

Regular “Virtual” Board Minutes (Draft)

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

Present: Donna Yellow Owl-Chair, Wendy Bremner, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe.

Virtual: Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor (5:30 pm).

Ms. Yellow Owl called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve Special Board Minutes 2/19/21 and Regular Board Minutes 2/24/21 with no changes. Second by Mr. Evans. All in favor/Motion passed.

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

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Building Reports: KW Vina Elementary-Toni Tatsey, Browning Elementary-Sheila Hall, Napi Elementary-Sicily Bird, Browning Middle School-William Huesbch, Browning High School-Jennifer Wagner, Babb Elementary-Billie Jo Juneau, Big Sky/Glendale-Egan Black, Special Education-Maureen Stott, Buffalo Hide Academy-Matthew Johnson. *Discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl asked what state and federal requirements are for ELL and WIDA testing and what percentage should test. Superintendent Hall stated that each parent has to sign saying whether they felt their student should be there testing; need 100% of ELL and SBAC to test. Ms. Yellow Owl asked what the response was on a post that went to senior students and parents regarding graduation. Jennifer Wagner stated that the post was for a survey asking students to choose if they want a guest speaker and who it will be; BHS has sent emails, letters, Facebook and continue to get low responses. A plan will be submitted at the next board meeting. Ms. Wagner noted that Jostens will give inserts for announcements.

Superintendent Report

Spokinaapi Update: Matthew Johnson stated at last board meeting a question was asked about access to counseling, suicide prevention, etc. Spokinaapi Program is primarily a drug and alcohol program which is funded by a grant funded; it is not therapeutic counseling. Staff do curriculum, assessments, resource guides, research-based curriculum k-12, work with kids to say no and Cinnamon Crawford is the director, and does a great job. There are Counseling teams in every building. Administration worked on a return to school plan and making sure counselors went to the kids (ASCA Model Counseling Standards during COVID and maintained networking with teachers. Counselors held work groups to figure out how to reach students; BHS worked with principals on social emotional learning and did incredible work. Monthly feeds: helping hands, tutoring, support services, anxiety, connections, etc., with unintended consequences by putting jetpacks out for kids there came influence of social media; kids cannot believe everything they see on internet. Counselors did community mapping and had to go to the parents and worked with suicide addiction, health, effect during COVID, how to support; it is hard to have therapeutic relationship through a screen. The counselors are happy to see students. New model for complicated grief 1) complex grief is different than natural death 2) promote a paradigm shift, be consistent in promoting safe and healthy. 2) community resources when tragedy happens. There is a lot in community but hard to work with and connecting to resources is hard. Counselors provided ongoing support for grieving students and families but due to restrictions could not process properly. Social emotional learning and counseling is necessary when they are back in school. Charlie Speicher stated that it is a complicated grief program; suicide difficult to talk about. The key elements what clinicians need to know: warning signs not useful in preventing/predicting suicide, major underlying areas of concern are impulsivity/isolation, school climate, suicidal ideation is not deviant behavior but is normal, suicidal individuals need connection, a safe positive school climate is best way to prevent individuals from experiencing suicidal ideation. Ms. Bremner stated she is concerned with the fact that BPS lost the good medicine project grant and asked if staff is now directed at prevention, are counselors able to do that. Ms.

Bremner reviewed statistics and stated these are not normal statistics received every year. Student, Honey Stripped Squirrel, talked about suicide and stated it is really sad to hear every day; she heard from her friends that her friend hung herself 2 days ago and she felt really bad. Her friend was fighting and arguing with her but they were still friends and stated she is sad to hear about what so many are going through, it is really hard stuff. Matthew Johnson reviewed program called DESSA, it is ground breaking and first-time BPS screened for social emotional issues and integrated into classrooms. Teachers see kids more than counselors and DESSA can screen students k-12 and find out what is affecting them and what supports they need. Superintendent Hall stated that Rebecca Rappold was instrumental in bringing these programs to the district. Ms. Bullshoe reported on all the incidents and stated there are many more, and today they had 4 attempts and the numbers keep growing (suicide is a pandemic in itself).

Negotiations for 2021-2023 Certified & Classified: MTSBA suggested working on negotiations and not be requesting approval of amended MOUs. Superintendent Hall stated that Dennis Juneau, Crystal Tailfeathers, John Salois and she will be on the negotiating committee. Brenda Croff and Mistee RidesAtTheDoor volunteered.

Random Testing Procedures Agreement Update: This item is informational only. No discussion.

New Policy 1st Reading: BPS contracted with MTSBA for policy new policy and updates. These are new policies that are part of the 1000 series for school board: #1640 School Board Use of Electronic Mail, #1441F NoticeRegarding Public Comment, #1403 Board Participation in Activities. No discussion.

HR Status Update: John Salois reported on resignations and positions that will be open next school year. McKenzie Augare did transfer to Babb as a TA and is transferring back as a teacher at BES; Herbert Still Smoking was hired as Napi custodian and Derek Tatsey was hired at food service/warehouse.

