

**Regular Board Minutes (Draft)**

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 @ 12:00PM

Hosted by BHS (Reconvene @ 5:00PM  
Administration Conference Room)

**Present:** James RunningFisher-Chair, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt. **Absent:** Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Thomas Gervais.

Mr. RunningFisher called the board meeting to order at 12:09PM

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the Regular Board Minutes of 9/3/24; Special Board Minutes of 9/30/24 and Regular Board Minutes of 10/8/24 with no changes. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the agenda removing June Matt, Athletic Band Sponsor, Brooke RunningCrane-BHS Assistant Cook and Domaneek CrossGuns-BHS Attendance Clerk .5fte to be advertised for relationship to board members. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**Student Recognition:** Sandi Campbell recognized Joss BlackWeasel, Ronnell CaalffBossRibs, Madison Henderson supporting all BHS students by working afterschool to put the prom closet together.

Callie Wood and Trysten Hannon were recognized for their leadership in DC.

**Staff Recognition:** Sandi Campbell recognized Johanna Jonson, Kami Wellman, Lucy Muragin, Sonya Gobert and Kevin KickingWoman for mentoring new teachers and for their support of all staff in math, science, culture.

**Building Presentation:** Abigail Marshall, Kami Wellman, Sonya Gobert, Jimi Lunak presented on the goals and history of the Minni Berry Project where students and staff were introduced to harvesting huckleberries, service berries, choke cherries and much more. Students and staff planted hundreds of berry trees at BHS and continue to monitor growth each year.

**ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Hiring:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following hires pending successful background checks/drug tests: Arthur WestWolf, BMS BBB Coach 2024-2025 (\$1,073.00); Maurice St. Goddard, BMS BBB Coach 2024-2025 (\$1,032.00); Javier Bustos, BMS BBB Coach 2024-2025 (\$1,073.00) and Jamie MountainChief, BMS Custodian. Second by Mr. Gervais. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt to approve the following hires pending successful background checks/drug tests: Adrien Wagner, BHS Athletic Choir Sponsor 2024-2025 (\$3,137.00) and June Matt, BHS Athletic Band Sponsor (\$3,583.00). Second by Mr. Bremner. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**Contract Service Agreements:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following contract service agreements pending background checks: Kendall Edmo, Blackfoot Language Digital Assessment Support 2024-2025 (\$2,300.00); Lea Tatsey, Blackfoot Language Digital Assessment Support 2024-2025 (\$4,000.00); Drew Landry, Grant Writer for Blackfeet Language-NAS Department 2024 (\$3,200.00); Darin Wynn, CPR & 1st Aid Training-Wellness Day 2024-2025 (\$1,320.00) and Certified Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht After-School Program Assistants 2024-2025 (\$38,304.00). Second by Mr. RunningFisher. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**Out of State Travel:** Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve out of state travel for Colin Siberrensen, Kari McKay, and 10 HS Students to attend Close Up HS Civics Program in Washington, DC 2024-2025 (\$27,784.00). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**In State Travel:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve in state travel for Kellen Hall, Western A Fall Meeting in Hamilton, MT 2024-2025 (\$234.71). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**Approvals:** Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve FICO Building Automation System, Front End Upgrade - BES 2024-2025 (\$25,360.00); Early Kindergarten Request 2024-2025 and BMS Sponsor-Katie McDonald/Club/Goals & Objectives 2024-2025 (\$516.00). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt to approve 19+ Year Old Student Attendance-WBH Academy 2024-2025 and Change BHS Votech-Welding-Auto Position to VoTech-Auto .5 FTE and VoTech- Welding .5 FTE, Second by Mr. RunningFisher. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following items: Extended Contract-Certified Teachers, Curriculum & Instruction Planning 2024-2025 (\$9,349.80); Extended Contract-Certified Teachers, Edit and Refine Blackfoot Language Curriculum 2024-2025 (\$3,806.00); Extended Contracts-Certified Lead Teacher Duties 2024-2025 (\$14,970.00); Substitute Eligibility Roster 2024-2025; Agreement Between Montana Schools Unemployment Insurance Program (MSUIP) & BPS 2024-2027; MOU Between BPS District #9, Blackfeet Tribe and Southern Piegan School Health 2024-2025; MOU Between BPS & Blackfeet Tribal Health System 2024-2025; District Claims Check #66545-66558 (\$798,918.49); Student Activities Check #706019-706041 (\$11,798.52); Check #706042-706055 (\$2,960.90) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Mr. Hoyt. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to recess at 1:08PM.

