

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Michelle Swansborough at 6:00 p.m. on September 18, 2024 in the library at the Roberts School.

**ATTENDANCE**

Michelle Swansborough, Chair (online)  
Nick Dobbel, Vice Chair  
Joel Bertolino  
Brad Norman

Absent: Michael Bissonnette

Alex Ator, Superintendent  
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

Guests: Peter Wisniewski, Ed Zink, Darryl Grove, Sarah Clark, Jaclyn Jessen

Michelle Swansborough stated because she is joining online and not physically present at the meeting, she would like to ask Vice Chair Nick Dobbel to run the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2024 regular meeting and August 22, 2024 special meeting as presented. (YES: Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

**WARRANTS**

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve warrants 50580-50637 from district funds and checks 9163 through 9173 from the Activity Funds. (YES—Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Wisniewski stated he has talked with both teachers and students about the new cell phone policy and feedback has been positive.

**STAFFING**

**ACTIVITIES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR** – Mr. Ator stated we still need to fill the assistant coaching positions for both junior high and high school girls' basketball. He stated we may be the only district in the county that is fully staffed for teachers.

PARAPROFESSIONAL – Mr. Ator recommended hiring Caitlin Oakland for the paraprofessional position.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve hiring Caitlin Oakland for the paraprofessional position. (YES-- Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

PATH TO RECOVERY – Mr. Ator stated this committee hasn't met yet but some of the issues in the document have already been addressed.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – Mr. Ator stated Nick Dobbel, Brad Norman, Denyse Vanek, and Ed Zink serve on this committee with him and he appreciates the committee's input on some issues we've had this fall. He stated their next task will be to look at the handbooks for students and staff.

SAFETY COMMITTEE – Peter Wisniewski reported the Safety Committee has met and presented a list of items the committee feels need to be addressed.

Mr. Ator stated he would like the list to be prioritized.

Nick Dobbel added it would be helpful to separate safety items on the list from maintenance items.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP – Mr. Ator stated the District Leadership committee was first established when writing the first literacy grant as the OLIT and has now been changed to the District Leadership team. He reported at the last meeting the team discussed grant cleanup and appointed Sarah Clark as elementary representative. He stated he will notify board members of the next meeting so they can attend if they wish.

**NEW BUSINESS**

SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE COMMITMENT – Mr. Ator stated each year the Yellowstone-West/Carbon County Special Services Cooperative asks that the board of trustees designate a representative to serve on the Joint Advisory Board.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to appoint Alex Ator to represent the district on the Yellowstone-West/Carbon County Special Services Cooperative 2024-2025 Joint Advisory Board. (YES-- Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

**POLICY REVIEW**

Mr. Ator stated Option 2 of Policy 3630, Cell Phones and Other Electronic Equipment, is working well and recommended approval on third reading of the policy.

Motion was made by Michelle Swansborough, seconded by Joel Bertolino and carried unanimously to approve Policy 3630, Cell Phones and other Electronic Equipment, Option 2, on third reading. (Yes—Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

See attached.

GRANT CLOSEOUT – Mr. Ator reviewed grants expiring this month and intended use of remaining funding.

AG BUILDING UPDATE – Mr. Ator reported the classroom portion of the shop is just about done and most of the equipment has been returned. He stated it looks like a whole different building.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHEDULE – Mr. Ator reported he has a MASS meeting in Bozeman on September 23 and 24 and Infinite Campus training in Billings on September 26.

Darryl Grove stated for elementary and junior high volleyball, most of the other schools are using their senior players as officials instead of hiring them through the MOA. He added the cross-country team will be competing in Missoula on September 28 and will be staying overnight on September 27.

Mr. Ator stated the team did some fundraising to offset the expenses of the trip and there will be an adult female accompanying them.

NEXT MEETING – Mr. Ator stated the next meeting will be October 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Nick Dobbel called for an executive session at 6:42 p.m. stating that the next item of business is to review superintendent evaluation and goals. He stated this involves an individual and it is his determination that the privacy rights of the individual supersede the merits of public disclosure. The meeting was returned to regular session at 8:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Nick Dobbel adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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Board Vice Chair

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District Clerk

363 \_\_\_\_\_ **School District**

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365 **STUDENTS**

3630

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367 Cell Phones and Other Electronic Equipment

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369 Option 1

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371 Students may use cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic signaling devices on campus at  
372 any time, so long as this use does not violate any Board policies or procedures or violate the  
373 rights of any individuals.

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375 Option-2

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377 Student possession and use of cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic signaling devices on  
378 school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, and while under the supervision and control of  
379 District employees is a privilege which will be permitted only under the circumstances described  
380 herein. At no time will any student operate a cell phone or other electronic device with video  
381 capabilities in a locker room, bathroom, or other location where such operation may violate the  
382 privacy right of another person.

383

384 Students may use cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic signaling devices on campus  
385 before school begins and after school ends. Students in grades 7-12 may also use such devices  
386 during the lunch period. These devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during the  
387 instructional day. Unauthorized use of such devices disrupts the instructional program and  
388 distracts from the learning environment. Therefore, unauthorized use is grounds for confiscation  
389 of the device by school officials, including classroom teachers. Confiscated devices will be  
390 returned to the parent or guardian. Repeated unauthorized use of such devices will result in  
391 disciplinary action.

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393 Option 3

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395 Students may not use cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic signaling devices on campus  
396 at any time. Building-level administrators may grant permission for individual students to use  
397 and/ or possess cellular phones, if, in the sole discretion of the administrator, such use is  
398 necessary to the safety and/or welfare of the student.

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402 Policy History:

403 Adopted on:

404 Reviewed on:

405 Revised on: