

**BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**(Subject to review and revision by the board)**

The regular meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order by President Joey Kessel at 5:04 p.m. MT, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at the DeMores School in Medora. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call with board members Eric Bock, Jessie Evoniuk, Kwirt Johnson, Joey Kessel, and Kinley Slauter present. Also present for all or part of the meeting were Superintendent Shae Peplinski, Assistant Superintendent Danielle O'Brien, Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw, Maintenance Supervisor Bob Hushka, Belfield school board members Curt Buckman and Keith Buckman, Belfield School District Superintendent Darren Kurle, Cole Kuck, Tanessa Kuck, Jada Maher, and Jessie Berger.

Slauter moved, Evoniuk seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included Minutes from the February 14 regular meeting, the February 27 special meeting, and the March 13 negotiations committee, the payments list, and the financial reports. All in favor.

Peplinski reported that architects from JLG toured DeMores School to begin the process of designing a conceptual plan for the expansion and better utilization of existing plant. They plan to have conceptual drawings for consideration in approximately two months.

Hushka gave a written and oral report on facilities and vehicle maintenance.

The superintendent evaluation was completed using an online tool. President Kessel compiled the results, and the following action was taken by the board for the various components of the evaluation.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the superintendent as satisfactory for the performance area of Goal and Vision Setting. Johnson moved, Bock seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the superintendent as satisfactory for the performance area of Board Relations. Evoniuk moved, Bock seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the superintendent as satisfactory for the performance area of Human Resource Management. Slauter moved, Johnson seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the superintendent as satisfactory for the performance area of Curriculum and Student Support Services. Bock moved, Evoniuk seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the superintendent as satisfactory for the performance area of Community Relations. Evoniuk moved, Johnson seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the superintendent as satisfactory for the performance area of Operations and Resource Management. Johnson moved, Bock seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

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The business manager evaluation was completed using an online tool. President Kessel compiled the results, and the following action was taken by the board for the various components of the evaluation.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the business manager as satisfactory for the performance area of Coordinate Board Meetings. Evoniuk moved, Johnson seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the business manager as satisfactory for the performance area of Oversee District Finance. Bock moved, Evoniuk seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the business manager as satisfactory for the performance area of Perform Risk Management Functions. Slauter moved, Johnson seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Upon review of the individual evaluations, all board members have rated the business manager as satisfactory for the performance area of Perform Personnel Management Duties. Evoniuk moved, Slauter seconded, to approve this performance area as satisfactory. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Open enrollment requests were presented in the order received as follows.

O'Brien presented a request for a Belfield School District student to enter Kindergarten at Prairie Elementary. Evoniuk moved, Johnson seconded, to approve this request. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski presented a request for a Mott-Regent Public student to enter Kindergarten at DeMores Elementary. Johnson moved, Slauter seconded, to approve this request. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski presented a request for a Belfield School District home-schooled student to enter seventh grade at DeMores Elementary. Slauter moved, Evoniuk seconded, to approve this request. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski and O'Brien reported on upcoming events. The end of the third nine-week period will be March 16. Close-Up students are currently in Washington DC. The regional math meet will be held on March 31 in Hettinger. Preschool open house events are being held shortly. The state spelling bee will be held Monday March 24 in Bismarck.

The board considered preschool fees for the 2023-24 school year. Slauter moved, Bock seconded, to set preschool monthly fee at \$375 with only full-day as an option. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien reported that with the Prairie Kindergarten teaching position vacant for the upcoming school year, and only two Kindergarten students, she requested that the board allow Darcy Buerkle, the first and second grade teacher, to triple combo with Kindergarten, first, and second grades and provide a full-time para. The existing support staff at Prairie would be utilized with this option. O'Brien also requested that Mrs. Buerkle be given a \$5,000 stipend in addition to her regular contract for taking on the additional class. Bock moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the triple combination of Kindergarten, first, and second grades at Prairie Elementary with a \$5,000 stipend for Mrs. Buerkle for teaching a triple combination grade. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski read a letter of resignation from Frances (Vickie) Johnson, the guidance counselor. Johnson moved, Evoniuk seconded, to approve the resignation. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien reported that a motion had been made in the past to approve the Job Description Exhibits which should have just been reviewed and not approved. Evoniuk moved, Bock seconded, to rescind the motion to approve exhibits CAAA-E1, CABB-E1, and CABB-E2. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The negotiations committee, consisting of Eric Bock and Kwirt Johnson, presented a draft of a revised Superintendent contract. It will be discussed during negotiations and a final contract will be brought back to the board for consideration along with the negotiated terms of the contract for the 2023-24 contract year.

Peplinski gave RESP report stating the financial report was approved, professional development was discussed, and the summer conference training for educational staff will be a one-day training in August.

Discussion then ensued regarding the formation of a sports co-op between Belfield Public School and Billings County School District. Discussion was opened to the public and positive discussion ensued. Johnson moved, Bock seconded, for the Billings County School District to enter into a sports co-op agreement for girls' and boys' basketball with the Belfield School District. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The next regular school board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17.

Slauter moved, Johnson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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Joey Kessel, President

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Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager