

Special Board Agenda (Draft)

Monday, March 25, 2024

Administration Conference Room

Present: Brian Gallup-Chair, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, James Running Fisher, Michael Hoyt. Rae TallWhiteman (5:40pm).

Mr. Gallup called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the agenda with no changes. Second by Mr. Conway. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, James Running Fisher, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Public Comment: Lester Johnson, Superintendent of Schools of Glacier County. Browning and Cut Bank School Superintendents are leaving. Looking at some revisions for Home School, Non-Public Schools. Work with the schools in Glacier County. SAM, School Administrators of Montana, and schools entered into Cooperation for mental health. Took Darryl Omsberg position.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Mr. Evans to hire the following pending successful background checks/drug tests: William Lawrence, BES Custodian; Gwenalee McConnell, Napi Elementary Custodian; Andrew Whiteman, BMS Track Coach 2023-2024 (\$860.00); Wakiyawin Shawl, BMS Track Coach 2023-2024 (\$860.00); Donna Kipp BMS Softball Coach 2023-2024 (\$860.00); Masala Prellwitz, BMS Softball Coach 2023-2024 (\$894.00) and Myranda Sinclair, BMS Softball Coach 2023-2024 (\$860.00). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *Board discussion:* Mr. Evans asked how many students signed up for track. Tony Wagner stated there are 111 at BHS and he will get numbers for BMS. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, James Running Fisher, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Conway to approve hiring the following pending successful background checks/drug tests: Javier Bustos, BHS Assistant Baseball Coach 2023-2024 (\$2,096.00); Melissa Running Crane-BHS Assistant Softball Coach 2023-2024 (\$2,105.00) and Amend Criteria for 8th Grade Participation in HS Athletics. Second by Mr. Bremner. *Board discussion:* Mr. Evans asked about the softball coach. Mr. Wagner stated this is her second year as assistant and third year as a coach and noted that there are 16 girls in the program and is hoping the board approves the 8th grade participation program for softball and baseball. Mr. Bremner asked about tennis. Mr. Wagner stated he is comfortable with the numbers for that program with 5 boys and 9 girls and hopes to have the program in middle school next year; the district does not have the facility for more until the tennis courts are built. Mr. Conway agreed to using the 8th grade participation for these sports. Mr. Wagner stated it would be 6th to 8th grade for the fall sports, however if the numbers do not go up, BHS can go with one team at varsity level games. Mr. Bremner stated two BMS Softball coaches were just hired and asked if they can play for both teams. Mr. Wagner stated if they bring 4 up, they can only be at BHS level which is a MHSA Rule. Mr. Wagner noted that he will have to schedule games at Cut Bank with the middle school program so out kids can get more playing time. Lester Johnson asked if the kids can play JV to get more confidence. Mr. Wagner stated that it would kick BPS out of the Conference games and also stated that it would be a bigger issue if we have to go to JV program. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, James Running Fisher, Michael Hoyt voting for all except Mr. Evans opposed hiring Melissa Running Crane, BHS Assistant Softball Coach.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve hiring Raymond DayRider, Security Patrol Officer, pending successful background checks/drug tests. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, James Running Fisher, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Approvals: *Board discussion:* Andrew Vigeland noted that there are 7 candidates for superintendent. Mr. Vigeland noted that each interview should take 1 hour with a 15-minute break between. If the board chooses more

than 5 applicants, the terms of the contract will change. Mr. Vigeland stated that once interviews are complete for each candidate, he will go to each district to talk with other administrators, teachers, and trustees to get feedback for the board. Also, Mr. Vigeland asked the board to discuss whether they want to offer a travel reimbursement, which the board can set with a cap for the finalist, if necessary, as there are some finalists who have been asking but noted that it is not required to provide this. Ms. YellowOwl asked if there will be interviews online. Mr. Vigeland stated the board can say no online interviews however other districts have provided the option. Mr. Bremner stated he has held interviews online and they work real well and felt that the board should not limit the options. Mr. Vigeland stated that the school board is bound to meet all governmental fair practices when hiring and must consider experience, qualifications, etc. and steer away from age, health, etc. Mr. Evans asked if there are any follow-up documents to review. Mr. Vigeland stated yes, and the board should have reviewed the application information he sent to their school emails today. Mr. Gallup asked if they choose 5 candidates on the list does the board want to review and bring back 5 or have consensus to table so they have more time to review the application information. Mr. Conway stated in the past he could not participate on one of the hires as he was related. Mr. Vigeland stated that if Mr. Conway is related to an applicant within certain criteria according to Montana law, yes, it would change the options for him to vote. Mr. Vigeland noted that he is fine with the board tabling but stated that it is important for the board to make a hire right away as it is hiring season and the candidate/s may get other offers. Mr. Vigeland asked the board to decide which candidates they want to interview now and not risk a long delay. Mr. Gallup stated he has consensus to move forward with 4 candidates: Dennis Juneau, Jennifer LaFromboise-Wagner, Josh Patterson and Rebecca Rappold and called for a motion to offer the 4 candidates an interview. Motion by Ms. TallWhiteman. Second by Mr. Conway. Mr. Vigeland stated that he will reach out and notify these 4 candidates for interviews and asked the board to talk about dates for the interviews which will be lengthy and suggested to bring 2 candidates for interview on one day and 2 the next day. Mr. Evans did not agree. Mr. Gallup stated it is important to have 2 days in a row and deliberate following the second day of interviews for the finalist. Mr. Vigeland stated he will work on the interview questions and provide the information to the school board; the board can email back to him their choices or provide custom questions, and he will get the final interview list ready. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, James Running Fisher, Michael Hoyt, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to adjourn at 5:53 pm. Second by Mr. Conway. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, James Running Fisher, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

Brian Gallup, Board Chairperson

Sandra Rivas, District Clerk