



**Regular Meeting of the Trustees of School District #3**  
**Monday April 11, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Blue Creek School District #3 was held Monday evening, April 11, 2022 at Blue Creek School. This was the Board's regular meeting for April which was held on a different day than usual upon unanimous consent of the Board. Chair Leslie Friedel called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

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

Administrator Cathi Rude and Clerk Joan Iverson were present for the entire meeting.

Guest present: Kirstie Winthrope, Nicole Menholt, Kari Laboulle.

Guests joined via Zoom: Ashley Schreiber, Kaneehsa Beeman, Josh Beeman

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**Correspondence**

None

**REPORTS**

**1. Enrollment**

Administrator Cathi Rude reported the current enrollment at 183 students.

**2. Community Ed Report**

None at this time.

**3. Staff Report**

Kirstie Winthrope is assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade this year and has 28 students. Kirstie spoke about the recent visit by "Montana Shakes", the educational component of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. The performance of "Bottom's Dream" was broadcasted via Zoom to all grades and then the troupe broke out into various workshops in individual classrooms. Kirstie thanked the PTA for sponsoring this opportunity. She also shared projects her students had made on ecosystems and life cycles as well as a personification project they just completed.

Nicole Menholt is assigned as a Paraprofessional and is in her 6th year at Blue Creek School. She has worked in a variety of capacities throughout the building and reported that she enjoys each one. Nicole is a valued member of our car unloading and loading team. Throughout the day she assists with reading, language and math in classrooms and in the Learning Center. Nicole also helps in the lunchroom and covers recess duties.

Kari Laboulle is assigned as an Interventionist. In this capacity Kari works throughout the building providing support and extra assistance in all academic areas. She starts her day in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, works on phonics skills in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, reading groups in primary classrooms, and on written expression with 4<sup>th</sup> graders to complete her morning. In the afternoon she splits her time by assisting in the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade science, reading and social studies blocks.

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

Clerk Joan Iverson reported that she and Administrator Cathi Rude are developing a job description for the Front Office position. She confirmed that the regular May Board meeting will be her final meeting as District Clerk.

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

Administrator Rude reported to the Board the following:

1. Administrator Rude and Business Manager Roger Heimbigner continue to work on budget numbers for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Spring Conferences will be held on April 13th & 14th - both online and in person.
3. Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for May 13th.
4. Renewal of certified and classified contracts will take place in May.
5. Two sessions of Summer Boost will be offered, one in June and the other in July. They will concentrate on Math and ELA skills.
6. The Blue Creek Volunteer Fire Department completed a walk through of the building with Administrator Rude on April 7th. There are several new members on the roster and they learned the layout of the building and the ins and outs of the alarm system.
7. Administrator Rude briefed Trustees about a claim that has been filed with the Dept of Labor against several school districts, including Blue Creek, by the MFPE (Montana Federation of Public Employees). The MFPE is requesting personal contact information on all Certified Employees. The Attorney that represents the Blue Creek District has been contacted. MT code does not allow sharing of this information yet MFPE is making a claim in opposition to that.

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

Kara Landry moved, seconded by John Fordham to approve the minutes of March 9, 2022, and approval of bills and check listing #3030161 to #3030193. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **8. 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 December 17, 2021 update. A link was provided to the BCS website for additional information.

#### **9. 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 bi-weekly public health meetings. Administrator Rude reported that all benchmarks in Yellowstone County are in the green zone and we are doing well county and school wide.

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

Trustee Leslie Friedel updated about progress in regards to getting this process completed. The necessary paperwork is done and ready to be notarized. Jeff Reineking and Jeff Martin will meet to get this done and the project should be completed in May.

## **11. 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 readings for these three series have taken place. This is the second reading of these three series.

## **12. Classroom Information for 2022-2023**

Administrator Cathi Rude stated that based on enrollment projections the preliminary estimates of student numbers in each grade level for 2022-2023 school are:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Kindergarten | 13 to date - this # will increase in coming months |
| Grade 1      | 20   |
| Grade 2      | 31   |
| Grade 3      | 32   |
| Grade 4      | 22   |
| Grade 5      | 28   |
| Grade 6      | 22   |

The state cuts off class sizes:

|     |                                   |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| K-2 | 20 students +4 requires a FT aide |
| 3-4 | 28 students +4 requires a FT aide |
| 5-6 | 30 students +4 requires a FT aide |

Different scenarios are possible.

## **13. School Election**

One candidate filed for the open three (3) year trustee seat.

Administrator Cathi Rude recommended the Board move to cancel the mail ballot trustee election for the open trustee seat for the election on May 3, 2022. A motion was made by Kara Landry, seconded by Rachel Meechl to approve the recommendation as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Rude recommended the Board move to elect by acclamation, to the Blue Creek School Board; Leslie Friedel for a three (3) year term. John Fordham moved, seconded by Kara Landry to approve the recommendation as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

## **14. Calendar for 2022-2023**

Administrator Rude reviewed the process in place in selecting the calendar days for a school year as well as survey input from staff and community stakeholders on four options for calendars (named Options J, K, L, M). A Calendar Committee was formed and based on start/finish days, SD2 calendar, other area calendars, and staff & stakeholder input, they proposed modifications to Option L named Option L2. Administrator Rude recommended the approval of Calendar L2. The Board discussed the differences in the calendars. A motion was made by John Fordham seconded by Rachel Meech to approve Calendar Option L2 for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**15. Health Insurance-MUST**

Administrator Rude reported that the MUST health insurance renewal is 2% for the 2022-2023 school year and recommended to the Board to renew. John Fordham moved, seconded by Kara Landry to approve the MUST renewal for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

**16. Date and Time of Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

John Fordham moved, seconded by Kara Landry to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Time of Adjournment: 7:07 p.m.

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

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