

Regular “Virtual” Board Minutes (Draft)

Tuesday, November 24, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

Present by Virtual: Donna Yellow Owl-Chair, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor. Absent: James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Croff to approve the Special Board Minutes of 10/30/20 and Regular Board Minutes of 11/10/20 with no changes. Second by Ms. Bremner. All in favor/Motion passed.

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

Public Comment: Ms. Yellow Owl read provisions of the Montana Open Meeting Law under Section 2-3-103, MCA and Browning School Policy #1441 for Public Participation at Board Meetings. Ms. Yellow Owl noted that there would not be any discussion. Darryl Croff, Head Girls BB Coach, stated that the district has 40-50 kids traveling to Cut Bank every night to play BB at the Civic Center and noted that the kids are not wearing masks. Mr. Croff felt that the school district could control the situation of not using masks if the students were able to use the Browning Schools gymnasiums. Mr. Croff stated that BPS could have open gym with two gyms being used, one for boys and one for girls, and stated that the coaches have submitted an action plan to the Tribe and the school’s CDC teams. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the school board has not received those plans yet

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: KW Vina Recognitions and Presentations by Tonia Tatsey. 1st grade Immersion Student Video, KW Vina Teacher Video and the process of making the virtual videos for presentation for presentation.

Ms. Yellow Owl acknowledged the following building reports: Food Service/Copy Center and Warehouse-Lynne Keenan; Curriculum & Instruction-Billie Jo Juneau; Parent/Community Outreach/Childcare and FIT-Nikki Hannon; Blackfeet Language/Native American Studies-Robert Hall; GEAR UP Program-Melanie Magee; Spokinapi (Good Health) Project-Cinnamon Crawford; 21st Century Tutoring Program-Heidi Bullcalf; Technology-Everett Holm; Transportation-Teri DeRoche and Maintenance/Facilities/Security-Reid Reagan. Ms. Croff asked about new Title IX requirements. Billie Jo Juneau stated the changes are in reporting, they asked for more people to be involved with an investigation and a decision maker who will take all evidence and makes a decision. This is a more drawn out process, mostly with the investigation process. The district was given an extension on assessments until January and still needs to assess students to see where they are at since March 2020; there is no data available for students unless they are assessed. Buildings are working on plans to assess students from now until January. Another assessment usually done in December and January will need to be done. The board should be aware of a program called testmap; buildings are having trouble assessing students online/remotely and it is imperative to know where the kids are at. Superintendent Hall asked administrators to come up with a plan for every student. When the district had the hybrid model they were able to have safe testing at KW and there were no positives during this time; assessments are being done online right now. Administration will bring another assessment plan to the board. Ms. Bremner congratulated KW Vina for their creativeness working to reach their students and testing kids one on one and asked if assessments are really important in the face of life and death; the months of December and January are supposed to be very dark and this needs to be considered when making plans. Ms. Bremner asked Everett Holm if he would do a meet and greet with Siyeh.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendents Newsletter: Superintendent Hall updated board on the strategic plan and where they are at; Cultural Life Skills and Wellness Committee and Trauma Invested. BNAS is sending out a newsletter district wide; BNAS is advertising for their new person for language, and culture and history; they are doing Google meets with grants and webinars; and doing PIR now. The Wellness Committee found equipment for every department totaling \$85,000 which will be on the next agenda. Matthew Johnson is working on trauma invested

with staff and students, delivering food baskets and wellness assessments. Working on the Innovation Committee Construction is behind at BMS and hope to be back at work after Received notice of additional Governors cares Act for Technology grant (\$600,000 elementary and \$400,000 at BHS) and \$113,758 for COVID related expenses at elementary and \$46,949 at BHS. Students are doing tribal relations and resiliency with Donny Wetzel and creating a Youth Advisory Team. At the NEMASS virtual meeting received information on Rapid Testing and possibility of having free rapid testing for the district; maybe train school nurses and do testing on site; Cascade has started this process and hope to start in Browning in the new year. Jennifer Wagner stated that students who helped with the Thanksgiving baskets received community hours and will be recognized on Facebook

Hybrid Model Discussion: Superintendent Hall stated that this is only for staff and is the process used in the beginning of the school year where staff worked rotating schedules in their buildings; all was originally approved in the beginning of the school year. Superintendent Hall stated that when the tribe does not have the stay at home order in affect, she will ask to go to the Hybrid Model for staff. Dennis Juneau stated that the difference between staff and students is the distance or blended model is referring to students and the hybrid model is for staff.

