

Regular Board Minutes (Draft)
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 @ 5:00PM
Administration Conference Room

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

Mr. RunningFisher called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Mr. RunningFisher reminded the trustees that there is a special board meeting at 5:00PM on January 21, 2025.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Salway Bullshoe to approve Regular Board Minutes 12/17/2024 with no changes. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Hoyt to approve the agenda with no changes. Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Community Recognition: Sandi Campbell recognized Darin Wynn and Laurie who worked with EMT classes at BHS for the last 3 years. Darin has helped in the BHS welding classes and both work in the community, and with students, and will help with the Divisional Wrestling Tournament. Darin and Laurie are a team and work as volunteers. Both are a big part of the BHS programs and work great with students and community.

Student Recognition: Sandi Campbell recognized Harmony Bragg and Azrael "Raz" Pollock, students who entered the IISM art contest (Indian Impact School of Montana) and won prizes and noted that Azrael "Raz" Pollock won second place. Radium Woolf, tacher, read a letter from IISM on the logo contest that thanked students for their art logos. Sandi Campbell, HS Principal noted that Raz used digital media to create his log. Ms. Woolf's class also sent ornaments, from their class, to decorate the Washington DC tree.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following reports: Stamiksiitsiikin Elementary-Tonia Tatsey; Browning Elementary School, Sheila Hall; Napi Elementary- Sicily Bird; Browning Middle School - Dennis Juneau; Browning High School -Sandi Campbell; Babb Elementary-Jennifer Wagner; Big Sky & Glendale Schools-Rebecca Rappold; Buffalo Hide Academy-Charlie Speicher. *No discussion.*

Superintendent Update: Ms. Rappold stated she made 2 transfers; title IV training is completed, Electric bus grant and IA Apps are complete and will be submitted 1/31/25, completed negotiations training, and will travel to speech and debate tournament in Laurel.

School Closure Report: Policy handout on how a decision is made, how it affects hours/minutes, how many closures allowed. BPS has enough hours to meet accreditation requirements and the hours closed last week do not have to be made up. The law changed on school days required and is now based on hours; K-3 720 hours, 4-11 1,080 hours and 12th grade 1,050. If BPS has to declare emergency, we will get 1-day forgiveness and OPI gives 1-day with documentation. If we close for 1 hour in the AM, it gets BPS to a place of daylight and there is better light to drive in during ground blizzards, the roads get cleared, and we can get buses out and back home. BPS transportation works to clear bus stop areas in the community so that buses can stop and turnaround; bus drivers watch to see that kids can get into their homes. BPS transportation will work with Tribal Transportation when there are weather issues. Students who cannot get to school due to weather issues, are given special circumstance absence. There are times when the Babb bus cannot run from town but the bus in Babb is able to run and when the Babb

driver cannot get to work then Babb is closed. Superintendent will meet with transportation on how they can make accommodations for this.

1st Semester Attendance and Remote Learning Information 2024-2025: Attendance should be at 95% and is checked daily. BPS total student attendance is at 77% from August 2024 to the holiday break. Remote Learning: District guidelines have been revamped and remote learning is offered for BHS and BMS only. Students have interactive videos, iPad, keyboard, headphone, jetpack, and parents have to have Internet. Remote students are counted for ANB if they are enrolled in school. Some students have been removed for lack of engagement in school work. The school counselors are responsible for these students and if they need help, they contact the school. The tribal council resolution and MOU with the district are being reviewed by the tribal lawyers.

HR Status Update: BPS position openings: Elementary: guidance counselor (interviewing), PCA-2, health enhancement, SpEd-3 & 1 (.5) SpEd, classroom teacher, grade 6-8, Assistant Cook. BHS: assistant cook, votech welding, votech auto, business education, ELA teacher, drivers' education, SpEd resource and self-contained, custodian. BHA: SpEd. Districtwide: HiSet Tutor, Supper Program Supv., SpEd Director (interviewing), SpEd Nurse, Transportation: Mechanic.

Coaches Update: Kellen Hall reported that he still needs the following coaches: baseball-1, softball-3, tennis coach combination for boys and girls, volleyball-2. BHS is hosting wrestling February 2&8, 2025. Friday is school and ½ will go to remote; security and the gate are handled. Will need scoreboard people-4 + 4 throughout the day and a score person for each of those 8. This year they will not have the other vendors due to breaker and electrical issues and not having enough room; there are also technical issues with the Go Fan program and they will use the squares and cash. Closeup sponsors/students will have concessions. BHS will sell Divisional T-shirts. They are working on medallions with the culture classes but do not have enough beads yet. NHAf is filming and BHS will have someone coming to help with this. Football, volleyball, X-Country coaches are all returning; Mr. Hall will get dates for these.

