Regular Board Minutes
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 @ 12:00 PM
hosted by BHS (Reconvene @ 5:00 p.m. Administration)

Present: James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup.

There was no quorum at the noon board meeting at Browning High School so the meeting was not called to order.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Ms. Campbell recognized the following students: Maya Andreas, Ariel McFadyean, Devine Bull Plume, Samantha Rivas, Rylee Kipp, Brayson LaFromboise, Perssius MadPlume, William Old Rock, Anaiah Old Horn, Kesler Harwood, Bowman Klauk, Waylon Hoyt, Kazmir Stump, Anthony DeCarlo, Kaysen McNeely, Samuel Gray, Camilio Hernandez, Kyra Dubray, Maya Andreas, Roxilyn Kennerly.

STAFF RECOGNITION: Ms. Campbell recognized the following staff members: Jason Krane, Randall Rivas, Glenn Castle, Johanna Johnson, Rebecca Kennedy, Shaylea Tatsey, Sonya Gobert, Andrew Leite, Amy Andreas, Jimi Champ, Jennifer LaFromboise-Wagner, Genevieve Goudy, Kassandra Kennerly, Ruth Shea.

Ms. Campbell and Ms. Klauk presented on the Miinii Project, which focuses on tree planting on campus. They reported that Browning High School applied for and received the Tree Campus Award in recognition of its efforts. Ms. Campbell also recognized Sonya Gobert, Melody Small, Abigail Klauk and the late Kami DeRoche for all of their hardwork that went into earning this award.

Present: James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise (online), Kristy Bullshoe.

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER: Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. Browning High School; Reconvene at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Next Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Policy Committee Meeting Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Staff Wellness Day Friday, November 6, 2026; Facilities Committee Meeting Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Administration Conference Room; Thanksgiving Holiday Break November 25, 2026-November 27, 2026; 2026; 2026 NIISA Annual Conference December 5, 2026-December 9, 2026 Las Vegas, NV; Holiday Program Schedules Colony Schools Chiristmast Program December 16, 2026 Glendale 12:30 p.m. and Big Sky 2:00 p.m.; Babb Elementary December 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.; Napi Elementary December 21, 2026, 4th grade 1:00 p.m., 5th grade 2:00 p.m.

Mr. RunningFisher informed the board that there will be a special board meeting Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Administration Conference Room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the Regular Board Minutes 10-13-26. Second by Mr. Evans. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the agenda with the removal of the following Personnel items: Termination-Danielle RedHead; Termination-Donald Comesatnight Jr. Second by Ms. Madman. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy

Bullshoe voting for.

RECOGNITION: Superintendnet Rappold recognized the following Board of Trustees: James RunningFisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais, Terrance LaFromboise, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Cheryl Madman.

Superintendent Rappold stated that she and Brian attended the MCEL Conference, where the Board of Trustees received an award as a whole, and one individual board member, Mr. Gallup, also received an award. She explained that the full Board received the Golden Gavel Award for the 2025–2026 school year**.** To qualify for this award, each individual trustee was required to complete 12 hours of trustee training throughout the school year. Mr. Gallup was also individually recognized with the the Heinz award for at least having 96 hours of board member training. Superintendent Rappold stated that she wanted to recognize each board member individually for their contributions and dedication to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following building reports: Child Nutrition Service-Warehouse-Copy Center-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-Joshlynn Wippert; Prevention and Wellness Program-Cinnamon Salway; Athletic Department-Student Activities-Kellen Hall; Technology Department - Travis Miller; Transportation - Francis Bullcalf; Maintenance/Facilities/Security/Construction - Reid Reagan.

Mr. Evans inquired with Mr. Miller on how the new program working or has it been started? Mr. Miller stated that they have not started it yet, we did not have enough runway to swap them. The new program decided to give us the rest of the year for free and as long as we sign now then we will start the four years after that. The idea is that the switch will happen over Christmas break.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Rappold stated that Mr. Gallup and she attended the IISM Fall Board Meeting in Billings. One of the items discussed was the development of a student toolkit that other schools could use as a model for implementing the practice Browning Public Schools has established over the past several years of bringing students to Washington, D.C., to advocate for Impact Aid. The toolkit will include information on the student selection process, preparation, and planning for the fall and spring conferences.

Superintendent Rappold stated that they will be working with Mr. Hall to develop the toolkit. Some of the components will include video clips featuring the students themselves, photographs gathered throughout the experience, and key talking points. The goal is to provide other schools with resources and guidance to begin bringing their own students to participate in advocacy efforts. She emphasized that lawmakers appreciate hearing directly from students and that the student voice makes a meaningful impact.

