**Regular Board Meeting**
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
Administration Conference Room

**Present:** James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:** Next Regular Scheduled Board meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2026 @ 12:00 p.m. Transportation reconvene 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Facilities Committee Meeting Thursday, May 14, 2026 Administration Conference Room; Browning High School Prom Saturday, April 18, 2026; Board of Trustees Election Tuesday May 5, 2026 Administration Conference Room; Staff Appreciation Friday, May 8, 2026 12:45 p.m. Browning Middle School; Reorganization Board of Trustees Tuesday, May 12, 2026 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the Regular Board Minutes for 2/10/26 and the Special Board Minutes for 3/24/26. Second by Mr. Gervais. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the agenda with no changes. Second by Mr. Gallup.
Ms. YellowOwl had a question about the CSA for Haley Running Crane to help with BNAS post assessment ($2,800.00) pending successful background check/drug test. She asked if the background check had come back yet. Superintendent Rappold stated that Haley is a substitute in another district she has already had a state background check, she holds a Montana teachers license and had a background check for that, Superintendent Rappold stated that she feels comfortable keeping her on this agenda pending her background check for us. She also stated that if the board would like to remove it, she is okay with that but she would not start work until the information was received. Ms. YellowOwl stated that she was fine with it remaining on the agenda. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

**Public Comment:** Robert Miller Jr., as well at 2 other students from Browning High Schools Junior class Junior class requested financial assistance from the board of trustees with funding for the catering at prom. Junior advisor Mr. Parente confirmed that the catering bill was in the amount of $3,100.00. Chairman RunningFisher requested that they turn in an invoice for the catering. Superintendent Rappold stated that she would review the boards budget. Mr. Gallup stated that they could not give an answer today but it does look like they may be able to help once the budget is reviewed.

**<u>ITEMS OF INFORMATION</u>**
**Building Reports:** Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following building reports:
Stamiksiitsiikin BullShoe Elementary-Racquel Little Plume; Browning Elementary-Jessica Racine; Napi Elementary-Sicily Bird; Browning Middle School-John Salois; Kukyoossin-Brittany Burns; Browning High School-Sandi Campbell; Babb Elementary - Jennifer Wagner; Big Sky-Glendale Colonies - Rebecca Rappold; Buffalo Hide Academy - Charlie Speicher.

Ms. Yellow Owl inquired with Browning High School regarding the scheduling of graduation on a Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Campbell explained that the selected time is based on meeting accreditation hour requirements. Superintendent Rappold added that seniors have one less week to complete their required instructional hours prior to graduation.

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Ms. Yellow Owl further asked how this schedule would affect the regular school day. Ms. Campbell stated that Browning High School will operate remotely on the day of graduation. Superintendent Rappold noted that the district is considering implementing a half-day schedule for the remainder of the schools, with dismissal at noon.

Ms. Yellow Owl also asked whether this change would impact the seniors' accumulated instructional hours. Superintendent Rappold clarified that it would not, as seniors will have completed all required hours by that time. Superintendent Rappold also stated that she asked the High School to put out a survey before leadership week to get community feedback as well as from the parents, junior parents and the students so we have good input on when to have graduation. Superintendent Rappold stated on a positive note it is exciting to have all of our staff in the district to be able to attend the graduation. They will be asked to attend it is a regular work day until 5:00 p.m. that day if they choose not to, they will have to take leave.

Mr. Bremner gave a shout out to Bullshoe Elementary for having 90 % staff attendance, which helps with the attendance of the students which was above 80 %. Napi Elementary as well they were at 80% on student and their staff was nearly 90%.

**Superintendent Report-** Superintendent Rappold stated that they are doing summer school and summer program planning and will bringing forward staff hiring for those positions. We are in the process of preparing for staff appreciation, school elections and working on budget planning for the 2026-2027 school year.

She also stated that they are offering a series of Saturday PD's and had a good turnout in March and have registration for about 50 participants for Saturday. That is happening under the Montana Reads Grant.

Superintendent Rappold stated they her and Assistant Superintendent LaFromboise-Wagner had a meeting with the tribal council, CPS director and the tribe's legal counsel to update the MOU for attendance and generate solutions. They have a follow up meeting scheduled for next week.

**Junior Class Prom:** Mr. Hoyt stated that he has had a few community members come up asking why they are not letting people in to take pictures. Ms. Campbell stated that one of these issues is that the junior class had to decorate so much and it is a lot of money with the inflation. They were also looking at the safety of the students as well as cutting down on the man power.

Superintendent Rappold asked if there is a plan B if the weather is bad. Ms. Campbell stated that she asked Ms. Small about this and she was going to think it through. She did stress to her that we always need a back up plan.

