

Regular Board Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

Administration Conference Room

Present: James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman.

Mr. RunningFisher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER: Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Policy Committee Meeting Thursday, July 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; New Board of Trustees Training Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Next Scheduled Board Meeting Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Facilities Committee Meeting Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Staff Orientation Breakfast Monday, August 17, 2026 Food Service Arbor; Community BBQ Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Napi Football Field; NAFIS 2026 Fall Conference September 20, 2026-September 22, 2026 Washington, DC; Superintendent Rappold informed the Board that the 2026 MCEL Conference will be held October 15–16, 2026, in Billings, Montana. Early registration is now open.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the Regular Board Minutes 7-14-26. Second by Mr. LaFromboise. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the agenda with the following changes: Elementary hiring: Cheryl DeRoche, Elementary Teacher-Napi 2026-2027 (\$57,735.00), school assignment needs to be corrected to Browning Elementary; District Wide Approval: Extended Contracts-SBE 2026-2027 (\$112,451.20) the correct amount is \$110,415.20 and not \$112,451.20. Second by Mr. Gervais. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Certified teachers provided public comment expressing concerns regarding the recent decisions related to extended contracts for SBE Week.

Building Reports: Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following building reports: Child Nutrition-Copy Center-Warehouse - Zita Ottersbach; Prevention & Wellness - Cinnamon Salway; Athletic Department-Student Activities-Kellen Hall; Transportation-Francis BullCalf; Maintenance/Facilities/Security/Construction - Reid Reagan.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Rappold provided the following as items of information to the board: BPS Admin Line of Authority; Principal/Director Planning Week; SBE Planning Week Schedule; New Teacher Orientation Week Schedule; New School Year Orientation Schedule; BPS August 2026 Calendar Page. Superintendent Rappold stated that Mr. Roldolfo Rivas is working on the school calendar, reviewed it last week and will finalize it this week and will go to print and out to the community shortly after.

Superintendent Rappold also reported that 210-day principals and directors are back and in Helena attending the SAM Conference in Helena through Wednesday of this week. Then we will have couple a of days of planning and implementing our emergency operations as well as the literacy grant expectations.

Superintendent Rappold also reported that this is our accreditation year, 2 years ago the state adopted a new

accreditation system and we submitted our documentation for accreditation. All of our schools across the district with the exception of Browning High School are regularly accredited. We skipped a year last year, there were some components with teacher licensure that were submitted last year we did have some emergency license staff. She explained that and emergency licensed staff for one year is a fully licensed teacher, so we had no staff deviations last year and that was one of the pieces that they were monitoring last year. This year will be our districts first year fully implementing the accreditation system. We will submit accreditation documentation in January, part of the training at SAM is on accreditation. She stated that if there was a better understanding on what to submit the High School would not be in their status. Principal Campbell and her leadership team will be attending those sessions and will prepare to make that submission. Superintendent Rappold anticipates coming out of this year's accreditation cycle fully accredited in every school across the district.

Verbal Update Behavior Data 2025-2026: Superintendent Rappold reported that the Assistant Superintendent had planned to provide an update on student behavior data from the previous school year but was unable to attend the meeting due to attending to district needs. Superintendent Rappold highlighted several key areas from the report.

She noted that the district is seeing an increase in reported vaping incidents. However, this increase is largely attributed to improved and more accurate coding of vaping incidents in the district's student information system. In previous years, vaping incidents were not always coded accurately; therefore, the district anticipates seeing an increase in reported incidents this year compared to previous years.

The district is also seeing an increase in classroom behavior issues. Superintendent Rappold stated that this is not unexpected given the continued effects of COVID-19 and the significant increase in the number of special education students. The district currently has approximately 100 more special education students than it did prior to COVID-19.

As the district continues to evaluate services and supports for all students, including students receiving special education services who require behavioral support, Superintendent Rappold stated that the district may need to consider hiring a District Behavior Specialist in the future.

She further reported that schools are utilizing a number of non-state-reported behavior interventions to address minor behavioral concerns. Although these incidents are not reported to the state, the district tracks them internally as minor behaviors. Superintendent Rappold noted that minor behaviors can sometimes escalate into more significant or major behavioral incidents, making it important for the district to continue monitoring these trends.

Superintendent Rappold also reported that, according to information shared at SAM, the most recent youth assessment results showed suicidal ideation at a 30-year low. She stated that it will be important to compare last year's results with the upcoming results once they are available. The data may indicate that the district and community are moving in a positive direction.

The Board discussed the ongoing concerns regarding vaping among students. Mr. Gallup asked the Board to support Mrs. Salway and Browning High School in their efforts to address and reduce vaping among students.

HR Status Report: Superintendent Rappold reported that three licensed teachers have completed their licensure requirements and are now fully licensed. These individuals will be placed on the agenda for regular hire.

At the next Board meeting, Superintendent Rappold will provide an updated report on emergency-licensed teachers. She noted that the number of emergency-licensed teachers is decreasing as the district continues to hire more fully licensed staff. The district is also filling positions that have remained vacant for an extended period with highly qualified personnel.

Ms. Ottersbach has conducted interviews for the open cook positions, and the district will work to fill those positions as qualified candidates are identified. Transportation continues to seek qualified bus drivers. Principals will also continue working to fill the remaining classified positions throughout the district.

Coaching Season Worksheet: *No board discussion. No public participation.*

Resignations: Superintendent Rappold accepted the following resignations: Cara Guardipee, Volleyball Coach, Browning Middle School, Effective 7-15-2026; Masala Prellwitz, Speech Debate & Drama Coach, Browning High School, Effective 7-15-2026; Yasmine Tatsey-McKay, Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach, Browning High School, Effective 7-20-2026.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Cheryl DeRoche, Elementary Teacher-BES 2026-2027 (\$57,735.00); Samuel Aimsback, Elementary Teacher-BES 2026-2027 (\$52,179.00); Teanna Boggs-Layne, Elementary Teacher-BES 2026-2027 (\$52,179.00); Sarah Flamond, Elementary Teacher-BES 2026-2027 (\$57,735.00); Megan Daniels, Elementary Teacher-Napi 2026-2027 (\$50,324.00); Tayler CalfBossRibs, Elementary Teacher-Napi 2026-2027 (\$52,179.00); Earl Tail, Elementary Teacher-Napi 2026-2027 (\$57,735.00); Kimberly BirdRattler, Napi Elementary Volleyball Coach 2026-2027 Sport Season (\$1,200.00); Derrick Meineke, Napi Cross Country Coach 2026-2027 Sports Season (\$1,200.00). Second by Kristy Bullshoe. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Ervin Custodio Esperat, Science Teacher-BHS 2026-2027 SY (\$64,462.00); Elizabeth Coleman, Math Teacher-BHS 2026-2027 SY (\$81,433.00); Cara Guardipee, BHS Assistant Volleyball Coach 2026-2027 Sports Season (\$3,335.00). Second by Ms. Bullshoe. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for and Terrance LaFromboise opposing Ervin Custodio Esperat, Science Teacher-BHS 2026-2027 SY (\$64,462.00).

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Joshlynn Snow, Gear Up Student Coordinator BHS-BMS 2026-2027 (\$60,000.00); Desirae Flammond, 9-Month School Bus Driver. Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: Motion by Ms. Bullshoe to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background check: Kelly Gardner Kozera-Girls Softball Pitching Camp (\$1,565.00). Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background check: New Teacher Orientation Stipends 2026-2027 SY (\$4,200.00). Second by Mr. Gallup. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy

Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Out of State Travel: None

In State Travel: None

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Extended Contract-Andrea Sangray-Napi Elementary Library Inventory and Data Entry (\$1,232.40); Babb Student-Family Handbook Addendum 2026-2027; Bid Opening for Browning Middle School Football Field Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Gervais.

Sandra Rivas opened the only bid received was from Kinto Excavation, LLC in the amount of \$40,266.00 for the dirt work and \$7,900.00 for existing fence repair for a total of \$48,166.00. Mr. Reagan stated that there is not time to hydro-seed so they will air seed it, which the seeding part was subbed out. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following: Substitute Eligibility List 7-28-26; Extended Contracts-Lead Teacher Duties 2026-2027 (\$39,241.95); Extended Contracts-SPED Professional Development Planning & Prep 2026-2027 (\$4,539.00); Extended Contracts-SBE, Leadership Week and Curriculum & Planning-Coordination 2026-2027 (\$31,351.90); Extended Contracts-SBE 2026-2027 (\$110,415.20); Extended Contracts-Instructional Coaches 2026-2027 (\$13,240.00); Updated Administration Receptionist Job Description; Proposed Extra-curricular Salary Schedule with Corrections; Purchases Over \$10,000.00; District Claims Checks #91699-#91703; #444925-#444947 (\$204,141.53); Student Activities Claim Checks #706813-#706840 (\$10,765.90); Additional Pays 7-28-26. Second by Ms. Bullshoe.

Ms. YellowOwl stated that she noticed the Updated Administration Receptionist Job Description includes additional duties. Superintendent Rappold explained that the position was previously classified in Lane 3. When the position was transferred, it was combined with the Administrative Assistant position in the Business Office and the reception role, which eliminated one position.

Superintendent Rappold explained that the position is primarily based in the reception area while also performing Administrative Assistant duties for the Business Office. Administrative Assistants in the Business Office are paid at Lane 5; therefore, the position is being moved to Lane 5. She also stated that they have worked with the union on this move and worked on formalizing the job description and responsibilities. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Personnel: None

Legal Issues: None

Motion by Mr. Evans to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Second By Mr. Gallup. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

_____Melanie Heavy Runner, Board Secretary

_____James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

_____Sandra Rivas, District Clerk