

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
OCTOBER 21, 2020**

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 October 21, 2020 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 (via teleconferencing)

GUESTS: Jackie Ronning, Brian Frank, Lindsay Thompson (via teleconferencing), Jon Milligan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Tyler Allen and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting September 16, 2020 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

CLAIMS, SEQUENCE, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Tyler Allen and carried unanimously to approve warrants 46480 through 46553 as presented. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. 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 need 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

Brian Frank and Jon Milligan gave teacher reports for the month.

Mr. Frank stated the Roberts School staff has been doing a great job keeping everyone safe and he would like to commend Mr. Ator and the staff for their diligence. He stated he is really proud of Roberts School.

Mr. Milligan reported later in the meeting.

STAFFING

CUSTODIAL – Mr. Ator stated the temporary period for the employment of Laurie Olson as custodian is over and recommended discontinuing her employment.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Brandon Crane and carried unanimously to discontinue the employment of Laurie Olson in a custodial position. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

PARAPROFESSIONAL – Mr. Ator recommended hiring Kyndra Reichart as a paraprofessional for 34 hours a week, \$9.50 per hour, pending results of a background check with 90 days probation.

Motion was made by Tyler Allen, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to hire Kyndra Reichart for the paraprofessional position for 34 hours per week, \$9.50 per hour, pending results of a background check with 90 days probation. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

NEW BUSINESS

COVID 19 PLANNING – Mr. Ator stated a couple of schools in the county have had COVID 19 cases and he prepared the flow chart that is included in the packet that outlines how we will be dealing with cases, depending on grade level and exposure.

Mrs. Swansborough stated the flow chart refers to both 10-day and 14-day quarantine periods and feels it would be easier to just go with the 14-day period.

Mr. Ator stated he would make the change and asked for approval of the flow chart with that change.

Motion was made by Brandon Crane, seconded by Michelle Swansborough and carried unanimously to approve the flow chart for dealing with COVID 19 cases. (YES—DeVries, Bertolino, Allen, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

POTENTIAL DISTANCE LEARNING DATES – Mr. Ator stated the week of Thanksgiving is a short week of two and a half days. He stated we have built extra instructional time into the calendar and recommended removing the half-day on Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a school day.

Mr. Ator stated he is seeing staff burnout and has been looking at the possibility of doing distance learning on Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, knowing there will be some children who need to be at school so they are supervised.

Mrs. Swansborough stated this could really affect families and she would rather go to school those two days so parents can save their time off to use if we do have to shut down.

Mr. Crane asked how prepared teachers are to go to distance learning.

Mr. Ator stated there are some students who don't do well with distance learning and teachers are concerned about those students. Collectively our staff is concerned about all the students and may be ready skill-wise but aren't ready emotionally to have students who just disappear when we go to distance learning.

Mr. Ator stated perhaps we should just consider taking off the half day before Thanksgiving as it does give a little break.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Tyler Allen and carried unanimously to amend the calendar to remove holding school for a half day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. (YES—DeVries, Allen, Bertolino, Crane, Swansborough. NO—none).

OLD BUSINESS

STAFF/STUDENT HANDBOOKS – Mr. Ator stated he is still working on the staff and student handbooks.

FRIDAY PROGRAM – Mr. Ator stated we did do a field trip to the pumpkin patch and it went well. He stated trips to the clay center and Steep World are planned and we are working on having ski days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

LITERACY UPDATE – Mrs. Ronning stated the grant educational consultant has been doing bi-weekly virtual meetings with staff and her and staff are using the time well. She stated the K-2 educational consultant will be in the building tomorrow and the culture of best practices continues to grow with the teachers. She added we have the Second Step program at the elementary and have ordered it for middle school.

Mr. Ator stated Second Step is a socio-emotional learning program he will be using for small group at the middle and high school levels and the elementary will integrate it into the daily schedule.

Mrs. Ronning stated we have purchased several sets of books and novels suited for lower level readers. She stated this helps focus on what students can do rather than what they can't do. She added she has also been spending more time directly working with students.

Mrs. Ronning reported some members of the grant leadership team will be virtually attending a national conference for two days. She added the pre-school is up and running with two four-year olds and eight three-year olds.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE – Mr. Ator stated the activities update is included in the packet and noted the following:

Nineteen girls in grades 4-8 are out for basketball, the high school volleyball team is holding on strong to the #2 seed in the conference and will be participating in the district tournament on October 30 and 31.

High school cross country team is going to the state meet in Kalispell this weekend and we had a meet in Roberts on October 16.

Elementary/junior high football ended the season with a win against Shepherd and the high school team plays in Red Lodge on October 23 before heading into the playoffs.

FFA has started preparing for events.

BPA is selling Rocket masks.

High school basketball start date has been moved to December 7 for start of practice with the first games on January 4.

Mr. Ator stated being an Athletic Director during this time of COVID 19 has been very difficult and Sarah Shoopman has gone over and above doing what needs to be done for the students.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES – Mr. Ator stated upcoming board meeting dates are November 18, December 16, January 20 and February 17.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator reported his Education Northwest meeting is scheduled virtually for October 22 and he will be doing that from home. He added he has doctor appointments scheduled for November 16.

TEACHER REPORT (continued) – Jon Milligan reported he figured out how to use his classroom safely so isn't having to move between rooms. He stated the volleyball team is also doing distance learning and he thinks that is a good idea before the tournament but with his style of teaching, it is much harder online to keep the students engaged. He understands why it is being done before the tournament but from a teacher's perspective, hopes it doesn't continue all the time.

Mrs. Swansborough asked if distance learning had anything to do with MAP testing going better this fall.

Mr. Ator stated the students are getting used to taking the test and what was sent home during the spring was essential material and they got the content needed for test. He added students are also now more comfortable with computers.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries called for adjournment at 7:25 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk