

**Regular Board Minutes (Draft)**  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 @ 12:00 PM  
hosted by Browning Middle School (Noon Only)

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

Mr. RunningFisher called the meeting to order at 12:05

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following board minutes: Regular Board Minutes 11/12/24, Regular Board Minutes 11/26/24, Special Board Minutes 12/3/24 with no changes. Second by Ms. Bullshoe Salway. *No discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

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

**NIISA Conference Update 2024-2025:** The NIISA Conference in Las Vegas was discussed regarding training, Impact Aid, and presentations by students, elections and Indian country, public schools, voucher programs, continued resolution, loss of students which equals less money. Mr. Gallup felt that BPS is in a good place and stated he will be attending the Fly In (FRO) Conference in DC in February and also noted that the DOE will attack Title Programs, and if this happens, BPS will have to subsidize with Impact Aid.

**Public Comment:** Mr. RunningFisher stated that public comments is subject to the provisions of the Montana Open Law 2-3-103 and Policy #1401. Dana Bremner spoke regarding the national board she serves on and stated that she will be requesting school related leave for future travel. Ms. Bremner noted that she was denied travel to a recent conference due to standard operating procedures and the board approves this travel. Ms. Bremner stated that being on this board, is an asset to the district, and she advocates for district and it's need for Impact Aide, Indian Education, and social justice, and also noted that she is a speaker at this conference and it takes many voices to fight for rights, and people want to know what is happening in our area, for "Indian Education for All" which is a requirement in Montana education. Ms. Bremner stated that BPS is doing a lot and asked the board support for School Related leave to attend these conference meetings; *SRL is the only thing the committee does not pay for.* Superintendent Rappold stated that Ms. Bremner was denied due to standard operating procedures, which the board approves. Ms. Bremner stated that she did appeal the action. Superintendent Rappold stated that she did not receive the appeal and asked Ms. Bremner to meet with her regarding this issue.

Leah Whitford stated that she was told she cannot share information with the board and that she has gone through the proper channels and shared with the superintendent, regarding turning her travel request in late which was past practice and the new administration wants to set time limits. Ms. Whitford stated she was told that she is the only person in the district with too much travel. Ms. YellowOwl stated to the board chair, "this is an issue that should go to the administration and HR". Mr. RunningFisher chose to allow Ms. Whitford to continue. Ms. Whitford stated that the BPS Immersion Program is successful and they will be recognized on the national level and the program is available for federal funds.

**Browning Middle School Presentation by students and Dennis Juneau:** Opening flag song with Stan Whiteman and Spirit of the Buffalo Singers. BMS Student Council members were commended for giving the board and administration a tour of the Middle School. Presentations on Strategies for Success, Graduation Matters, Attendance Matters, Culture Matters, Safety Matters and Staff Matter by Dennis Juneau. Mr. Juneau also discussed the portrait of a learner and the focus on students.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

**Building Reports:** The following reports were reviewed by the board: 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; Transportation Department-Francis Bullcalf; Superintendent Update; Superintendent Evaluation Schedule (1/14/25); Office of Public Instruction-Annual Special Education Report 2024; HR Status Update and Coaching Season Update. *Discussion:* It was noted that the high school student attendance is very low.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Superintendent Update:** Ms. Rappold stated that there are no transfers; the administrators & principals have completed MTSBA Title IX Training, the NIISA Conference and FISEF training were attended by the superintendent; the 2025 Impact Aid application is in process to be submitted January 31, 2025.

**Superintendent Evaluation:** The Superintendent's evaluation will be held at the January 14, 2025 board meeting under Personnel.

**Office of Public Instruction, Annual Special Education Report 2024:** Superintendent Rappold shared with the board significant information on Native American students, across state, having increased numbers

**HR Status Update:** Beverly Sinclair reported they have a person on board for the guidance counselor position at Stamiksiitsikik Elementary and are waiting on certification. Open positions: 2 PCA, Health Enhancement Teacher, 2 SpEd Teacher, Vo-Tech Welding, Vo-Tech Auto, Business Education Teacher, 6 iTutor positions, .5FTE SpEd iTutor, Drivers Education Teacher, Custodian, HiSet Tutor, 2 Assistant Cooks, Supper Program Supervisor, SpEd Director, SpEd Nurse, Transportation Mechanic, 2 9-Mth Drivers. Ms. Sinclair stated that she is writing new job descriptions for the 2 Vocational Education positions at BHS.

**Coaching Season Update:** Beverly Sinclair stated there have been technical difficulty with Kellen Hall not being able to enter updates. Positions open: BHS-4 SB coaches, Boys and Girls Tennis coach, 2 GBB coaches, 2 VB BMS coaches, 2 Track coaches, 2 SB coaches, Napi GBB coach.

