

Regular Board Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
Administration Conference Room

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER: Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Policy Committee Meeting Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Facilities Committee Meeting Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room (The September 10, 2026 Facilities meeting will be cancelled. Next Facilities meeting will be October 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Next Scheduled Board Meeting Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; NAFIS 2026 Fall Conference September 20, 2026 – September 22, 2026 Washington, DC; MCEL Conference October 14, 2026 – October 16, 2026 Billings, MT.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Alex Hoops, Alexis Higgins, Alexis Marso, Angel Valdez, Annie AimsBack, Malik Aimsback, Aurelia Kennedy, Bowman Klauk, DeAndre DeRoche, Debra Monroe, Dylan FastBuffalo Horse, Easton Glaze, Emily Edwards, Emmet Schauf, Ever Boggs, Hailey (Raymond) Running Crane, Haven HeavyRunner, Hunter DeRoche, Ian OldPerson, Jacob Small, Jasiah Rider, Jayk Shell, Jazzlyn Rider, Jessie Hall, Joseph BearMedicine, Ke Shawn Goes Ahead Pretty, Kierra Boushie, Mason Gordon, Melanie Rider, Michael Gray, Paul Medicine Horse, Presley Bird, Raz Pollock, Reb Pollock, Ryan Red Horn, Sam Trombley, Sequoia Boggs, Sophia Bechel, Warren Crawford.

STAFF RECOGNITION: Charlie Speicher, Robert Hall, Nick Rink, Monique Rivas, Randall Rivas, Sienna Speicher, Colin Sibbersen, Cinnamon Salway.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the agenda. Second by Mr. Evans.

Superintendent Rappold informed the board that we need to remove district wide approval: Trustees' Financial Summary Report for 2025-2026. Ms. Yellow Owl amended her motion and Mr. Evans amended his 2nd for the removal. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Rae Armstrong provided public comment on her concerns with one of the department reports.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following building reports: Child Nutrition-Copy Center-Warehouse - Zita Ottersbach; Curriculum and Instruction - Brandy Bremner; Parent, Community Outreach, FIT - Irene Augare; Blackfeet Language-Native American Studies - Robert Hall; Special Education - Stephanie Holton; Gear Up Program - Joshlyn Snow (Verbal); Prevention & Wellness - Cinnamon Salway; Athletic Department-Student Activities-Kellen Hall; Technology Department - Travis Miller; Transportation - Francis Bullcalf; Maintenance/Facilities/Security/Construction - Reid Reagan.

Ms. YellowOwl expressed a concern raised by a parent regarding the amount of money students are required to raise and what they are raising money for. Mr. Hall explained that students are not responsible for fundraising individually. Each student is required to obtain ten email addresses, and SNAP conducts

the fundraising. He further explained that once the funds are received, they are placed into a general fund and managed similarly to a booster club.

Superintendent Rappold stated that fundraising announcements distributed through Snap Mobile include photographs of BPS student-athletes and are being used in fundraising requests. The Board discussed concerns regarding student privacy and the use of student photographs for fundraising purposes. Mr. Hall stated that Snap Mobile is working with the coaches and that he would look into the matter further. Superintendent Rappold stated that another concern was the student was unsure why they were requesting emails or contact information. She suggested that we create a script and language for students to use, they are part of this fundraising campaign.

Assistant Superintendent LaFromboise-Wagner introduced Joshlyn Snow as the new Gear Up Coordinator. She stated that Ms. Snow previously served the District as the Student Success Pre-College Advisor and is familiar with the Gear Up program and college-readiness initiatives. Assistant Superintendent LaFromboise-Wagner stated that the department is completing various transition items following Ms. Calf Robe's departure and Ms. Snow's arrival.

Ms. Snow stated that she is excited for the new school year and to begin working with her team, which includes Tamara Guardipee and Taylee Ridesatthedor. She reported that the team has begun working with dual-enrollment students to assist with registration at Blackfeet Community College (BCC), as well as other colleges of interest. She stated that students are also exploring opportunities to take CNA and EMT courses with Ms. Andreas and courses through the Montana Digital Academy.

Ms. Snow reported that the Gear Up team is in the process of planning a cultural science event before the end of the fiscal year and will be reaching out to Mr. Kicking Woman and Ms. Tatsey to collaborate on activities for high school students. The team is also working on planning upcoming college visits.

Mr. Evans requested that Montana Technological University (Montana Tech) be included in the college visits, noting the significant level of student interest in the institution.

Superintendent Rappold provided clarification regarding the EEkahkimaht program and the public comment. She explained that she does not typically censor or remove information contained in reports submitted by principals and directors, as these reports serve as a direct means of communication with the Board. Therefore, the information regarding the EEkahkimaht program was included in the activities report.