Resignations: The following resignations were accepted by the Superintendent: Melanie HeavyRunner, BHS Head Secretary, Effective 12-20-2024 and Dennis Juneau, Principal-Browning Middle School, Effective 1-17-2024. Ms. YellowOwl stated that Mr. Juneau has been in the district for a long time and thanked both for the work they did in the district

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hires pending successful background/drug tests: Arthur WestWolf, 6th Grade Volleyball Coach-BMS 2024-2025 (\$860.00) and David OldChief, 6th-Grade Volleyball Coach-BMS 2024-2025 (\$860.00). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *Board discussion:* Mr. Bremner expressed concerns with needing experienced coaches. Kellen Hall explained that two coaches with experience withdrew. Mr. Hall stated he followed the law and the district's process on hiring. Mr. Bremner expressed concern that the coaches need concussion training. Mr. Hall stated that he did meet with and discussed concerns with parents and noted that the lead coach for 8th grade has stepped in to help, and the HS head coach will be on board helping as well. Charmaine Arcand stated that there are many people who do not know these positions are available and asked if they are just posted internally; there are no advertisements and nothing on the school website. Amber Williamson also stated that these girls are looking for guidance and what is expected of them in the games. Mr. RunningFisher asked if it is possible to put on clinics for the new coaches. Mr. Hall stated it is required at the high school level but not lower grades and suggested that BPS could offer a clinic. Mr. Hall felt it would benefit our coaches and students to utilize Eekahkiimaht to help as they are doing open gym. Parents asked if they need to volunteer their time. Mr. Hall stated yes, they can volunteer and they do need background checks. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve hiring Alyssa LaRoque, Assistant Cook-BHS pending successful background check/drug test. Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following hiring pending successful background check/drug tests: Alane CalfLooking, Supper Program Supervisor 2024-2025 (\$15,893.00) and Kristy CalfRobe, Gear-Up Student Coordinator-BHS 2024-2025 (\$30,145.00). Second by Mr. Hoyt. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Out of State Travel: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve out of state travel for Board of Trustees, Rebecca Rappold, Irene Augare and 2 BHS Senior Students, Nafis Spring Conference in Washington, DC 2024-2025 (\$4,803.14 ea); Dana Bremner, Lea Whitford, NEA Minority & Women's Leadership Seattle, WA Seminar (School Related Leave Only) and Dana Bremner, Lea Whitford, NEA Minority & Women's Leadership Seminar in Georgia, Atlanta (School Related Leave Only). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

In State Travel: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve in state travel for Rebecca Rappold, State Speech & Debate in Laurel, MT 2024-2025 (\$1,087.02). Second by Mr. Bremner. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Elementary Student Attendance Agreement-East Glacier School, District #50 2024- 2025; Change BMS Home School Coordinator to 12-Month Position/Job Description 2024-2025; Waiver of 5% Penalty Fee for Early Resignation for Dennis Juneau 2024-2025 (\$2,450.34), Second by Mr. Hoyt. *Board discussion:* Ms. YellowOwl asked about the job description being changed to 12-month. Superintendent Rappold stated the request is to change the job description to a 12-month position and the added duties is the community calendar and support to the athletic department for 3 months during the summer. Ms. YellowOwl asked for clarification on duties and read the following Essential Duties and Responsibilities statement from the job description: "consults and cooperates with psychologist/counselors/nurses/principals/teachers in assessing the mental and emotional health of individual student having school difficulty and in evolving appropriate remedial plans". Ms. YellowOwl asked if this person has to have a certificate or license to do this. Superintendent Rappold stated that she is not doing assessment work on individual students, but helps with referrals to Cinnamons' program; this is a general job description for all home school coordinators, which probably needs to be updated with more accurate language to what their role is regarding student support. Ms. YellowOwl stated that she may be misreading the job description but it sounds like it is assessing students. Superintendent Rappold stated the homeschool coordinator has parent meetings with the parent/s, counselors and students on attendance. Jennifer Wagner stated that this is when the home school coordinator has meetings with them on attendance; they have a form they fill out and it could be a multitude of concerns, and the home school coordinator routes those concerns to Cinnamon, counselors, principals as they have been doing in this position. Ms. YellowOwl asked if the person transferred was a 12-month position and this position is 9-month and has to be a 12 month position. Superintendent Rappold stated, yes. Ms. YellowOwl asked if changing the person from a 9-month to 12 month is just at the superintendents' discretion or if the classified union needs to be involved. Superintendent Rappolds stated it is the boards decision when changing 9-month to 12-month (FTEs). Carlene Adamson asked about the deadline for the community calendar stating that the calendar is usually delayed due to the sports schedule which is MHSA and felt July may not be a good time depending on what is happening. Superintendent Rappold stated that the district calendar has been delayed in getting out the last couple years so the expectation is to get it done and out to the public by the first week of August. Superintendent Rappold stated that she and Kellen Hall are working on a plan for athletics and activities; they are working on implementing timelines with each sport so the dates for each sport will not have to wait for the entirety of the year to get the calendar started and this person can assist him; in addition, Kellen Hall has other duties that this person will be doing. Ms. YellowOwl confirmed again that this person is not assessing mental health. Superintendent Rappold stated she is not. Ms. YellowOwl asked if the person transferred into this position will get the same wage as a coordinator. Superintendent Rappold stated it will be the same wage and same lane as she gets now. Mr. Hoyt asked if the pay goes up or down; Superintendent Rappold stated that it stays the same. Ms. Adamson stated that she read the job description with the

