Regular Board Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
Administration Conference Room

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

Mr. RunningFisher called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Ms. Madman to approve the Regular Board Minutes 9-29-26 & Regular Board Minutes 10-1-26. Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the agenda with the following change: Autumn Wilson Charges Strong – Teacher Assistant, 2026–2027, was corrected from Browning Elementary to Napi School. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

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

Mr. Salois provided a verbal report and distributed a handout regarding Browning Middle School. He reported that attendance has improved over the past month but noted that there is still room for improvement. The school continues to implement monthly student incentives to encourage attendance and engagement. For the most recent incentive, students with 90% or better attendance were given the opportunity to paint ceiling tiles. The completed tiles are displayed throughout the building and have made a positive addition to the school.

Mr. Salois reviewed the behavior data included in the handout. He reported that phone-related behaviors have decreased significantly, as has disorderly conduct. He noted that disorderly conduct may include students not being in class or being sent out of class for a period.

Mr. Salois reported that Ms. Bragg has been assisting in the resource room with grading and has also been helping with seventh-grade physical education and AIMSweb makeup testing. The online teacher is now in place. The school also has an applicant for the seventh-grade physical education position and hopes to conduct interviews next week.

Mr. Salois reviewed upcoming events at Browning Middle School and discussed the AIMSweb assessment results. He reported that ELA testing completion rates were 99% for sixth grade, 98% for seventh grade, and 100% for eighth grade. He noted that students are performing well in oral reading fluency; however, those skills do not always transfer to reading comprehension.

Mr. Salois stated that mathematics assessment data indicate a need for improvement and identified math as an area of focus moving forward. The school completed 133 assessments in sixth grade, 141 in seventh grade, and 132 in eighth grade. He noted that the overall testing participation rate was the best the school has seen in some time.

Superintendent Update: Superintendent Rappold reported that the district has completed the first of four trauma-informed training sessions for all staff. The sessions are scheduled throughout the school year during extended Wednesdays.

Superintendent Rappold also reported that she and Ms. Bremner attended an accreditation work session in Great Falls in preparation for the district's three-year accreditation cycle, which is due this year. The work session helped prepare them for two required submissions, one in December and the other in February.

Superintendent Rappold reported that she attended the MSGIA Advisory Committee meeting last Monday and Tuesday. She stated that she received valuable information on maximizing the district's workers' compensation and property and liability insurance coverage. She will share this information with Mr. Reagan and Ms. Rivas.

Additionally, Superintendent Rappold reported that she and Assistant Superintendent LaFromboise-Wagner attended Session #1 of the Montana Safe School Centers Safety Bootcamp. The series will continue throughout the fall and will help establish the next steps in developing the district's strategic plan for its Emergency Operations Plan.

Superintendent Rappold announced that Lights on Afterschool will take place on October 28, 2026, at all school buildings. Delasalle and Cuts Wood School are prepared to attend the event at Bullshoe Elementary. The district has provided supplemental funding to schools for carnival prizes, treats, and books for the evening. Red Ribbon Week will be observed October 26–30, 2026, followed by family-teacher conferences in November.

Superintendent Rappold also informed the Board that she provided updates regarding leave statuses and 1700 complaints.

Mr. LaFromboise asked about the time commitment for the trauma-informed training sessions, which are scheduled during extended Wednesdays. Superintendent Rappold explained that the training consists of four one-hour sessions spread throughout the school year. Mr. LaFromboise also asked who would be providing the training and whether the sessions had been scheduled for the entire year. Superintendent Rappold identified Stacy York Nation as the trainer and confirmed that all four sessions had been scheduled.

Mr. LaFromboise asked when recommendations for trainers for the following school year could be submitted. Superintendent Rappold stated that recommendations could be made at any time.

NAFIS Fall Conference Update: Mr. RunningFisher recommended postponing the conference update until Mr. Gallup could be present in person. Assistant Superintendent LaFromboise-Wagner informed the Board that the students who attended the conference did an excellent job. He reported that they were able to meet with Senator Sheehy and were the only members of the delegation who had the opportunity to meet with him. They were able to share the district's message with the Senator. Mr. RunningFisher also commended Mr. LaFromboise for singing at the conference in front of approximately 300 people after being invited to participate at the last minute.

