



**Regular Meeting of the Trustees of School District #3  
Wednesday January 12th, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blue Creek School District #3 was held Wednesday evening, January 12th, 2022. Following COVID-19 public health concerns and social distancing guidelines the meeting was conducted both in person at the school and via Zoom. Chair Leslie Friedel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present via Zoom: Leslie Friedel, Phil Pimley, Rachel Meech, Kara Landry and John Fordham.

Administrator Cathi Rude was present in person for the entire meeting. Clerk Joan Iverson joined via Zoom.

Guests present via Zoom: Amanda Bechtold, Robin Thompson, Karen Borst

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**Correspondence**

None

**REPORTS**

**1. Enrollment**

Administrator Cathi Rude reported the current enrollment at 180 students.

**2. Community Ed Report**

None at this time.

**3. Staff Report**

Amanda Bechtold is assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade combination class this year and also teaches the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. Amanda is utilizing PLTW (Project Lead the Way) lessons with both grades. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been building robotic cars. Amanda reported that they mastered the programming component very quickly. They will be exploring elements and atoms next. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about plant and animal cells and next they will be learning about programming by developing games.

Robin Thompson is assigned as the Kindergarten Teacher. Her students have been learning sight words, writing letters, reading together in small groups, working through their math curriculum and exploring PLTW. She shared examples of some of their work. Robin reported

that her students are enjoying the listening center as well as the big block center which helps them with motor skills. Robin showed videos of her students using the Osmo App which is a hands-on learning game for the iPad which reinforces curriculum areas such as spelling, math, geography and coding.

Karen Borst is a paraprofessional assigned to Kindergarten. She reported that since Winter break she has observed a significant growth in the Kindergarten students' writing and that they are starting to read. Karen also addressed Trustees regarding her resigning her position in February due to some family issues needing her attention. She expressed appreciation to the District and spoke about how much she has enjoyed her years at Blue Creek School.

#### **4. Clerk Report Business Report**

None at this time

#### **5. Administration Report**

Administrator Rude reviewed with the Board the following items:

1. The Professional Development day on January 17th will be spent learning about a K-6th grade math curriculum through i-Ready. The plan is to implement this in the 2022-2023 school year. There will be a whole group meeting as well as pull-out sessions in the afternoon that the PD committee has developed.
2. Business Manager Roger Heimbigner and Administrator Rude are working on preliminary budget numbers for the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Administrator Rude has accepted the resignation letter from Karen Borst who has served the district for several years as a paraprofessional. Written acceptance per Board Policy 5251 was provided.

#### **6. & 7. Consent Agenda**

Phil Pimley moved, seconded by John Fordham to approve the minutes of December 21st 2021, and approval of bills and check listing #3030029 to #3030047. Motion passed unanimously.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **8. Survey & Assessment of Parking Lot regarding Park Land**

Trustee Leslie Friedel updated about progress has been made in regards to getting this process completed. Erickson Contract Surveying got the plat revised and sent to Jeff Martin, Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder. We are just waiting on the County for next steps.

#### **9. Policy Review**

Policy review is one of the important functions of a school board. The 6000, 7000 and 8000 series are being reviewed. The first reading was in November. The committee completed 6000 & 8000. Further review planned for December was postponed due to COVID-19 concerns and the committee being able to meet in-person. The plan is to resume review in February.

## **10. Administrator Evaluation**

Administrator Cathi Rude informed the Board that according to MCA 204-4-401(4) a district superintendent contract is renewed for the next school year if no action is taken by Feb.1st of the current school term. Chairperson Friedel expressed thanks to Trustees that have already returned their evaluation surveys. Administrator Rude is working with Trustee Friedel to develop the staff evaluation survey and will get that sent out and returned prior to the February Board meeting.

## **New Business**

### **11. School Election**

The election calendar was given to Trustees. Leslie Friedel's term expires in 2022. Rachel Meech and Phil Pimley in 2023. Kara Landry and John Fordham in 2024. The trustee election resolution must be approved by February 22nd. A motion was made by Kara Landry, seconded by Rachel Meech to approve the resolution to call for a trustee election by mail ballot for the May 3, 2022 election to be run by the county election department. Motion passed unanimously.

### **12. Safe Return to Schools & Continuity of Services Plan**

This plan must be updated every 6 months and also be a standing Board agenda item. There have been no changes to the plan since the last meeting.

### **13. COVID 19 School Status update**

Administrator Rude updated the Board on the current status of Blue Creek School in regards to COVID 19. She reviewed information from the weekly public health meetings and the weekly summary spreadsheet for Blue Creek which is available on the website. Administrator Rude reported that Yellowstone County is seeing significant increases in positive case counts and that Influenza, Strep and RSV cases continue to grow. Changes by the CDC regarding quarantine and isolation guidelines are presenting additional challenges.

### **14. Date and Time of Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

## **Adjourn**

Phil Pimley moved, seconded by Kara Landry to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Time of Adjournment: 6:38 p.m.

Board Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

