

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 12, 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 4:17 p.m. MT, Monday, June 12, 2023, at DeMores Elementary School in Medora, ND. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call with board members Eric Bock, Jessie Evoniuk, and Joey Kessel present. Also present for all or part of the meeting were Superintendent Shae Peplinski, Assistant Superintendent Danielle O'Brien, Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw, and Maintenance Supervisor Bob Hushka.

The group toured the DeMores Elementary facilities.

The meeting convened in the DeMores library at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Bock moved, Evoniuk seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included Minutes from the May 9 regular meeting and review of the Facilities Committee May 10 and May 23 and transportation committee May 24 meeting Minutes, the payments list, the financial reports, and the addition of one agenda item. All in favor.

Preliminary drawings of proposed DeMores school expansion were reviewed and discussed. Peplinski reported that the Billings County Commission pledged \$2 million in addition to the \$1 million previously pledged for the DeMores Expansion project. With what the school district can support from their building fund, there will be sufficient funds for phase one of the project. The next steps are to hold a public meeting to provide information about the project and determine if there is community support and approach the zoning board to get approval. A request to DPI to approve the project will also be necessary prior to moving forward. The community meeting is planned for 5:00 p.m. on July 11 at the DeMores school library. Also discussed was a change in level of professional liability insurance from \$4 million to \$2 million for subconsultants on the project. Peplinski provided the language change to the school's attorney for review.

Hushka gave a written and verbal maintenance report to the board.

Danielle Kappel, Dickinson Public Library Director, emailed a proposed contract for the 2023-24 fiscal year for a total amount of \$49,319.72 along with a detailed budget. Evoniuk moved, Bock seconded, to approve the Dickinson Public Library 2023-24 contract as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien reported that the Homeland Security grant she had applied for to install protective film over glass windows had been denied.

The finance committee members consisting of Joey Kessel and Eric Bock recommended a contract agreement with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent be for a one-year contract with a \$5,000 increase over previous contract pay. All other terms remaining the same. Insurance was discussed and the current group plan does not allow for different classes of employees to be treated differently. Therefore, family insurance could not be offered to administrative staff. Evoniuk moved, Bock seconded, to approve the recommendation of the finance committee and increase Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent compensation by \$5,000 for one-year contract. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien reported that OneOke provided a grant in the amount of \$2,500 and James Oilwell Service, Inc. pledged a grant of \$5,000 for a new sound system at Prairie school. O'Brien asked if the remaining cost

of approximately \$16,000 could be budgeted from the building fund with leeway for contingencies. Evoniuk moved, Bock seconded, to approve the sound system funds in the amount of \$16,000 from the building fund plus contingency not to exceed 10% of the \$16,000. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski and O'Brien provided the board with NDSA testing results for the Billings County School District. Overall the results are very good with most areas above the state average.

Simnioniw provided the board with a tuition report and a family transportation report.

Simnioniw asked the board if they would like to have a special meeting to approve final bills paid in June prior to fiscal year end or give permission to Simnioniw to pay contract payments and routine bills. Evoniuk moved, Bock seconded, to allow the business manager to pay bills coming in prior to June 30, 2023, that are routine or are contract payments and include on the July payments list. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that the transportation committee met to discuss the Pete Odermann bus contract. Odermann is retiring from driving but has one year left on his contract with the district. The committee asked that Odermann maintain the contract through the final year and hire another driver. Odermann would be required to submit the change of driver(s) to the board and would be responsible for payments to his driver(s).

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18 at 5:00 p.m. at DeMores school library. There may be a conflict with that date or time, so it will be determined later if that needs to be changed. If so, it will be advertised in the BC Pioneer.

A thank you card from Garrett Bargman was read by the board.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Joey Kessel, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager