for some cleaning machines and supplies. He added this is just informational at the time as the materials would be purchased with Covid funds and those haven't been released yet.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT PROCLAMATION** - Mr. Ator stated the process to received additional state aid for increased enrollment contains several steps and the next step is to approve the Budget Amendment Proclamation included in the board packet (see attached).

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve the Budget Amendment Proclamation as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

**PROCUREMENT CARDS** – Mr. Ator stated we are looking at the procurement card program through the Montana Association of School Business Officials to eliminate the need to use personal credit cards for district purchases. He added the first step in the program is the approval of a resolution by the board authorizing issuance of the cards.

Motion was made by Tyler Allen, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Individual Procurement Cards as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none),

**OLD BUSINESS**

**LEVY RESOLUTION** – Mr. Ator presented the levy resolution for permissive levies which needs to be published by the end of March for approval (see attached).

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to approve the levy resolution for permissive levies as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

**POWERSCHOOL CONTRACT** – Mr. Ator asked for approval of the bid from PowerSchool of \$3669.13 for our student data system. He added last month we discussed pursuing other programs but after discussion with the staff most affected by the potential change, decided it would be easier to stay with what we have.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve the bid from PowerSchool in the amount of \$3669.13 for the student data system. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

ACTIVITIES UPDATE – Sarah Shoopman reported the following for activities:

1. High School Girls’ Basketball team participated in the divisional tournament and ended their season with a 13-7 record. Three girls made All-Conference teams with Kenzie Pitts and Emma DeVries on the first team and Hailey Croft on the second.
2. Joe Allen made honorable mention for the boys’ basketball All-Conference team.
3. Junior high boys’ basketball is 11-5 for the season and will be playing in a triangular tournament on Saturday. National Honor Society will be doing a lunch and BPA will be selling concessions.
4. We are slowly getting information on high school and junior high track meets. At the high school level there are 11 girls and 8 boys participating.
5. BPA state conference will be a virtual event. The group is planning a bingo night for the community in April.
6. FFA state conference is coming up in April.
7. We will be hosting a high school volleyball tournament next fall.
8. Basketball and volleyball are all scheduled for next year.
9. Fromberg High School has requested the district basketball tournament use a nine-team bracket instead of play-in games. After discussion by the Athletic Directors group, the request was granted and Fromberg told to present some brackets.

MEETING DATES – Mr. Ator stated the next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – Ms. DeVries called for an executive session at 7:40 p.m. stating the next item concerns an individual and it is her determination that the individual’s right to privacy supersedes the merits of public disclosure.

Superintendent Evaluation was conducted.

Ms. DeVries returned the meeting to regular session at 9:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. DeVries called for adjournment at 9:00 p.m.

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Board Chair

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District Clerk

**BUDGET AMENDMENT PROCLAMATION  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT #5  
CARBON COUNTY**

At a regular meeting of the board of trustees of School District No. 5, Carbon County, Montana, held March 17, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Roberts School Library, 106 E. Maple, Roberts, Montana, the following resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, the trustees of School District No. 5, Carbon County, Montana, have made a determination that as a result of an unanticipated enrollment increase, the district's budget for the general fund does not provide sufficient financing to properly maintain and support the district for the entire current school fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the trustees have determined that an amendment to the K-12 general fund budget in the amount of \$13,078.79 is necessary under the provision of Section 20-9-161(1), MCA; for the purpose of properly maintaining and supporting the district for the entire current school year and

WHEREAS, the anticipated source of financing the budget amendment expenditures shall be additional state assistance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of School District No. 5, Carbon County, Montana, proclaims a need for an amendment to the K-12 general fund budget for fiscal year 2021 in the amount of \$13,078.79 under Section 20-9-161(1), MCA, for the purpose identified above, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of School District No. 5, Carbon County, Montana, will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Roberts School Library, 106 E. Maple, Roberts, Montana, on April 21, 2021 for the purpose of considering and adopting the budget amendment.

## Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies

As an essential part of its budgeting process, the Roberts School District #5 Board of Trustees is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Roberts School District #5 Board of Trustees estimates the following increases/decreases in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district:

| Fund Supported               | Estimated Change in Revenues* | Estimated Change in Mills* | Estimated Impact Home of \$100,000* | Estimated Impact Home of \$200,000* |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bus Depreciation             | \$19,539 increase             | 9.67 mill increase         | \$13.05 increase                    | \$26.10 increase                    |
| Transportation               | \$1015 increase               | .50 mill increase          | \$.68 increase                      | \$1.36 increase                     |
| Tuition                      | 0                             | 0                          | 0                                   | 0                                   |
| Building Reserve Elementary  | (\$119) decrease              | (.06) mill decrease        | (\$.08) decrease                    | (\$.16) decrease                    |
| Building Reserve High School | (\$119) decrease              | (.06) mill decrease        | (\$.08) decrease                    | (\$.16) decrease                    |
| Adult Education              | 0                             | 0                          | 0                                   | 0                                   |
| Total                        | \$20,316 increase             | 10.05 mill increase        | \$13.57 increase                    | \$27.14 increase                    |

**\*Impacts above are based on current certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year.**

Regarding the building reserve levy referenced above, the following are school facility maintenance projects anticipated to be completed at this time:

1. Construction and Repairs of Existing Facilities
2. Electrical and Mechanical System Upgrades
3. Weatherization of Existing Facilities
4. General Grounds and Facilities Maintenance