

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 17, 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, Monday, April 17, 2023, at the DeMores School in Medora. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call with board members Jessie Evoniuk and Joey Kessel present on site and Eric Bock and Kwirt Johnson joining via teleconference. Also present on site were Superintendent Shae Peplinski, Assistant Superintendent Danielle O'Brien, and Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw.

Evoniuk moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included Minutes from the March 14 regular meeting, the payments list, and the financial reports. All in favor.

Peplinski reported that NWEA testing would begin for grades Kindergarten through second and NDSA testing for grades 3-8. O'Brien reported that students would be attending the Student Council conference in Bismarck with Emily Vesey and Corey Simnioniw chaperoning. Graduation will be held May 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Medora Community Center. Spring concerts are scheduled for May 10 at 2:00 p.m. for DeMores and May 9 at 2:00 p.m. for Prairie. DeMores will hold a science fair on May 3. Teacher appreciation week will be May 8-11.

Peplinski informed the board that Mat Larson will teach Kindergarten and Jada Maher will teach preschool next year. Billie Jo Toso was interviewed for a para-professional position at DeMores and Peplinski recommended hiring her for the position. Bock moved, Evoniuk seconded, to approve hiring of Billie Jo Toso with wage to be determined per finance committee's recommendation. Roll call vote with all present in favor.

Peplinski informed the board that Dickie Jo Kubas was interviewed for the guidance counselor position and was recommending that she be hired for that position. Johnson moved, Evoniuk seconded, to hire Dickie Jo Kubas as guidance counselor one day per week for DeMores and Prairie. Roll call vote with all present in favor.

Peplinski reported that the DeMores preschool class will be large and both preschool classrooms will be needed. She is recommending partitioning off the northwest corner of the library by building a temporary wall so this space could be used as intervention classroom.

Peplinski is working with City and County law enforcement and fire responders to consider a knox box which would allow all emergency responders quick access to the school buildings. Approximate cost would be \$500. Peplinski will continue to pursue and report back on the status at a future meeting.

Preliminary drawings from JLG for the DeMores Expansion Project were reviewed by the board. The latest drawings placed the gymnasium on the south side of the school. It was the consensus of the board that they would like to see it placed on the northwest side of the school and find ways to better utilize the library space. This information will be relayed to JLG architects at the next meeting scheduled for April 25.

No maintenance report and excess property list was not provided so will be tabled to next meeting.

O'Brien presented the board with an updated technology plan.

The board considered the building technology coordinators' stipends. Evoniuk moved, Bock seconded, to approve the building technology coordinator compensation at \$4,250 each for Erika Honeyman and Danielle O'Brien. Roll call vote with all present in favor.

Peplinski asked whether hot lunch and milk prices should be increased. Current hot lunch prices are \$2.50 for students and \$3.35 for adults, seconds on entrée' are \$0.50 and milk price for breakfast and snack is \$0.30. Milk is included in hot lunch price. With rising food prices and milk costs higher than what is currently charged, she recommended raising the prices. Johnson moved, Evoniuk seconded, to raise prices effective 2023-24 school year with hot lunch prices for students at \$2.75 and adults \$3.60 and milk \$0.40 and seconds on entrée' remain the same at \$0.50. Roll call vote with all present in favor.

Bock and Kessel met with Peplinski and O'Brien to begin contract negotiations. They asked for input from the rest of the board on their thoughts regarding a stipend for family health insurance and amount of raise. Another negotiations meeting is scheduled for April 26. Simnioniw was asked to provide cost of stipend and raises at different levels for consideration by the board. It was noted that language regarding providing funding for superintendents to attend a national conference every three years was not in draft of new contract. Simnioniw will add the language back in and send another draft out to board and superintendents.

The board reviewed the quarterly pledged assets report from First State Bank. Evoniuk moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the quarterly pledged asset report as provided. Roll call vote with all present in favor.

There was not a RESP meeting so no report.

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 at Prairie Elementary School library. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a walk-through of the grounds and facilities with the board meeting to follow.

Bock moved, Johnson seconded, to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Joey Kessel, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager