

Special Board Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2026 @ 12:00 PM

Administration Conference Room

Present: James RunningFisher, James Evans (online), Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup (phone), Cheryl Madman (online).

Mr. RunningFisher called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Ms. Bullshoe to approve the agenda with no changes. Second by Mr. LaFromboise. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Proposed Budget 2026-2027 (ELEM & HS): Superintendent Rappold informed the Board that Ms. Anderson was attending the meeting online and had provided the Board with a copy of the proposed 2026–2027 budget spreadsheet. Ms. Anderson explained that the green section represented the Elementary District and the blue section represented the High School District.

Ms. Anderson reviewed the proposed 2026–2027 budget spreadsheet with the Board. She explained that the budgeted funds requiring Board adoption are those that receive tax dollars. She noted that the district also has cash funds, which do not necessarily require Board adoption.

Ms. Anderson reviewed each fund included in the proposed budget and explained the allowable expenditures for each fund. She also informed the Board that the district has funds set aside in reserves. She explained that, by law, only four funds are permitted to maintain a cash reserve. The reserves consist of funds remaining from the previous fiscal year and are maintained in the accounts to provide the district with available cash for expenses, particularly during July and August when the district does not receive funding.

Ms. YellowOwl asked whether the cash appropriations shown in red represented negative balances. Ms. Anderson confirmed that they did, but explained that she had not yet made the necessary adjustments because the year-end closeout had not been completed. She identified the Food Service budget as one of the funds that needed to be reviewed. Ms. Anderson explained that expenditures would be moved and that the district would access some of the Impact Aid reserve to address the negative balances in Food Service and Child Care. She stated that Superintendent Rappold was already looking at changes that could be made to address the negative balances. Ms. Anderson also emphasized that the district cannot operate the Food Service program solely on Food Service revenue and that additional funding is necessary.

Superintendent Rappold added that, over the years she has been involved in reviewing the Food Service budget, beginning the spring before she became Superintendent through the present, the Food Service budget had been approximately \$1.9 million to \$2 million. She stated that the district has seen an increase of approximately \$500,000 over the past few years.

Superintendent Rappold reported that the previous spring, the Board approved the Food Service bid through the Montana Rural Education Cooperative. She explained that the cooperative bidding system, which includes Sysco, is used across the state to obtain the best possible food prices and is expected to help decrease the district's food costs.

Superintendent Rappold stated that when Ms. Ottersbach began working with the district, she identified an overage in inventory and determined that the district did not need to maintain such a large amount of food on hand. Ms. Ottersbach developed an inventory cycle intended to help control the amount of food stored at the warehouse and reduce inventory-related costs. Superintendent Rappold also stated that Ms. Ottersbach reviewed the number of Food Service staff district-wide, and the district may be able to reduce a couple of positions by not filling positions as they become vacant.

Superintendent Rappold stated that she, Ms. Anderson, and Ms. Rivas need to meet to review the federal program funds. She explained that the district should not be over budget in its federal programs and identified the literacy grant and schoolwide funds as areas that need to be monitored. She explained that schoolwide funds pay for additional teachers at each grade level to help reduce class sizes. She stated that the district needs to monitor these expenditures and ensure they are accurately coded so that the budget reflects accurate information.

Superintendent Rappold also discussed the Gear Up grant, which is a federal program fund. She stated that the district has experienced challenges with accurately accounting for the grant. Ms. Anderson previously completed significant work to track revenue received through the grant over several years. Superintendent Rappold stressed the importance of continuing to monitor the fund to ensure that revenue and expenditures are accurately recorded.

Superintendent Rappold also reported on the Child Care budget. She stated that the program typically ends the year with a negative balance and explained that Child Care is a service provided to students and staff. The district supplements the negative balance with Impact Aid funds.

Ms. Anderson added that there is now a teacher assigned to the Child Care program, allowing educational activities to take place within the program. Superintendent Rappold explained that when Ms. Burns transferred into the Child Care Director role, the district was able to develop a Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway that provides a laboratory environment for students interested in pursuing a child care license after high school. She also explained that the program is being utilized as a work-study opportunity for special education students, allowing them to develop child care skills and providing a laboratory setting for their coursework.

Ms. YellowOwl asked when the proposed budget would be placed on the agenda for approval. Superintendent Rappold stated that the budget discussion at the current meeting was for informational purposes and that the proposed 2026–2027 budget would be placed on the regular Board meeting agenda for Tuesday, August 25, 2026, as an action item for Board approval.

Resignations: Superintendent Rappold accepted the following resignations: Krystee Tailfeathers, PE and Health Teacher, Browning Middle School, Effective 8-7-2026; Bella Drennan, Teacher Assistant, Browning Elementary School, Effective 8-10-2026; Monique Rivas, SPED Teacher Assistant, Buffalo Hide Academy, Effective 8-10-2026; Diane Moreau-Elmer, Special Education Teacher, BullShoe, Effective 8-12-2026; Sissy Wells, Cross Country Coach, Napi Elementary, Effective 8-12-2026; Christina Mad Plume, Teacher Assistant, Bullshoe Elementary, Effective 8-13-2026; MaKenna Scabby Robe, SPED Teacher Assistant, Bullshoe Elementary, Effective 8-17-2026.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Katherine Connelly-Personal Care Attendant, Bullshoe Elementary; Michaela Leah BirdRattler-Napi Athletic Coordinator 2026-2027 (\$10,500.00). Second by Ms. Bullshoe. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for and James RunningFisher abstaining from the following item Michaela Leah BirdRattler-Napi Athletic Coordinator 2026-2027 (\$10,500.00).

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following hire pending successful background check/drug test: Lisa Terry-BHS Family Consumer Science Teacher (\$59,291.84 prorated). Second by Ms. Bullshoe. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background check: Good Berry Rental Company LLC (\$709.76). Second by Ms. Bullshoe.

Mr. LaFromboise asked about the process for bringing outside companies into the district, referencing an incident that occurred at another school district.

Superintendent Rappold stated that she was aware of the situation and that it had been a significant topic of discussion the previous year. She explained that the company being considered is relatively local and has local ties. She stated that the district is making an effort to work with local vendors whenever possible, including for school photography services. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following out of state travel: Robert Hall, 2026 NAFIS Fall Conference Washington, DC (\$5,592.57 est.). Second By Ms. Bullshoe. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

In State Travel: None

Approvals: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following items: Contract Modification-Jasmine Meineke, Salary Change 2026-2027 (\$2,533.00); MOU between BPS and De La Salle Blackfeet School 2026-2027. Second by Ms. Bullshoe. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bullshoe to approve the following item: BHS 2026-2027 Student-Family Handbook. Second by Mr. LaFromboise.

Mr. LaFromboise inquired whether the information remained unchanged or if any adjustments had been made. It was noted that an adjustment had been made regarding attendance procedures, specifically concerning communication with families regarding student attendance. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bullshoe to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility List 8-20-26; Purchase Activity Bus for BPS District #9 2026-2027 (\$444,078.00). Second by Mr. LaFromboise. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Personnel: None

Motion by Ms. Yellow Owl to adjourn the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Melanie Heavy Runner, Board Secretary

James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

Sandra Rivas, District Clerk

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