

Regular Board Minutes (Draft)
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.
Administration Conference Room

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

Ms. Yellow Owl called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Contract Service Agreement: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve a contract service agreement for Ross DeRoche, Provide Two Sets of Teepee Poles, Pins, Buttons for 2019-2020 Graduation Ceremonies (\$2,000.00). Second by Ms. TallWhiteman. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Mr. Evans asked if BPS will own the teepee poles, pins/buttons following the ceremony. Ms. Yellow Owl stated yes. Motion passed 7-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner voting for.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Graduation: Ms. Yellow Owl asked James McNeely about the discussion with IC Committee regarding the community parade; Ms. Yellow Owl noted that this is not a tribal parade. Mr. McNeely stated that communication is key and when the District went to the IC team, Covid numbers were still high with 6 active cases and now there are 0; there are 471 cases in Montana as of March 15 with 21 active cases today and most areas are low with major cases in Bighorn County among young people. Mr. McNeely stated that there were a lot of people talking at the meeting and the information got misconstrued. Jennifer Wagner stated that when she talked with the IC Committee she was told they cannot approve the parade. Mr. McNeely stated that the people wanted a community parade. Ms. Wagner stated she spoke with the Chief of Police, Glacier County Sheriff and EMS and was told BPS could do a parade in accordance with social distancing. Mr. McNeely extended support for graduation and stated he could have the IC Committee enforce compliance with some things, i.e. closing necessary highway, Booster Club paint windows, etc. and make a community thing. Ms. Wagner stated that everyone has to think about health and safety first and stated that she has a map in the Browning paper and a website about still needs to know where to put the jumbotron screens. Mr. McNeely stated that the IC will work with the school on all of this and stated he applauds the school's efforts in keeping with social distancing. Superintendent Hall asked if the IC told Ms. Wagner she could not have the parade. Mr. McNeely stated that he and Robert DesRosier are not certain what was said but he is pulling the minutes to see. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that it is not about "he said, she said" and stated that she does know the question was asked at the meeting. Mr. McNeely stated that there is going to be a community parade organized and wants to know if they have a part in it; it is a community thing and Mr. McNeely stated he appreciates the districts involvement and help. Superintendent Hall thanked Mr. McNeely for helping organize the parade. Ms. Bremner stated that the school has been asking to have a parade all along, and was told that the school had to be in compliance with IC and tribe, then was thrown under the bus for not scheduling a parade which was not fair to the district. Ms. Bremner stated that if Mr. McNeely is doing the parade, that is fine, but he is putting it out as only 3 people are doing the parade and if the school is doing the parade then Mr. McNeely needs to put it out there that Browning Schools is doing the parade as well. Mr. McNeely stated yes, it looks like only 3 people are doing the parade and it is a community parade, and he is organizing it with 2 others that stepped up. Mr. McNeely stated he will put it out there that the District is part of the parade and also stated that it will be better for public relations if the school board and council are involved. Ms. Bremner stated that she wants it clarified that the District asked for the parade and that they can proceed with the parade following social distancing guidelines and also stated that she does not want it to appear that the school is just now joining the parade. Mr. Gallup stated he is out of the loop; the school is following tribal regulations

and he is aware there is a stay at home order through the end of May but now is hearing that there will be a parade with some social distancing included. Ms. Yellow Owl stated, no, the school is following Ordinance 121 from the Tribe and the IC Committee is hosting and making sure people are not out of their vehicles; people will be required to follow the IC Regulations and Tribal Ordinance. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that the school had that conversation with the IC Committee and the school did ask for a parade, and now the school is being made to feel like they are not working with anyone and it makes the board look bad, like they are not trying to do anything. The school was told by the IC Committee that we could not have a parade and now Mr. McNeely is saying it is a courtesy for the school to follow the Committee recommendations, but not required, and knowing this there could have been other ideas for graduation and for a parade. This makes it look like the school didn't want any parade. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that information was relayed to a board member that BPS could have anything they wanted. Ms. Wagner and Ms. Yellow Owl tried to get the best event they could and Ms. TallWhiteman stated she wants it relayed to the public that the District did ask for a parade because it is not being portrayed as such. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that the school was told we could not do social distancing and felt that whatever was told to us should have been told to everyone. The information needs to be direct and concise and she does not want anyone thinking the school does not have its ducks in a row; the information given to the school should have been more honest. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that the Seniors did not have prom and now they do not get the graduation they want. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that Karla Bird, BCC President, is following the same process as the school. Ms. Yellow Owl encouraged everyone to keep safe and follow ordinance 121 and the IC Committee regulations. Social distancing and following tribal ordinance 121 are factors in this; this is a virus killing people (90,000 in US) and it weighs heavy in her mind in putting graduation plans together. Ms. Bullshoe stated her disappointment in graduates receiving their gifts in trash bags. A month ago, the district approached the IC Committee about procedures for the pandemic and now told the IC does not approve or disapprove the procedures. Mr. McNeely stated it all goes through Robert DesRosier and he has the authority with regard to this pandemic to make final decisions. Mr. McNeely stated that everyone is going through a lot dealing with everything in the community and felt that the solution is to reach out to the public and bridge the gap; the school district working with the community to make sure graduation is in order. Mr. McNeely stated he would have done this regardless, for the community, and he works with everyone and hopes district is not offended by this. The parade is a community effort but Mr. McNeely stated he will put a statement out there saying the district is doing the parade. Superintendent Hall stated that she did check with BPs legal council, Michael Dahlem, regarding using the funds for the senior trip later in the year and Mr. Dahlem deemed that the seniors can go ahead and plan their trip later. Ms. Bremner stated, responding to Jim McNeely, that this has nothing to do with the board getting credit or those who are taking credit for the parade, it has to do with how the kids feel and stated that she fully supports the IC Committee and doesn't want administrators getting beat up for doing things that are in support of kids or board members; everyone needs to pull together and show the kids that everyone cares about them and make it work. Mr. Evans asked what it looks like for June. Mr. McNeely stated that he does not see the Council opening in June and if the Tribe may be closed until September. Mr. McNeely stated the park service is pressuring to open on the east side but tribe does not have to; the Cut Bank Golf course is closed and will stay closed until the tribe decides to open; things may be different next week or they may go in phases as the Governor is projecting phase 2 next week. Ms. Yellow Owl suggested that Mr. McNeely get the wording so the district and tribe can put out a joint press release on the parade. Jennifer Wagner gave an update on graduation and handed out a copy of the map the graduates will follow with a list of possible graduates. Ms. Wagner stated that they will follow the tribal resolution during the presentation, maintain a safe environment giving out diplomas and they will turn their tassels and have pictures. At this time there are 95 eligible graduates with 14 of them working on courses to graduate and 81 are ready to graduate. WBH has 35 ready to graduate and 2 working on courses to graduate; diplomas are signed and stoles have been given out to honor society; top 10 students include valedictorian and salutatorian will be the first in the parade; pomp and circumstance will be playing; they will have the welcomes by board and administration; student speeches; slide show; conferring of diplomas; honor song. When all is finished it will be sent to live feed. Ms. Wagner stated that everyone will need to be masked, gloved and will have sanitizer due to crowding in the graduation area; administrators will be announcing; there will be a photographer; there is a picture area in teepee; the diploma will be in a plastic bag. Ms. Wagner is waiting for information from medical people on distance between graduates. Ms. Bremner stated that they won't be wearing masks in their vehicles. Ms. Wagner stated that she is hearing one thing and supposed to do another thing and stated she does not want to get backlash if someone at graduation is sick. Ms. Yellow Owl suggested to spray in between; there will

