

Special Board Minutes (Draft)

Thursday, March 19, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

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

Ms. Yellow Owl called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

Public Comment: None

ITEMS OF ACTION

Approvals: Board Consideration of Current Circumstances Related To Covid-19 For Possible Declaration Of Emergency Closure For Unforeseen Emergency Pursuant To 20-9-801 through 20-9-806, MCA. Public participation/Board discussion: Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the Board needs 1) approve to declare emergency closure for unforeseen closure pursuant to MCA 20-9-801 through 20-9-806 to ensure that the BPS is not penalized being short of aggregate hours of instruction required under law. 2) authorize administration to provide offsite instruction to ensure that that the district can continue to serve students and satisfy the aggregate hours of instruction through distance learning. 3) approve administration to identify proficiency of students and include proficient students in the districts ANB count (20-9-311 (4). This action will ensure that the district does not have to meet aggregate hours of instruction for students who are proficient. Within the hour the Governor issued executive orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 to declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 on March 15, 2020. The orders are directing the closure of all non-residential public schools in Montana through March 27, 2020. The requirements for pupil instruction time through March 27 are waived; districts will continue to receive all state payments during this period as budgeted; schools are expected to use the 2-week period to plan and implement quality public education through remote learning; school meals; services to students with disabilities; and other services customarily provided to student in the event there are school closures beyond March 27. Districts are not required to provide pupil-instruction time during these 2-weeks through remote learning. Schools will not be required to reschedule in person pupil instruction time lost; this waiver of required in person pupil instruction hours is subject to final approval of the Governor. Districts will present an initial plan to the board to approve. Districts whose plans/reports are approved will continue to receive all state funding; if not approved the district will be required to reschedule pupil instruction time lost. Superintendent Hall will have principals' setup packets for students, setup online instruction, and prepare schedules for parents to pick up materials and online learning by Wednesday; a report will be ready for the board after Wednesday. If not approved by the Governor the school will have to makeup hours missed; payroll costs to the district are \$400,780.15 for one pay period.

Superintendent Hall asked the board to declare its own emergency and it will overlap and be concurrent with any declaration by the President; BPS policy must state "if school is closed, the district can offer distance learning". Administration is directed to identify proficiency of students and school board will approve a memorandum of agreement changing working conditions, which has been approved by the schools' lawyers, MEA/MFT, the union, etc. Ms. Yellow Owl asked if the Certified Union has seen this agreement. Julie Hayes, Union President stated that she has.

James McNeely public information officer for emergency disaster, stated that the Tribe passed resolution 181-2020; which he will email to the Superintendent Hall. IHS has been changed to work through the area office and is no longer working through tribal emergency disaster. Mr. McNeely stated that 8 tests have been sent to Helena; six are negative; two from Browning have not been received and two from Cut Bank have not been received. The tribe declared a curfew at 10 pm; casino and hotel are closed. Information will be sent out through social media

reservation wide. Tim Davis, Tribal Chairman, thanked the schools for providing over 1000 meals to the students each day to Browning, Blackfoot, Starr School, E. Glacier, Femaville, Bearpaw, etc. and also thanked the school for offering online learning and iPads for students. Everett Holm stated that Jetpacks will be available if needed, and can be used to connect to Wifi; a list has been sent to 3-Rivers. Superintendent Hall thanked Everett Holm, for getting everyone ready for students online learning; transportation for delivering meals; all volunteers for helping, and Lynne Keenan for going above and beyond. Superintendent Hall stated that so much would not have happened with Ms. Keenan's hard work. Superintendent Hall stated that teachers will be making packets and assignments will be online. Mr. McNeely stated that the National Guard has been called out now. Ms. Bremner asked to send counseling or other help information to students in case they need support; this will be for student safety and for being out of school for so long. Tim Davis offered support from the Tribes school-based clinic and counselors and also noted that walking is good, healthy support. Mr. Holm will bet a cell phone number out so that kids can call in for support from the WBH team. Mr. Davis stated that \$40 million was set aside for tribes and if the state gets this money it can help with the schools plans. Ms. Yellow Owl asked that the school continue to look through the Governors site for emergency funding. Ms. Bremner asked that teachers utilize the information that Robert Halls has been sending out for Blackfeet language; make available online videos and packets with information he has been sending out. No further discussion. Ms. Yellow Owl called for a motion to approve Consideration of Current Circumstances Related to Covid-19 For Possible Declaration of Emergency Closure For Unforeseen Emergency Pursuant To 20-9-801 through 20-9-806, MCA. Motion by Ms. Bremner. Second by Mr. Edwards. Motion passed 6-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Rae TallWhiteman, James Evans voting for.

Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the school board will have the March 25 board meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Evans to adjourn at 5:27 p.m. Second by Ms. Bullshoe. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____Stacy Edwards, District Clerk