

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
AUGUST 14, 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 August 14, 2024 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

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

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

Guests: Peter Wisniewski, Ed Zink

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 April 11, 2024 special meeting, June 19, 2024 regular meeting, July 17, 2024 regular meeting and July 29, 2024 special meeting as presented. (YES: Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Bissonnette, Norman. NO—none).

WARRANTS

Mr. Ator stated the warrants would be approved at a special meeting on August 22, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Wisniewski stated teachers have some concerns with the enforcement of the proposed new cell phone policy if students are allowed to have their phones on their person but have them turned off.

Brad Norman asked what the punishment for not following the policy will be.

Mr. Ator stated we need to adopt the policy and then can decide on the punishment.

Michael Bissonnette stated he likes the idea of not having phones in the building and students will have to understand this is a no tolerance issue.

Ed Zink stated the policy needs to be rigid and we need to enforce it religiously if we want to minimize disruption in the classroom.

Brad Norman asked what happens when a teacher can't follow the rules.

Mr. Ator stated there will have to be a different set of rules for adults.

STAFFING

ACTIVITIES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR – Mr. Ator stated he is recommending the hiring of Theresa Kosel for the concessions position, Rio Chadde as head junior high boys' basketball coach, Josh MacArthur as head high school girls' basketball coach, JR Swansborough as head junior high girls' basketball coach, and Randy DeVries as assistant junior high boys' basketball coach.

Motion was made by Nick Dobbel, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to hire Theresa Kosel for the concessions position, Rio Chadde as head junior high boys' basketball coach, Josh MacArthur as head high school girls' basketball coach, and JR Swansborough as head junior high girls' basketball coach. (YES—Dobbel, Bissonnette, Norman. NO—none. Abstained: Bertolino, Swansborough (conflict of interest)).

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Nick Dobbel and carried unanimously to hire Randy DeVries as assistant junior high boys' basketball coach. (YES—Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none. Abstained—Bissonnette (conflict of interest)).

MOVEMENT OF STAFF FROM PART-TIME TO FULL-TIME – Mr. Ator recommended moving Misty Pitts from a part-time librarian position to full-time elementary teacher teaching first grade.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve moving Misty Pitts from a part-time librarian position to full-time elementary position teaching first grade. (YES—Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Bissonnette, Norman. NO—none).

PARAPROFESSIONAL – Mr. Ator stated we have been advertising for a full-time paraprofessional and hopefully will be able to hire one soon.

PRESCHOOL – Mr. Ator stated there has been a co-op preschool for the last few years and we have had a staff member help support it. He added with the movement of that person to a full-time teaching position and the fact we no longer have an instructional coach, he doesn't know if we can continue this program.

Nick Dobbel stated we have less staff because the mill levy didn't pass and if we can't provide the staff, we'll have to cut the program.

Joel Bertolino asked how many hours per day staff would be needed.

Mr. Ator stated it takes about 12 hours per week and he doesn't know if anyone has the time. He stated he will explore all the options.

Nick Dobbel stated he doesn't see any way we can provide staffing and it needs to be posted it is no longer being offered because of the lack of funding.

(Mike Bissonnette exited the meeting at 7:50 p.m.)

NEW BUSINESS

2023-2024 TRUSTEES FINANCIAL SUMMARY – JaLayne Obert presented the 2023-2024 Trustees Financial Summary and asked for approval so it can be submitted to the Office of Public Instruction.

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 Trustees Financial Summary as presented. (Yes—Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

2024-2025 BUDGET REPORT – JaLayne Obert presented the 2024-2025 Budget Report for approval with the following budget amounts:

GENERAL FUND	\$1,303,817.52
TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$ 137,769.78
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	\$ 183,026.88
TUITION FUND	\$ 95,000.00
RETIREMENT FUND	\$ 182,476.82
ADULT EDUCATION	\$ 31,626.54
TECHNOLOGY FUND	\$ 24,830.87
FLEXIBILITY FUND	\$ 441.82
BUILDING RESERVE FUND	\$ 120,451.71
 TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	 \$2,079,441.94

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Report as presented. (Yes—Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

POLICY REVIEW

Mr. Ator asked for approval on third reading of the following policies:

- 2165 - Targeted Early Literacy
- 2336 - Health Enhancement
- 3141 – Nonresident Enrollment

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve policies 2165 – Targeted Early Literacy, 2336 – Health Enhancement, and 3141- Nonresident Enrollment on third reading. (Yes—Swansborough, Dobbel, Bertolino, Norman. NO—none).

CELL PHONE POLICY – Mr. Ator stated Option 3 of the Cell Phone Policy states student phones wouldn't be allowed in the building.

Michelle Swansborough stated the board is in favor of Option 2 which allows students to have their phones but they must be turned off and out of sight. She added teachers are concerned with enforcement of this option and the need for consistent discipline but the district's liability for theft would be too great if phones were made to be kept in lockers.

Mr. Ator stated there was discussion with high school staff and at that time, teachers were in favor of Option 2. He stated he will have more conversations with teachers tomorrow and he'll bring the policy back to the board in September.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Ator stated we will hold a short special meeting on August 22 at 1:00 p.m. just for the approval of warrants and the regular September meeting will be on September 18.

Mr. Ator conducted a building walkthrough with board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Michelle Swansborough adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
AUGUST 22, 2024**

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Roberts School District No. 5, Roberts, Montana was called to order by Vice Chair Nick Dobbel at 1:00 p.m. on August 22, 2024 in the library at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Nick Dobbel, Vice Chair
Joel Bertolino
Michael Bissonnette (online)
Brad Norman

Absent: Michelle Swansborough, Chair

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS, SEQUENCES, AND VOIDED CHECKS

Motion was made by Joel Bertolino, seconded by Brad Norman and carried unanimously to approve warrants 50522 through 59579 as presented. (YES—Nobbel, Bertolino, Bissonnette, Norman. NO—none).

STAFFING

Mr. Ator stated we have been advertising for a paraprofessional and will soon be interviewing for the position.

Mr. Ator stated we may need an assistant junior high volleyball coach and will look at that in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Nick Dobbel adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Board Vice Chair

District Clerk