Superintendent Rappold reported that Ms. Bremner applied for additional Montana Reads funding in the amount of up to $100,000.00 to provide additional support for professional development, and the funding was awarded to the district.

Superintendent Rappold also highlighted a change regarding the use of school gymnasiums for public open gym. She explained that over the past couple of years, the district has allowed public open gym use but has encountered several challenges. One concern is the shortage of custodial staff. Following public open gym use, the gymnasiums have not always been left in the condition necessary to prepare them for the following school day, and the district does not have adequate custodial coverage to address the

additional cleaning. She also noted challenges with cooperation among different groups using the facilities, which have required administrative intervention. These activities are private facility-use functions rather than school-sponsored activities.

Additionally, Superintendent Rappold discussed an issue that arose last spring when Browning High School needed the gymnasium to prepare for graduation. One of the outside gym users was unhappy with the change in gym availability. She emphasized that the district must prioritize its own school activities and operational needs while also balancing community facility use.

Superintendent Rappold informed the Board that the district will continue to rent gymnasiums for tournaments and other scheduled events but will no longer allow public open gym use. Open gym will continue to be available for District-sponsored athletic and activity programs as a Browning Public Schools function.

NAFIS Legislative Update-Brian Gallup: Mr. Gallup provided an update on Impact Aid and reported that the Board's attendance at the fall conference was timely, as the upcoming midterm elections are expected to play a significant role in the future of the program. He stated that, given the possibility of a change in federal leadership, there may be opportunities for positive changes in Impact Aid. He noted that the program is unique in its bipartisan support and that the potential for Democrats to take control of the House, while the Senate remains uncertain, could impact future funding. Mr. Gallup reported that the request for Impact Aid funding this year was $71 million, and the program received a $5 million increase. He anticipates another payout of approximately 96–97 percent this year. He emphasized that Impact Aid has never been fully funded since 1969.

Mr. Gallup also shared updates from the congressional visits, highlighting that the two Browning students had the opportunity to meet Senator Sheehy and present information about Browning Schools and Impact Aid. He stated that Senator Sheehy is familiar with Browning and understands the importance of Impact Aid, and he hopes to gain his support. He also reported that they had a productive meeting with Congressman Downing's staff, noting that many schools fall within his district. Additionally, Mr. Gallup met with Senator Daines' Chief of Staff. He described the meeting with Representative Zinke's office as less productive but noted that they had a pleasant meeting with Mr. Brockmeier. Mr. Gallup emphasized that the March conference will be especially critical in advocating for continued Impact Aid support. He also commended the two students for doing a phenomenal job representing Browning Schools.

Mr. Gallup further reported that he will be traveling to Oklahoma in the coming weeks to attend a meeting with directors from the various Impact Aid subgroups. He anticipates that the group will advocate for $1 billion in funding, which would fully fund the Impact Aid program. He explained that they have already made progress advocating for full funding of the construction portion of the program and believes that continued efforts over the next couple of years could help accomplish this goal. He noted that Congress will remain in session until January and that, although they are prepared for various possibilities, it is uncertain whether Congress will attempt to pass all remaining legislation in one comprehensive package. Mr. Gallup concluded by expressing optimism about the future of Impact Aid and stated that he believes positive developments are ahead.

Superintendent Evaluation: Superintendent Rappold informed the Board that the Superintendent evaluation forms had been received. She stated that Ms. YellowOwl had requested that the Board review the evaluation form, not necessarily for the upcoming evaluation, but potentially for the following year. Superintendent Rappold stated that she would discuss this with Mr. RunningFisher, who may appoint a committee to review the form. She also indicated that she would reach out to MTSBA to determine whether a model evaluation form is available.

Superintendent Rappold also informed the Board that she had provided copies of the policies pertaining to the Superintendent's position, the Board's role and responsibilities regarding the Superintendent's duties, and the evaluation process for their reference. She explained that, according to Board policy, completed evaluation forms should be submitted to the Board Secretary for compilation prior to the executive session. The deadline for submitting completed evaluation forms was set for November 20, 2026.

Superintendent Rappold emphasized the importance of maintaining confidentiality and security throughout the evaluation process, noting that she would not see the completed evaluations until the Board meeting. She asked Board members to review the policies and procedures to ensure they understood the process and could actively participate. The Board Chair will work with the other Board members to establish a date for the executive session.