HR Status Report- At the elementary level, the district is in need of two Teacher Assistants (TAs), two instructional coaches, a PE/Health teacher, a BNAS teacher, and a shop teacher. At the secondary level, the district is in need of an ELA/Reading Interventionist. The Special Education Department is in need of a half-time Adaptive Education teacher. PCOP is in need of a Program Support Specialist. Food Service is in need of a head cook, Maintenance is in need of a skilled technician, and Transportation is in need of five nine-month bus drivers.

Ms. YellowOwl asked Ms. Sinclair whether housing arrangements had been secured for all staff members. Ms. Sinclair confirmed that housing arrangements had been taken care of for everyone.

Coaching Worksheet: Ms. Sinclair reported that the district will be hiring a new athletic coordinator at the middle school.

Mr. Evans asked whether the district had advertised for a wrestling coach. Superintendent Rappold stated that there is a pool of candidates ready to be interviewed and that interviews just need to be scheduled. Mr. LaFromboise asked whether the middle school currently had an athletic coordinator. He was informed that the current athletic coordinator's resignation was included on the agenda.

Resignations: Superintendent Rappold accepted the following resignation: Rick Hoyt, Athletic Coordinator, BMS, Effective 10-7-2026.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Cydnie SaddleBack-Personal Care Attendant-BSE; Autumn Wilson Charges Strong-Teacher Assistant-Napi 2026-2027; Browning Elementary Club Sponsors 2026-2027 ($2,175.00); BMS Club Sponsors 2026-2027 ($2,175.00); Tamara Guardipee-BMS Girls Basketball Coach 2026-2027 Sports Season ($1,500.00). Second by Mr. LaFromboise. *No public participation.*

Ms. YellowOwl asked whether the club was new and if it had established goals and objectives. Superintendent Rappold explained that, according to district policy, the Superintendent approves new clubs, while the Board approves the associated hires. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following hire pending successful background check/drug test: Evan DeBoo-BHS Big Red Football Club Sponsor ($725.00). Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Out of State Travel: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following out of state travel: Board of Trustee & Superintendent Rappold-NIISA 43rd Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV ($2,733.74 Est.); Robert Hall, Indigenous People's Day Convergence 2026 - Cincinnati, OH (SR Leave Only). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

In State Travel: Motion Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following in state travel: Stephanie Holton-Special Olympics State Games Butte, MT (SR Leave Only). Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Student Attendance Agreements – Great Falls Public Schools 2026-2027; Student Attendance Agreements – Cut Bank Public Schools 2026-2027; Declare Property as Surplus 2026-2027. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No public participation.*

Mr. LaFromboise asked for clarification regarding the attendance agreements with Great Falls Public Schools and Cut Bank Public Schools. Superintendent Rappold explained that these agreements apply to students who attend school in those districts but maintain a permanent physical residence within the Browning Public School District. She stated that, as required by law, these agreements must be approved by the Board. She further explained that the law now requires tuition payments to follow the students to the districts they attend. Similarly, if students from other districts attend Browning Public Schools, their home districts are required to pay tuition to Browning. Superintendent Rappold noted that the tuition payment requirement went into effect a few years ago; previously, only Board approval was required. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Lane Change-Leo BullChild, Certified Teacher Lane Change-BHS ($4,302.00); Ervin Esperat-Contract Update 2026-2027 (-$2,357.74). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility List 10-13-26; Change Order #1-BMS Practice Field ($3,730.00); Change Order #1 -Kelly Edwards Administration Building ($2,958.00); Purchases Over $10,000.00; District Claims Checks #91516-#91541; #445286-#445371 ($170,665.41); Student Activities Claim Checks #706871-#706886 ($10,445.32); Additional Pays 10-13-26. Second by Mr. Evans. *No public participation.*

Mr. LaFromboise asked for clarification regarding Change Order #1 for the BMS Practice Field in the amount of $3,730.00. Superintendent Rappold explained that the change order covered additional soil and the installation of a gate. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman voting for.

Personnel: None

Recess: 5:26 p.m.

Reconvened: 5:39 p.m.

Legal Issues: Board went into closed session at 5:39 p.m. Superintendent Rappold provided a legal update to the board. Meeting reopened at 5:47 p.m.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m. Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, 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