Instruction Newsletter: Dennis Juneau reviewed the distance learning plans and the use of iPads by all students. Mr. Juneau stated that that all students have iPads and Jet Packs which gives the students, teachers families access to a high-quality online education and students can work with their teachers. Each campus is in the process of identifying blended learning numbers for teachers, support staff, and students; students will continue working remotely if/when BPS begins Scenario 2 for Blended Learning for remainder of school year.

Parent/Staff Survey: Parent Survey Results 127 respondents with 2/3 staying with Distance Learning and 1/3 supporting blended or traditional learning. Teaching staff survey results 135 respondents with 47 wanting to return to work and 53% want to work remotely. Support staff survey results 22 respondents with 60% wanting to return and 40% do not want to return. Mr. Juneau suggested an online academy for those students who want to stay distance learning and recommended the blended learning rotation model for those who return with 2 days on campus and 3 days distance learning. Staff did a great job with remote teacher conferences and had good attendance. Ms. Yellow Owl stated she feels the district is not ready to go to a blended model yet, and prefers to continue to be safe due to large numbers of loss in the community. Mr. Juneau will continue working with the survey for better results.

Business Office Report: Crystal St. Goddard stated that the business office staff reviewed the SOPs and she has concerns and questions to be answered before bringing to the board. An overview of the budget will be presented at the next board meeting. The business office staff is working to resolve internal issues and goals will be established that are user friendly and professional and have a welcoming atmosphere.

HR Status Update: John Salois stated that the he will bring forward a 6th grade teacher who is working on certification; working on some transfers and hope to fill other 6th grade positions by Christmas break. Mr. Salois is working with universities, OPI, etc. to fill positions that are still open.

Coaching Season Worksheet: There are no changes since hiring the Speech and Drama Coach.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to approve hiring Anita Crowshoe, Elementary Teacher 2020-2021 (\$37,879.00) pending successful background check/drug test. Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve 8.CSA-dba Sunflower Speech & Language Therapy, Laura Hutton 2020-2021 (\$22,860.00) pending successful background checks. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

In State Travel: Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to approve in state travel for Everett Armstrong, Western A Winter Scheduling Meeting in Frenchtown, MT (\$386.39). Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Approvals: Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve Student Attendance Agreement-Elementary 2020-2021. Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Bremner asked what the bus attendance agreement is for and if this is something the Board normally agrees to. Superintendent Hall stated that the board has approved these in the past and tuition and transportation is waived by the district of choice. Ms. Bremner requested more information on the agreements. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve COVID 19 Update. Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the Tribe has continued the stay at home order to December 6, 2020 and recommends BPS continue to follow the order. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she was informed staff are not receiving the bonus any longer. Superintendent Hall stated that it is the same as approved before with only essential staff being paid the bonus, i.e. custodial, secretarial, administration, professional technical, maintenance and security. Ms. Yellow Owl asked if the amount is the same. Superintendent Hall stated, yes. Ms. Yellow Owl asked the superintendent to check with payroll to be sure of who is receiving the bonus. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to approve the following items: Lester Johnson IV, Night School Teacher 2020-2021 (\$4,880.76); Lucy Muragin, Night School Teacher 2020-2021 (\$5,439.68); Create BNAS Assistant Position 11-24-20 – 9-30-21 (\$25,000.00); Create Early Childhood-Child Care Coordinator; Testing With Integrity Contract Renewal 2020; MTSBA Connect-MTSBA FY22 Dues Revenue Estimate Ballot and Quote for Transit Curtains for Buses (\$73,450.00). Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Board members agreed to support the MTSBA FY22 Dues Revenue increase which will be filed by the District Clerk following the meeting. Ms. Bremner noted that the BNAS position is grant funded to work on curriculum and will end when the grant ends. Superintendent Hall stated that Nikki Hannon has received a large grant that will take up a lot of her time and she is asking to approve the Early Childhood/Child Care Coordinator position that Ms. Hannon will oversee. This position will be required to supervise childcare workers, and apply for licensure and receive training so that the position is ready when the district is opened for the blended learning model; it will take 5 weeks to hire, plan, and be ready. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve District Claims Report #431637 - #431710 (\$1,011,324.59); Student Activities Claims #704410 - #704418 (\$5,845.35) and Additional Pays-Payroll. Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, Brian Gallup, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to adjourn at 1:27 p.m. Second by Ms. Bremner. All in favor/Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____ Stacy Edwards, District Clerk