person and on the last requirement she has to do vehicle maintenance which is done at transportation for school vehicles and it also states that she has to keep spare parts and supplies in the vehicle in case of problems; the job description also states that she has to lift heavy loads and felt that the job description is not correct. Mr. Bremner stated that he received a letter on a grievance and asked if there is going to be anything brought forward on it. Superintendent Rappold stated this job description for the homeschool coordinator is the same one used for every building. Harold drives that vehicle and Jolene drives for high school; any other person including this individual transferring into this position rides with that other individual, so this person may not have that responsibility. Mr. RunningFisher stated that if there is an issue with the job description and lifting, she can meet with the superintendent. Superintendent Rappold stated that a 504 can be implemented. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve BSN Quote, Purchase Football Jerseys - BHS 2024-2025 (\$12,590.76); New Club: The Lighthouse Club, Sponsors-Johanna Johnson, Sierra Pays, Todd Pays, Goals & Objectives 2024-2025 (\$516.00) Temporary Change of BHS Science Teacher Position/Contract Modification: Abigail Marshall to .531 FTE 2024-2025, Second by Mr. Evans. *Board discussion:* Ms. YellowOwl asked what the temporary change means will it go back to what it was before, after, or what. Superintendent stated it will change for the remainder of this school year then go back to what it normally is and if not, it will be brought back to the board for a change. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Mr. Bremner asked about the Lighthouse Club and read the goals and objectives and what BPS obligation is, as a school, to make space and give equal access and also noted that the handout says it is from ACLU Montana. Mr. Bremner stated that as it is presented it is not student oriented; school staff may monitor religious meetings but may not participate in any way. Superintendent Rappold stated there is student interest, the board can vote this down and come back with student initiated and have community members removed; the district has to implement in an equitable manner. Board members agreed to table to the 1/29/25 board meeting. Mr. Evans withdrew his second and Ms. YellowOwl withdrew her motion and moved to motion to approve all items except to table item b. "New Club: The Lighthouse Club, Sponsors-Johanna Johnson, Sierra Pays, Todd Pays, Goals & Objectives 2024-2025 (\$516.00)". Second by Mr. Evans. *Board discussion:* Ms. YellowOwl asked that Johanna Johnson attend the next meeting with students to explain. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Create Grounds Keeper-Maintenance Skilled Technician .5 FTE; LETRS Professional Development Stipend, Certified Teachers 2024-2025 (\$30,400.00); BPS District Committees 2024-2025 (\$61,200.00); Childcare Handbook 2024-2025; MOU Blackfeet Tribe, Commercial Lease Agreement for Culture and Hope; Renew Commercial Lease Agreement with Southern Piegan Health Center 2024-2025; District Claims Check #93125-#93182; #441979-#442055 (\$800,881.00) Dec. 2024; District Claims Check #93120-#93124; #442056-442057 (\$29,225.07) Jan 2025; Student Activities Check #706101-#706112 (\$7,575.02) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Mr. Hoyt. *Board discussion:* Ms. YellowOwl stated that she feels the job description for creating a grounds keeper does not fit the position. Superintendent Rappold stated that all maintenance positions are skilled positions. Ms. YellowOwl asked if they are going to do electrical, plumbing, and also asked if this position will be advertised. Superintendent Rappold stated yes. Mr. RunningFisher stated it will be a new position. Mr. Bremner asked about the commercial lease with the tribe and if BPS owns the property. Superintendent Rappold stated yes; Amber Williamson requested to lease the property from BPS for the Culture and Hope program. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

There were no Personnel or Legal Issues.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to adjourn at 6:30PM. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Kristy Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

_____ Sandra Rivas, District Clerk