Coaching Season Update: Mr. Salois stated there are no changes; he has advertised for an assistant track coach and Special Olympics coach.

Resignations: A resignation was accepted by Superintendent Hall for Virgil Bullshoe, Adaptive Physical Education Teacher-Special Education Effective 6-3-2021. No discussion.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve hiring McKenzie Augare, Elementary Teacher-BES 2020-2021 (\$12,025.00 prorated) pending successful background check/drug test. Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Brian Gallup Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: None.

Out of State Travel: None.

In State Travel: Motion by Ms. Croff to approve instate travel for Crystal Tailfeathers, Glenna Hall, MASBO Budget Workshop in Missoula, MT(361.13 ea) and School Board, Corrina Guardipee-Hall, 2020-2021 "Virtual" NAFIS Spring Conference, Sponsored by IISM in Billings, MT(\$1,266.90 ea). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Brian Gallup Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Approvals: Motion by Ms. Bullshoe to approve the following items: Elementary Resolution for GO Bonds Refinance; Create New Custodian Position – BMS; BES Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$1,356.00); NEW BES Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$404.00); Napi Clubs & Sponsor 2020-2021 (\$633.00); New Napi Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$406.00); BMS Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$1,262.00). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Bridget Ekstrom, DA Davidson, announced that the district received a refinance

interest rate of 0.690000% which is more than one-half of one percent (0.50%) less than the average annual interest rate on the Refunded Bonds and a savings of 4.339637% equal to \$378,236.74. This is a record low bid and taxes will decrease. Next year the district will have a positive balance on the GO bonds. Bridget will send a summary of this information to the district to be shared with the public on Facebook. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Brian Gallup Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve the following items: Prom Proposal 2020-2021 (revised); BHS Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$3,457.00); BHS Clubs & Sponsors Goals & Objectives; NEW BHS Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$404.00); High School Resolution for GO Bonds Refinance. Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl stated she is okay with having prom and felt that prom should be for all students of BHS. Jennifer Wagner stated that last year the junior class started purchasing for prom and they had a theme; prom this year should have the same theme as they did not get to have prom last year and can use the decorations this year. There was no fund raising discussed. Ms. Wagner suggested that all classes decorate different sections of the high school because the juniors did not get to decorate last year. There will be no outside students allowed at prom. Only single tickets will be sold. Enrollment is at 252 students and WBH has 50. There will be 350 tickets (same number of students from 2 years ago) and if more students attend, more tickets can be printed. Ms. Wagner requested help with funds as there has been no fundraising due to COVID. Board members agreed by consensus to support 2020-2021 Junior/Senior Prom. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Brian Gallup Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Request Spring Sports Start 3-18-21; 2020-2021 Academic Calendar; Additional Funds to Staff Appreciation Budget 2020-2021 (\$5,000.00); Virginia Tribe, Facilitate School Board Retreat 2020-2021 (\$2,000.00); Amend Board Policies Series 1000 Board of Trustees: #1111, #1112, #1120, #1310, #1400, #1402, #1420, #1441, #1450, #1512, #1700; Remove Policy #1710 Appeals of Decisions; Sports Plex and MS Remodel Plaques (\$8,059.78); District Claims Check #432279 - #432324 (\$60,172.23); Student Activities Claims #704557 - #704563 (\$2,809.05) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl asked if BHS Weightlifting Club is the same as the skill development program bigger, faster, and stronger athletes. Everett Armstrong stated that the coaches agree to work together to produce bigger, faster, stronger athletes because our athletes were a step behind this year due to COVID. The gym will not open to play 5 on 5, but will have skill development with the first pod of 10 students to work-out and then another 10 and so on. The high school coaches are willing to volunteer; Robert Miller will have a weight lifting club. Mr. Salois stated that the academic calendar and the community calendar have different dates and after meeting with principals, they made the decision to use the community calendar date as it does not affect any contracts, or grades, or anything else. Jennifer Wagner stated that sports will start 3/15/21 and the weight room can be open for staff and students on the same date. Ms. Yellow Owl asked if the weight room should be for students, not staff. Ms. Wagner stated there are staff in the buildings now and no students yet and felt that staff could use before lunch and afterschool. Ms. Bremner asked that students be given priority because of limited numbers and felt that spring sports athletes should have access to the weight room just as the other sports did and it should be for the kids. Ms. Wagner stated that she ran both staff and students at different times and only had a few. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the district just approved staff exercise equipment. Superintendent Hall asked board to review names on the middle school & sportsplex plaques. Ms. Bremner stated that if administrators and former-different administrators are on both plaques then add Principals, Jennifer Wagner and William Huesbch. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brenda Croff, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Brian Gallup Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Personnel: None.

Legal Issues: None.

Motion by Ms. Croff to adjourn at 6:11 p.m. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. All in favor/Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____ Crystal Tailfeathers, District Clerk