

Special Virtual “Emergency” Board Agenda

Friday, September 25, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

Present: Teleconference/Virtual: Donna Yellow Owl-Chair, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup,

Ms. Yellow Owl called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. Croff to approve the agenda with no changes. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Discussion/Possible Action Concerning COVID-19 Operations for District 9 Shutdown September 28, 2020 through October 11, 2020: Motion by Ms. Croff to approve COVID-19 Operations for District 9 Shutdown September 28, 2020 through October 11, 2020. Second by Ms. Bremner. *Public participation/Board discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that per policy #1907, the school board will need to declare the District to be in a State of Emergency. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the BTBC has taken-action to close the Blackfeet Reservation beginning Sunday, September 25 @ midnight for 14-days due to high risk of COVID. This meeting, is to approve plans for the district during the shutdown. Debra Silk from MTSBA has informed the school that in order for the district to not jeopardize state funding, they will need to maintain a certain number of aggregate student hours. Ms. Yellow Owl suggested to approve continuing with distance learning and provide educational services to students as the district has been doing since the beginning of school year. Ms. Yellow Owl noted that there are still problems with Internet and not enough iPads, which is not the fault of the school, and iPads will need to be programmed and made ready for the students. Superintendent Hall informed board of number of staff in buildings during this time compared to a regular traditional school day: HR-4 staff (sporadic); Bus Office-4 with 3 in building (sporadic); transportation 15; technology 2; other administration staff 5 (sporadic); childcare 3 (sporadic); maintenance 10; security 3; athletics 2; food service 23; Spokinapi/BNAS 2; SpEd 11 (sporadic); KW 18 (sporadic); VC 16 (sporadic), BES 25 (sporadic), Napi 25 (sporadic); BMS 5 (sporadic); BHS 18 (sporadic), BHA 10 (sporadic); Maintenance 10 (sporadic); Transportation 15 (sporadic). Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the recommendation now is that all buildings will go completely on line or distance learning; if there are packets being done the building will need minimum numbers of staff to come in; if a student does not have an iPad, teachers can call their students and parents on assignments for the week. If BHS/BMS have internet issues, those buildings can allow limited numbers of staff in with supervisor permission. All staff should work remotely from home if possible. The administrators and administration office can work remotely if possible and staff in the building will alternate work time; eliminate traffic in front office, take breaks in back room or outside. Maintenance and custodial staff can work a split schedule as determined by supervisor; if no one has been in a building, custodian will not have to be in. Superintendent Hall asked to approve calamity pay for all staff; those who need to be at work will receive bonus pay and, those who can, will work remotely; cancel all practices and games and postpone games to another date and allow students that make it to state in golf to attend as there is a senior that may be recruited for college. Lynne Keenan stated she is working with OPI to bring food onto the reservation but there won't be anyone to deliver; the warehouse will be available and food choices will be limited. Superintendent Hall suggested giving the food out in packs for the whole day and stated that this staff is concerned and asked the board to consider hazard pay in these two areas. Board members felt that handing food out once a day (send out notice to community) and custodial staff coming in to clean only when someone has been in the building/s. Ms. Keenan asked what the tribe is shutting down and if they can help. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the tribe is not shutting down the stores and they will have more details on what they are planning; the district needs to keep the least number of staff working in the building as possible. Ms. Bremner asked if the school can deliver packaged food to be prepared for one delivery. Ms. Keenan stated that she will do a waiver for this and suggested to package food for a week at a time (5 days); at this time Ms. Keenan stated that she has

enough to make up 1000 food packages. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the Tribe is delivering to rural areas and suggested that Ms. Keenan work closely with the Tribe; give them the schools schedule. Ms. Keenan stated that it would take 8 hours to put together 1000 packages of food and also stated that she can only have two staff in each kitchen x 4 kitchens; each kitchen can make 200-300 packages per week. Ms. Keenan reported that she had one staff person in each kitchen this week because they are scared. Superintendent Hall will work with Ms. Keenan on this. Ms. Bremner stated that people are scared and have reported that they have been treated badly for saying they don't want their child at practice or they don't want to go to work and asked that it be reiterated that this is not to happen anymore; students and staff cannot be punished for being out for safety reasons. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she sees people without masks and the board voted that staff wear masks inside of buildings at all times for everyone's safety. Matthew Johnson stated the health service says everyone should wear masks and if they are sick, don't go to work but don't use COVID as the reason not to work; don't misuse it. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the board agreed to the following: bonus pay, no practice/no games, forfeit games if can't postpone, golf students who make it to state will be allowed to practice (special circumstance) and attend state. Public comment from Daisy Louis, stating concern for the football team and felt that there is no communication regarding COVID to family members and asked that the public be informed who is testing positive. Ms. Louis felt that there should be more thoughtful communication from the coaches to the team members. Superintendent Hall stated that she will work on getting better communications and documentation with the COVID committee and share what is allowed by HIPPA law. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the school setup COVID testing for athletes, but the parent is required to take them to get the test. Ms. Louis stated that she is concerned that students feel embarrassed about their status and they are not disclosing it to anyone. Tony Carlson spoke on behalf of the football team stating that most of the kids are being very responsible and they have not had any positive cases. Mr. Carlson stated that the kids have had everything taken from them and asked the board to consider the kids mental health and wellbeing and ramp up the testing and make it a requirement that they are responsible for themselves. Mr. Carlson felt that the football team is being chastised and not being treated equitable. Mr. Carlson stated that his son, who is a senior, is not being exposed to the western coaches and they need every game to showcase themselves to these college coaches and asked the board to be fair to all the teams, golf, volleyball, football, cross country; kids work hard and give up a lot of free time for their sports. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the board cannot make the students test, the responsibility lies with the parents; the school is setting up the opportunity for kids to test. Also, the school is just postponing sports for health and safety due to the high number of COVID cases. Mr. Carlson asked the board for alternatives other than shutting down. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the first plan is to allow sports and the second plan is to this and a 3rd is the hotel, but the tribe is working to use the hotel for themselves. Board members felt that the students should take a break for their health, workout at home, do the daily/weekly meetings virtually and get tested. Ms. Yellow Owl reviewed the bonus list and all board agreed. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the board already approved hazard pay for custodians that deep clean following an incident and felt that this should stay the same and bonus pay will stay the same for those who work in the buildings; all board agreed. Board agreed that there should be very limited numbers of staff in any building. All board agreed that sports will be canceled and games be postponed if possible, and if not, the game will be forfeited. Board members agreed to allow students that make it State in Golf to attend as there is a senior that may be recruited for college and if necessary special arrangements can be made for lodging for the State Golf students. Board agreed that they fully expect staff to continue high quality of education for students. Board declared a state of emergency for school district 9. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup voting for.

Motion by Ms. Croff to adjourn at 1:17 p.m. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Adamson, Secretary

Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chair

Crystal Tailfeathers, District Clerk