**NMSAA Update & BMS Athletics: (Verbal Kellen & Rebecca):** Superintendent Rappold and Mr. Hall updated on the Middle School Athletic Association. They have had a couple of meetings over the last month based on a proposal from the Class B schools that was made back in January. The Northern Middle School Athletic Association become the 1B schools which they gave some push back on that, with their proposal they did not follow their by-laws. Superintendent Rappold stated that they didn't get very far, as they were going to pull out and do their own thing anyway.

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She also stated that herself and Mr. Hall do know that taking our students across the mountains is going to be a significant impact for our district as well as limit our students' opportunities to play and participate. They had a middle school athletic meeting in March and she had a follow-up meeting with the 1B Superintendents, then they came back and did a scheduling meeting making the decision to remove themselves completely for the Middle School Athletic Association which left Browning and Da La Salle upset about the proposal and made a decision to go to the 2B as well as Chinook having difficulty and so they are going to go that direction as well.

Mr. Hall stated that with all of this it will leave us out of every master schedule. Now we will have to go and log in for every school and every game. Number wise this could fluctuate things. One of their main reasons was that they are not as big as us. We have two teams per grade and they have two teams per middle school. They want to move their girl's season with the boys and they are moving that into October 5th which we will be doing as well. No to just accommodate them but that is what the west does. He has been asking the West A if anyone is will to play us, Big Fork got back and stated that they still need approval through their Transportation.

Mr. Hall stated that they have plan A and plan B, which would be to do an inner-city league see if we could make 4 or 5 teams consisting of 7 students play each other and then possibly play someone else with each team. Or we create 2 teams and go off of what openings they have, but we are going to run into issues all the time for example on school may have and opening the same time as another school and that will be the only time were going to play them and we got to pick one. We have already run into this problem; this also eliminates us from tournaments. They have already created a football schedule for us because they need us in a 11 man. This will really affect volleyball and basketball.

**Rascall Rodeo: Lynn MadPlume:** Superintendent Rappold informed the board that Little Rascall Rodeo is getting ready to have their annual special needs rodeo event. They have always extended an invitation Browning Public School and it is then sent out to each of our schools to be shared with our students with disabilities. Last year it was in late April, this year we have not received a date as of yet.

**HR Status Report:** At the Elementary level we are sitting well in terms of staff for the rest of this year unless something comes up. Right now, we are taking the time to look at our HR status report, some changes will be made and will be forth coming, looking at filling the emergency teaching slots that we had for next year but could change. Currently we need a kindergarten teacher, four 2nd grade teachers, to 3rd grade teachers, art teacher, four 5th grade teachers and one 6th grade shop teacher who are all emergency licensed. We will also need three sped teachers.

Secondary level as of right now we need a TA, assistant secretary and attendance clerk. For the 2026-2027 school year we need two ELA teachers, two science teachers, three math teachers if we include Buffalo Hide Academy and two sped teachers.

Food Service we need an assistant cook for the supper program for 2026-2027 school year. Special Services we need a half time adaptive physical ed teacher. Transportation we need five 9-month bus drivers.

**Coaching Worksheet:** Ms. Sinclair reported hiring has started for the 2026-2027 school year. Some of the positions have been filled. We do have a soccer opening and are working our way down the list for the high school level. They have not started working on the Napi and middle school hiring yet.

Mr. Hall stated that they have been putting the hiring requests on the board agenda after each season. They did wait a little while on the winter coaching positions due to the new salary schedule. They still

have to hire assistant coaches for winter.

**Board Approved Subs List:** Superintendent Rappold stated the board requested to see the entirety of the sub list on the agenda. This is just an item of information for the board. *No board discussion. No public participation.*

**Resignations:** Superintendent Rappold accepted the following resignations: Edward Running Rabbit, Teacher Assistant, Browning High School, Effective 3-24-2026; Darrell Fish, Head Boys Basketball Coach, Browning High School, Effective 4-8-2026.

**ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Hiring:** Motion by Ms. Yellow Owl to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Austin Vielle-Napi Softball Coach 2025-2026 Sports Season ($1,200.00); Earl Tail-Napi Softball Coach 2025-2026 Sports Season ($1,200.00); Shawna Butterfly-BMS Softball Coach 2025-2026 ($1,500.00). Second by Mr. Evans. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Johanna Johnson-BHS Christian Club Sponsor 2025-2026 ($103.20); BHS Winter Head Coaches 2026-2027 ($27,560.00). Second by Mr. Hoyt. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Ms. Yellow Owl to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Weston MadPlume-Maintenance Groundskeeper; Karen Dayhoff-Nesbitt School Psychologist-Renewal and Salary Increase 2026-2027 ($89,945.00); Amber Hinther, School Psychologist-Renewal & Salary Increase 2026-2027 ($89,945.00); Angela Boyd Occupational Therapist-SPED-Renewal and Salary Increase 2026-2027 ($87,235.00); Barbara Finnell Speech-Language Pathologist-Renewal and Salary Increase 2026-2027 ($91,445.00); Sandra Boedecker-School Psychologist 2025-2026 ($8,755.50); Jennifer LaFromboise-Wagner-Assistant Superintendent, Renewal and Salary Increase 2026-2027 ($133,287.00); Director Contract Renewals 2026-2027 ($811,163.00); Principal Renewals and Salary Increases 2026-2027 ($1,166,638.00); Professional Technical Staff-Renewals and Salary Increases 2026-2027 ($509,708.40). Second by Mr. Evans. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt to approve the following contract service agreements successful back ground check: Shaun StillSmoking- Ee-Kah-Kii-Maht After-School Program BES 2025-2026 ($1,015.00). Second by Mr. Gervais. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background check: Edward RunningRabbit-Ee-Kah-Kii-Maht After-School Program, BHS 2025-2026 ($1,624.00). Second by Mr. Evans. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background check: Annette Burdeau-Ee-Kah-Kii-Maht After-School Program, BMS-BHS 2025-2026 ($1,218.00); Rick Hoyt-Ee-Kah-Kii-Maht After-School Program, BMS-BHS 2025-2026 ($1,218.00); Taycee Upham-Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht After-School Student Worker, BMS-BHS Open Gym 2025-2026

$943.95); Haley Running Crane to help with BNAS post assessment ($2,800.00). Second by Mr. Evans. *No Board discussion. No public participation.*Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for and Michael Hoyt abstaining from Rick Hoyt-Ee-Kah-Kii-Maht After-School Program, BMS-BHS 2025-2026 ($1,218.00).

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following out of state travel: Brian Gallup-Federal Relations Fly in Meeting, Washington, DC ($3,520.71). Second by Ms. Yellow Owl. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

**In State Travel:** None

**Approvals:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Krystee Tailfeathers-Contract Modification Salary Change 2025-2026 ($1,691.76); Genevieve Wilson-Extended Contract, Curriculum & Instruction BMS 2025-2026 ($2,013.77); Sponsor to School Food Service Agreement with DeLasalle School 2026-2027. Second by Mr. Evans.
Bid Opening for Advertised Playground Supply & Installation for Babb Elementary. Ms. Rivas opened the bid for Babb playground, Northwest Playground Equipment was the only bid for the amount of $91,000.00. Superintendent Rapplod stated that the colonies will remove the old equipment so it should be slightly less. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following items: Margaret TailFeathers-Extended Contract Hi-Set Tutor 2025-2026 ($2,234.40); Browning High School Sportsplex Well Drilling; MOU with the Montana Job Corps Program for the 2026-2027 School Year. Second by Mr. Bremner. Accepting the bid for 406 Well Drillers at $31,632.00. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility List 4-14-26; Rebecca Rappold-Superintendent Contract Renewal July 1, 2026-June 30, 2028; Montana Rural Education Association (MREA) and Montana Cooperative Services (MSC) Membership Dues for 2026-2027 (Appr. $5,000.00 per year); Declare Property as Surplus; Purchases Over $10,000.00; District Claims Checks #444183-#444315; #91978-#92042 ($676,689.96); Student Activities Claims #706738-#706749 ($47,741.36); Additional Pays 4-14-26. Second by Ms. YellowOwl.
Ms. YellowOwl commented on the Superintendents Contract Renewal, it is an additional one year, the wage increase was 1.5%, 3 extra personal days she is fine with all of that. She just asks that the Superintendent keeps moving forward following all of the policies as well as being fair an accurate with everyone.
*No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

**Personnel:** Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the non-Renewals 2026-2027; Second by Mr. Hoyt. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

**Recess:** 6:00 p.m.
**Reconvene:** 6:27 p.m.

The board went into closed session at 6:29 p.m. for the following item: Termination Hearing: Consideration and Possible Action on Recommendation for Termination. Possible Executive Session. Meeting reopened at 7:40 p.m. Motion by Mr. Gallup approved the amended recommendation of the

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Superintendent of 5 days LWOP and move to another position upon return. Second by Mr. Hoyt *No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Ms. YellowOwl asked when it was to start. Ms. Yellow confirmed with Superintendent Rappold that a letter from the Superintendent would identify correct, Superintendent stated yes.

**Legal Update:** None

Motion by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Second by Mr. Gervais. *No Board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

_____Melanie HeavyRunner, Board Secretary

_____James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

_____Sandra Rivas, District Clerk

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