Fall Count: Superintendent Rappold stated that she has provided a copy of the fall count, we are down in students in both the Elementary and High School sides. The fall count tends to be a little lower than the spring count. She stated as they recall the state general funding is the average of three years or the highest of the most recent year. So, we had a high year on the high school side last year that we were funded for this year, that should carry us solid over the next three years. As we look at funding and budgetary decision making for the next school year, we will want to pay close attention to the elementary budget possibly decreasing the high school budget will remain average over the next couple of years.

HR Status Report: Elementary level the district is in need of two TA's, custodian, two instructional coaches, sped TA, PE/health teacher, shop teacher. High School level the district is in need of an ELA/reading teacher, PCOP we are needing to hire a program support specialist, Athletics is in need of an activity's coordinator.
Food service is in need of a head cook, at maintenance we need 2 skilled techs one for a boiler operator and one a groundskeeper and at transportation we need five 9-month bus drivers.

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

Resignations: Superintendent Rappold accepted the following resignations: Carrie Heavy Runner, SPED TA, Napi Elementary, Effective 10-21-2026; Jessie Salway, Student Activities Coordinator, BHS, Effective 10-30-2026; Abigail Klauk, Maintenance – Grounds Keeper, Maintenance Dept., Effective 10-30-2026.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hires pending successful background check/drug test: Amy Grant, Bullshoe Elementary Mako yo' so' koi Club Sponsor 2026-2027 ($725.00); Mishayla CalfBossRibs, Athletic Coordinator-BMS 2026-2027 ($7,636.40 Pro-Rated). Second by Mr. Gervais. Motion passed with *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following hire pending successful background check/drug test: Radium Woolf-BHS Art Club Sponsor 2026-2027($725.00). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background check: Darin Wynn-1st Aid & CPR Training ($1,300.00); Lisa Terry-ServSafe Training ($750.00). Second by Mr. Gervais. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

Out of State Travel: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following out of state travel: Beverly Sinclair, 2027 School HR Winter Boot Camp-Anaheim, CA ($3,074.84 est.); Stephanie Holton, Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning-New Orleans, LA ($3,428.60). Second by Mr. Gallup. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

In State Travel: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following in-state travel: Kellen Hall- Western A Fall Meeting-Hamilton, MT ($623.88); Sandi Campbell-Divisional Volleyball Tournament Hamilton, MT 2026-2027 ($1,041.60); Rebecca Rappold-State Volleyball Tournament 2026-2027 Bozeman, MT ($944.84). Second by Mr. Gervais. *No board discussion. No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

Approvals: Motion by Mr. LaFromboise to approve the following: Substitute Eligibility List 10-27-26;19-Year-Old Students Attendance-WBH 2026-2027; Native Connections Culture & Hope Lease Agreement 2026-2027; Update to the Temporary Compensation Schedule-Sub Bus Driver Pay Rate; Extended Contract-Jason Andreas to pursue the Public Schools OPIOID Recovery Trust Grant ($2,404.80); Quote Replacement for Upgraded Units and Subscription evolve Weapons Detectors ($344,755.00); Purchases Over $10,000.00; District Claims Checks #445372-#445459; #91444-91482 ($374,582.24); Student Activities Claim Checks #706879-#706907 ($5,969.82); Additional Pays 10-27-26. Second by Mr. Gallup.

Mr. Evans asked for clarification regarding the Quote Replacement for Upgraded Units and Subscription for Evolve Weapons Detectors in the amount of $344,755.00, specifically why a complete upgrade was necessary. Superintendent Rappold explained that the district does not own the current devices, as they are provided through a subscription that expires in November 2026. The quote provides the opportunity to upgrade the equipment and continue the subscription. She stated that the upgraded units are more durable, which is important because they are frequently moved from one end of the building to another. The upgraded units also offer more sensitive detection settings.

Mr. Evans asked whether the district would own the system. Superintendent Rappold clarified that the district would not own the equipment. She explained that the expected lifespan of the units is seven years and that, given the cost, purchasing the equipment would not be in the district's best interest. She further noted that the technology continues to evolve and improve, and she does not anticipate that the units would remain functional for the full seven years.

No public participation. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

Personnel: Items were removed from the agenda.

Recess: 5:38 p.m.

Reconvene: 6:00 p.m.

The Board went into closed session at 6:00 p.m. for legal update. Meeting reopened at 6:32 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Evans to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No public participation.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, Terrance LaFromboise, Kristy Bullshoe voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

_____Melanie Heavy Runner, Board Secretary

_____James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

_____Sandra Rivas, District Clerk