Superintendent Rappold stated that there has been no internal discussion or decision regarding the elimination of the EEkahkimaht program. She explained that the program has gone through several phases since its implementation in the district. The program was initially brought to the District through the Carol White Grant, which provided funding for several years. Following the conclusion of that grant, the district continued to support and implement the program through Impact Aid funds and in partnership with the 21st Century Grant.

Superintendent Rappold stated that the district did not receive the 21st Century grant during the most recent funding cycle and that she was unsure of the reason for the unsuccessful application. Superintendent Hall received the notification regarding the grant application. She further stated that the 21st Century grant is open for applications again before the end of the school year. The district intends to submit another application in an effort to secure funding and, if successful, continue partnering the EEkahkimaht program with the 21st Century program.

Superintendent Rappold assured the board that there was no discussion on getting rid of the EEkakhkimaht program. They met today to discuss on how to implement that program for the fall and we will continue to work to improve student participation.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Rappold explained that the first portion of her report contains information regularly provided to the Board, including items completed during the previous month and upcoming activities.

Superintendent Rappold reviewed the staffing statistics and stated that the current school year has been added to the five-year staffing report, providing the Board with six years of data. She reported that 4% of certified positions remained unfilled on the first day of school this year, representing a 2% decrease from the previous year. She noted that the district has made significant progress in filling certified positions since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Superintendent Rappold explained that the remaining unfilled certified positions are primarily virtual special education positions. She stated that, with the anticipated success of recruiting teachers from the Philippines and placing them in on-site positions, the district may be able to fill additional positions next year and transition some of the current remote special education positions to in-person positions.

Superintendent Rappold reported that 7% of classified positions were unfilled on the first day of school, a significant decrease from the previous year when 20% of classified positions were unfilled. She stated that five of the unfilled licensed special education positions are remote teaching positions currently contracted through Fullmind. These positions will remain vacant and continue to be advertised. She reported that the district currently has eight emergency-licensed staff members, which is two fewer than the previous year. Of the eight licensed special education specialist positions, one remains unfilled, which is the Adaptive Physical Education position.

Superintendent Rappold reviewed the staff attendance report, which was previously presented at the end of the school year. She stated that staff attendance will now be reported monthly so the Board can review attendance trends throughout the school year, with each report reflecting the previous month's data.

Superintendent Rappold also stated that she will provide the Board with information regarding the number of complaints received across departments and school buildings throughout the year. She reported that the district experienced a significant decline in overall complaints from the 2024–2025 school year to the 2025–2026 school year these are formal complaints. Superintendent Rappold stated that she will be providing this report over the course of the year as well.

HR Status Report: At the elementary level, the district has openings for one PCA, one Special Education (SPED) teacher, two instructional coaches, one PE/Health teacher, and one shop teacher.

At the secondary level, the district has openings for one ELA/Reading teacher and one SPED teaching assistant. For PCOP, the district has an opening for one YHDP Case Manager.

The Maintenance Department has an opening for one Skilled Technician. The SPED Department has an opening for a half-time Adaptive PE teacher. The Transportation Department has openings for four nine-month bus drivers.

Mr. LaFromboise suggested contacting Bear Track Trucking for a list of individuals who may be interested in bus driver positions. Ms. Madman offered to review her BCC training list and contact potential candidates. She noted that some may not have bus endorsements; the district could provide the required training.

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

Resignations: Superintendent Rappold accepted the following resignation: Traylyn Kennerly, Volleyball Coach, BMS, Effective 8-19-2026.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Thomasina NoRunner-Personal Care Attendant, Bullshoe Elementary; Earl Tail-Napi Football Coach 2026-2027 (\$1,200.00); Jeremy Wells-Napi Football Coach 2026-2027 (\$1,200.00); Serena Cachucha-BMS Home School Coordinator; Samuel Aimsback-Middle School Football Coach 2026-2027 (\$1,500.00); Lisa Aimsback-BMS Volleyball Coach 2026-2027 (\$1,500.00). Second by Mr. Gervais. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background check: New Teacher Orientation Stipends 2026-2027 SY (\$1,800.00). Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, 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 Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following items: Extended Contract-Sarah Tail, BMS After School Tutor (\$14,358.24). Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following items: Extended Contract-Christine Hensleigh, BHS After School Tutor (\$13,444.08); Extended Contract-Katie McDonald, BHS Night-School Tutor 2026-2027 SY (\$16,982.16). Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Ms. Yellow Owl to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility List 8-25-26; Adopt Elementary and High School Budgets 2026-2027; Consultant List for 2026-2027 School Year; Purchases Over \$10,000.00; District Claims Checks #445033-#445096; #91645-#91675 (\$656,538.26); Student Activities Claims Checks: None; Additional Pays 8-25-26. Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

The board went into closed session at 6:08 p.m. for the following item: Consideration of Parent/Guardian request for Napi Elementary School Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year. Meeting reopened at 6:27 p.m. Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent. Second by Mr. LaFromboise. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, 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 6:30 p.m. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, 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