Mr. Runningfisher reconvened the meeting at 5:09PM

Mr. RunningFisher stated that there was a quorum at the noon session at BHS and all action items were approved; the evening session will start with public comment and the board will review items of information.

**Public Comment:** Mr. RunningFisher read the provisions of the open meeting law under Section 2-3-103 and School Board Policy #1441 Public Participation. Rebecca Craig requested to make public comment regarding her rental agreement with Browning Public Schools. Ms. YellowOwl stated that this is not an issue that would be discussed during public comment and suggested that Ms. Craig meet with the Superintendent to discuss the issue.

### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

**Building Reports:** Robert showed the video with kindergarten students who were able to go into the Star Lab and wanted board to hear the students' reactions.

### **Superintendent Report**

**Superintendent Update:** Superintendent Rappold reviewed the superintendent report and stated there are no transfers at this time; the State of Montana did receive the Gear-UP Grant, a 7-year grant, which the board advocated for in DC. Funds will be available on Friday, and the district will be advertising for those positions. Friday, November 1 is wellness day for staff and remote learning for students.

**Electric School Bus Presentation:** David Merrill presented on electric buses and stated there is \$5 million allotted to bring electric buses to Montana; an electric bus costs up to \$400,000 and with the EPA rebate \$325,000 and \$40,000 for clean tax budget it brings the cost down to \$35,000. Mr. Merrill stated that diesel can cause, and aggravate, respiratory illness and electric has less maintenance and repair; electric buses have zero tailpipe emissions. BPS has priority in the grant because of the number of native students. Francis Bullcalf stated that the district has a lot of money invested in propane buses and it is cleaner than diesel; BPS changed to propane 5 years ago. Also, the team buses are all diesel and that cannot change. Mr. Bullcalf stated that he has not gotten any clear answers on distance for electric buses. It has been recommended that BPS not go with electric because of the problems with them and asked where would BPS go to get mechanical work on electric buses. Mr. Merrill stated the electric bus gets 120 to 200 miles and can be charged overnight and noted that Montana weather has not been an issue. Mr. Gervais stated that he researched the electric cars in Canada and they wouldn't go to 100% in the cold; only 60%. Mr. Merrill will send the information to M. Bullcalf and Superintendent Rappold.

**Notification of Appointment to Native American Task Force:** Superintendent Rappold announced that Dana Bremner has been appointed to the Native American Task Force.

**HR Status Update:** Bev Sinclair talked about filling positions and looking for applicants with the majority of advertising on frontline, which goes to an additional site called the k-12 spot and is updated weekly. Also positions are advertised in-district. There are other places used for hard to fill positions on the OPI website. Ms. Sinclair stated that she has discussed a employee referral program where an incentive would be given for a successful hiring for hard to fill positions. BPS is in a better position in hiring than last year but still needs to get creative to fill some positions. She also advertises in classified ads in other newspapers, such as Missoula, Havre, etc.

**Coaches Update:** Kellen Hall stated that all winter coaches are hired, except girls wrestling and cheer coaches. Interviews are scheduled for both next week.

**Resignations:** The following resignation was accepted by the Superintendent: Lanell Arnoux, Personal Care Assistant-BMS, Effective 10/24/24.

There were no Personnel or Legal Issues.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to adjourn at 5:35PM Second by Thomas Gervais. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

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Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

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James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

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Sandra Rivas, District Clerk