be deodorizer and disinfectant available. Mr. Gallup felt that Ms. Wagner should follow the advice from the medical people and be safe. Ms. Wagner stated that the board will get the backlash but she is worried about starting the virus in our community and everyone should take the stance that anyone could have the virus. Ms. Wagner stated that Robert DesRosier asked her to please encourage all to be immediate family in vehicles and wear masks and gloves. Ms. Bremner felt that with the parade, taking pictures, and the plastic bag requirements could be relaxed. Ms. Wagner stated that she will change that portion but only the student exits the vehicle. Ms. Wagner stated the reason the diploma is in the bag is because they are not in alphabetical order and staff will have to sort through them; the student can take the diploma out of the bag for their pictures. Ms. Wagner will have sanitizer available if board chooses not to wear gloves. There will be security for exiting, barricades, signs for exiting, decorations, tipis. Superintendent Hall stated that people can get out of their vehicles and take pictures without security interfering. Ms. Wagner stated that she just wants all to understand that anything can happen from doing this. Ms. Yellow Owl asked that students will be allowed 2 cars if they have divorced or separated parents. Ms. Wagner stated that she was told by the IC Committee that BPS needs permission to do this and now she is being told it is only a courtesy. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that it is changed now and this is a courtesy to graduates and parents. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that they board will courteously tell Jim McNeely how this will be handled since he has said it is a courtesy for the school to follow their regulations, the district has a right to run the graduation the way they want to run it. Ms. Wagner stated there are large outdoor banners, 2020 yard signs, senior yard signs with pictures, congratulation balloon bouquets, other decorative balloons in red, black, silver, black stage ruffle, two teepees, gifts from the school board, and boutineers from the administration, flowers and Pendleton for special guests, car decorations, décor for the back parking lot. Ms. Wagner noted that they still have a fence that needs to be covered. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the big banners are for the front and 2 for the front. They will need someone to take pictures when the student moves the tassel. Superintendent Hall stated that everything takes a tremendous amount of time and they cannot satisfy everyone; the school is doing the best that it can. There are always things that can be done and students need to be told they can take their trip when they can. Superintendent Hall thanked Ms. Wagner for all that she has done. Ms. Wagner stated that there were 7 seniors who attended some of the graduation planning meetings. Superintendent Hall thanked the school board for all their help and noted that everything would normally be done by school administration and staff but since the pandemic, everyone is working to help; graduation would normally be the priority of the whole school and staff. Ms. Bremner stated that everyone can learn a lesson from this by communicating better, use zoom, use google, etc. Ms. Bremner stated that Ms. Wagner needs a lead car, there will be fish and game, the police, honorary diploma, special guest lineup, helium tanks, etc. Ms. Rides AtTheDoor asked if anyone has reached out to Heavyns family. Ms. Bremner stated that she did. Ms. Wagner stated that a senior has offered to decorate a lead car and she is also reaching out to the family. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor asked if possible to put the suicide phone number on the side of the car to be made aware that there is somewhere to call; Ms. Wagner suggested giving the family the choice and noted that the family asked her to put a health flier out with suicide information. Superintendent Hall thanked Ms. Bremner for the information and thanked Ms. Wagner for reaching out to get everything done.

Ms. TallWhiteman stated she wants to make sure there is more than enough decorations and don't want parents to pull up and be critical. Also, she thought BPS had more than one place for pictures. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that she doesn't want anyone to be stingy with information, she wants it out there because parents still have questions. Ms. Wagner stated that she has asked for people to call her and she asked board members to send people to her so she hears from everyone, but she has not heard from anyone. Ms. Yellow Owl asked board to help deliver signs; meet at administration at noon on May 21. Ms. Bremner suggested giving a basket with food for their dinner on graduation day; They will have 132 boxes of food for the kids to take when leaving the high school; each box should have enough for 10 servings. There will be no construction on graduation day. Ms. Wagner and Everett Armstrong are coordinating work with volunteers and Ms. Yellow Owl will be in to decorate in afternoon on Tuesday; all board be there at 11:00 am.

Motion by Ms. TallWhiteman to adjourn at 1:37 p.m. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. All in favor/Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____ Stacy Edwards, District Clerk