

Special Emergency Board Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2021 @ 12:45 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

Present (via telephone): Brian Gallup-Chair, Donna Yellow Owl, Steve Conway, Rae TallWhiteman, James Evans, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, Kristy Bullshoe. Absent: Brenda Croff

Mr. Gallup called the meeting to order at 12:48 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Ms. Yellow Owl to approve the special emergency agenda. Second by Mr. Conway. All in favor/Motion passed.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Discussion/Action Regarding TIK TOK Challenge: Superintendent Hall reported that she called an emergency administrators' meeting and included Tribal Law Enforcement, Blackfeet Tribe Representation, School Principals and Emergency Coordinator, DeeAnn Kipp to discuss the latest TIKTOK Challenge that could potentially incite nationwide school violence on Friday, December 17, 2021 according to an email sent to school administrators across Montana from the School Administrators of Montana (SAM) at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021. Superintendent Hall reported that following discussion by School Administration a recommendation was to present to the board of trustees that school activities will be completed today and immediately upon school dismissal students and staff will be dismissed on Thursday, December 16th. Staff will leave when the students have left the building and Friday, December 17, 2021, school will be canceled due to the potential nationwide TIKTOK challenge that called for gun violence in schools.

Matthew Johnson verified the recommendation from MTSBA about the letter and notice to schools of the TIKTOK challenge for Friday and asked for verification about school sports and other activities being canceled Friday as well. Matthew Johnson and Dennis Juneau recommend, on Saturday, that COVID procedures for sporting events be used for home events. Ms. Yellow Owl asked that Superintendent Hall find out what the other schools in the area will be doing for school, sports, and activities tomorrow and over the weekend.

Ms. TallWhiteman asked if basketball is postponed tomorrow with Ronan. Ms. Bullshoe asked administration to clarify the position of all sporting events today and tomorrow for at home and away.

Superintendent Hall also recommended that school should continue next week to allow students to have a sense of normalcy going into the holiday break and also noted that responding to every TIKTOK challenge by canceling school could set precedence.

Mr. Gallup stated his concerns for students needing additional support if the TIKTOK challenge for school violence creates the motivation for them to act.

Superintendent Hall asked to have a special board meeting on Monday to allow for classified, professional technical, and hourly employees be paid for Friday's school closure. Ms. Yellow Owl recommended school closure for all staff (classified, certified, professional tech, 12-month employees) on Friday with no work for any staff and no school for students.

DeeAnn Kipp recommended talking to other schools about safety protocols for events on Friday and Mr. Juneau suggested that the district provide extra safety precautions at sporting events which is an easier task than providing constant security across buildings in the district if school is still in session.

John Salois reminded the board that there has been no specific threat made to the community and specifically to BPS. Mr. Salois also stated that the school administrators are willing to have school in session and have the buildings in Lock Out all day.

Ms. TallWhiteman and Ms. Yellow Owl expressed concerns about canceling school but continuing sporting events. Superintendent Hall stated it is much easier to control the safety & environment of sporting events.

Mr. Gallup called for a motion to cancel school and continue sporting events with COVID procedures at home events. Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. Second by Mr. Conway. No further discussion. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Steve Conway, James Evans, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, and Kristy Bullshoe for no school on Friday and continue sports. Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting no school and no sports, home or away.

Mr. Gallup stated there will be a special board meeting on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. to discuss pay for classified, professional technical, and hourly employees for Friday's school closure.

Motion by Mr. Conway to adjourn at 1:18 p.m. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Brian Gallup, Board Chairperson

_____ Crystal Tailfeathers, District Clerk