**Resignations:** The following resignations were accepted by the superintendent: Eugene Matt, Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach, Effective 11-12-2024; Masala Prellwitz, BMS Softball Coach 6th, 7th, 8th Effective 11-20-2024 and Calvin Lang, Health Enhancement Teacher-BES, Effective 12-4-2024.

### **ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Hiring:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve hiring the following pending successful background checks/drug tests: Carrie HeavyRunner, Special Education Teacher Assistant-Napi and Jessie Salway, BMS Girls Volleyball Coach 2024-2025 (\$860.00). Second by Ms. Salway Bullson. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve hiring Rachel Wells-Hoyt, Concessions Manager 2024-2025 (\$5,245.00 Pro-rated) pending successful background check/drug test. Second by Mr. Evans. *Board discussion:* Superintendent Rappold stated this position has not been active for awhile and they have just recently had a couple of applications and did interview both. The position was increased to \$9,000.00 and the concessions will be open during Wrestling Tournaments. Mr. Bremner stated that he hopes there can be improvement made in keeping the long lines down; better organization. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following hires pending successful background checks/drug tests: Cohrie Lorenzo, 9-Month Bus Driver and Duane ManyHides and 9-Month Bus Driver. Second by Mr. Gervais. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**Contract Service Agreements:** None.

**Out of State Travel:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following out of state travel: Brian Gallup, NAFIS Board of Directors Winter Meeting in San Antonio, TX 2024- 2025 (\$450.00) and Brian Gallup, NAFIS Leadership Fly-In (FRO) in Washington, DC 2024-2025 (\$2,467.66). Second by Ms. Bullshoe Salway. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**In State Travel:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following in state travel: Kari McKay, Montana Principal Conference 2024-2025 (\$852.04); Kellen Hall, Girls-Boys Basketball in Missoula, MT 2024-2025 (\$770.72); Kellen Hall, Girls-Boys Basketball in Billings, MT 2024-2025 (\$978.00) and Kellen Hall, Sandi Campbell, MHSA Annual Meeting in Billings, Montana 2023- 2024 (\$1,076.64 ea). Second by Ms. Bullshoe Salway. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

**Approvals:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following: Calvin Lang - Waiver of 8% Penalty Fee for Early Resignation - BES 2024-2025 (\$4,776.43); Contract Modification-Angela Archuleta, Master Contract 2024-2025 (\$3,303.00) and MOU Between BPS and Browning Federation of Teachers (A. Archuleta) 2024-2025. Second by Mr. Gervais. *Board discussion:* Superintendent Rappold stated the contract modification is for a teacher who requested late lane change and it does not follow the timeline of dates. Mr. Bremner asked about the penalty fee for Mr. Lang and noted he is a longtime teacher. Mr. RunningFisher stated there are some health issues that are of concern and also noted that his letter speaks highly of the community, school board, administration and students. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following: Extended Contract-Melody Small, Certified BHS Tutor for Winter Break 2024 (\$821.40); BHS Certified Teachers for After School Tutors 2024-2025 (\$13,776.00); Extracurricular Contract Amendment-Kami Wellman, FCCLA Club Sponsor 2024- 2025 (\$263.00); Accelerate MT Services Agreement for CNA Classes - BHS 2024-2025. Second by Ms. Bullshoe Salway. *Discussion:* It was noted that Ms. Small will be the winter break tutor and the second extended contract she will continue as the afterschool tutor for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year at BHS. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following items: Extended Contracts-Certified Staff, Testing & Assessment of Access 2.0 2024-2025 (\$24,957.80); Substitute Eligibility Roster 2024-2025; New MTSBA Policies, Final Reading 2024-2025; District Claims #93175-#93180 (\$6,800.88) and #441941-#441954 (\$311,863.76); Student Activities, Claims #706085-#706100 (\$18,533.29) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Mr. RunningFisher noted there were no Legal Issues.

**Personnel:** Termination Hearing: Consideration and Possible Action on Recommendation for Termination.

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

**Also Present:** Kayle Jeckyll Shelly Lavender Schwalk-Representative, Dana Bremner-Representative BFT, Carlene Adamson-Secretary.

Mr. RunningFisher read provisions of the Montana Open Meeting Law under Section 2-3-203 and noted that Ms. Jeckyll requested a closed hearing at 1:27PM.

Convened to open session at 3:03PM

Mr. RunningFisher stated that the Board has heard from both the administration and the employee in this matter and asked for a motion for the record?

Lockley Bremner motioned to reject the recommendation of the administration to terminate the employment of Kayla Jeckyll. Second by James Evans. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for. Donna YellowOwl voted opposed.

Motion by Mr. Evans to adjourn at 3:05Pm. Second by Mr. Bremner. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for. Donna YellowOwl voted opposed.

Respectfully submitted:

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Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

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James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

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Sandra Rivas, District Clerk