

Regular Board Minutes (Draft)
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.
Administration Conference Room

Present: Brian Gallup-Chair, Wendy Bremner, James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman.

Mr. Gallup called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the Regular Board Minutes 2/27/19; Special Board Minutes of 3/5/19 and Termination Hearing with no changes. Second by Ms. Bullshoe. Motion passed.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the agenda with the following change: move all recognitions to the 3/27/19 board meeting. Second by Mr. Edwards. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: Mr. Gallup acknowledged the following building reports: KW Vina-Tonia Tatsey, Browning Elementary-Jennifer Wagner, Napi Elementary-Sicily Bird, Browning Middle School-Dennis Juneau, Browning High School-Billie Jo Juneau, Babb Elementary-Kari McKay, Big Sky/Glendale-Natasha Siliezar, Alternative School-Matthew Johnson, Special Education-Jill Mattingly. Discussion: Mr. Evans stated that attendance for the month of February and noted that kids are moving out of tier 3 in a positive direction. No further discussion.

Superintendent's Report

Explore Options for District Funds: Mike DesRosier, Chair of Glacier County Commissioners, stated that the primary reason for the commissioners being at this meeting is because there is a lot of talk that the county has been deliberately taking money from school districts to make ends meet. Mr. DesRosier stated that he is not aware of this happening. Also attending from the County: Tom McKay-Vice Chair, John Overcast-Trustee, Chancy Kittson-CFO, Don Wilson-Treasurer. Mr. DesRosier stated that the County is researching some financial issues and are working on these issues from several years back where previous employees embezzled several hundred thousand dollars which has left the county in financial debt. There was no media on any of these embezzling incidents, or those commissioners who were in place, when these occurred; the investigations on these incidents were not thorough, and the county had a number of treasurers that were interim, or acting, during this time. The county has been struggling to get things in order and has paid an accountant a large amount to straighten the books out, and balance, and they are still finding shortfalls. The county has worked with DOA, DOJ, and OPI and continue to have on-going problems and unresolved issues. Don Wilson was recently elected as Treasurer and has had a mess dumped in his lap, as well as others, that have had to deal with the same issues. The commissioners have been mercilessly attacked by the local media and another group in Glacier County; the Commissioners and other staff have had to deal with a number of issues because of grievances and law suits filed against them from the same group claiming that the commissioners are misappropriating funds and now stealing money from schools, etc. Mr. DesRosier stated that 5 years ago this group filed a lawsuit against the Commissioners that went through district court and was appealed to supreme court where it was dismissed; the same group was allowed to again appeal and it was dismissed. Now this group has amended the complaint on basically the same issues regarding the county using school funds. The commission is working to recoup funds from the state and other private entities and have a lot of outstanding revenues expected. Brian Gallup stated that it took legislation to allow school districts to take their money out of the county and manage on their own and this discussion has been going on back and forth but it was never based on the county stealing school money. Mr. Gallup stated that the DOJ got involved in the Cut Bank school lawsuit and they have talked with Superintendent Hall and Stacy Edwards and East Glacier. Mr. Gallup also stated that OPI sent a letter addressed to him advising School District 9 to pull their money from the county and stated he did not respond to the OPI letter but informed the school board on this issue which is borderline accusing the county of stealing school money; OPI has stated concern that

if the county goes down the school is out. However, District 9 closed out last years' audit, and Mr. Gallup stated that the school district has been told that the school's money is there. Mr. Gallup also stated that people have been saying that Browning schools has been paying the wages in Glacier County and in the audit there is no proof that this is happening. Superintendent Hall stated that no one has told Browning schools to change their bank, but it has been suggested by OPI. Superintendent Hall also stated that Browning school does not want to be in the middle of that mess. Superintendent hall expressed concern when Don Wilson told her and Stacy Edwards that Browning schools had used county money then told her to let him know when the district needed any funds. Don Wilson stated that it bothers him that the local paper twists and manipulates the news and is allowed to continue selling a paper. Also Don Wilson stated that when he was elected as Treasurer, the numbers were not matching and the transfers the school made stood out from fund to fund and he thought, this is where the problem is. Mr. Wilson stated he met with Superintendent Hall, Stacy Edwards, and Kara from OPI, and they all disagreed with him after which he reviewed his information again and found his information was inaccurate and apologized to Browning schools. Mr. Wilson stated a lot of the schools' money is invested, and the State has extremely strict rules on investments; they have zero risk tolerance. It is not the best returns for the schools but their money is safe, and it is the school's money. Mr. Wilson stated that when Superintendent Hall asked him to give BPS notice on use of funds, he asked for advance notice because these funds are not one big pot but several smaller pots maturing at different times. Mr. Wilson stated that they are bound by law to leave the money in the investment until it returns and having notice on using these funds or an idea of how much will be needed, the investment can be for a shorter period of time. Also, Mr. Wilson asked for Superintendent Hall, Stacy Edwards, and the board chair or a trustee to be members on the investment board; the school district can help reinvest and set timeframes. Mr. Wilson stated that the Treasurer does not deal with county spending, he only collects taxes from OPI and Federal Government that is passed onto the schools. Mr. Wilson stated that he does understand governmental accounting and he has tried to help resolve some of the mysteries with the county's funds and he is tracking to see where those funds went, and noted that the county did have an unethical department head that overspent by thousands of dollars. Mr. Wilson stated that he wants to make sure the books are clean by the end of this fiscal year and he has hired another person to take on this project where they will go through past years tracing back, step by step, what has taken place. Mr. DesRosier clarified that the past sheriff and a school spent way over their budgets and the county had to help with both of these and EMS overspent by a huge amount. Mr. DesRosier also noted that property taxes have never been raised by the county, it goes up and down depending on what the state requires of the county. When a school pulls out of the county, they know what money belongs to the school. Cut Bank pulled their funds out when the county was in a mess with the past treasurer; doing this gives the school more responsibility and a lot more work, they had to hire more people. Cut Bank is struggling and has threatened to sue the county because of a contract they had written with the past treasurer that benefitted their school. Mr. DesRosier stated that DOJ was in the Treasurers' office and have said they did a forensic audit on the county and there was no money missing or money spent illegally. There has been some embezzlement that was charged recently, i.e. Cut Bank Fire Chief and the Director at the Senior Center that have never been published in the local paper and the county is now in a lawsuit over protested taxes where Cut Bank is saying the county is spending contested taxes. Cut Bank individuals have created legislation called the Glacier County Hammer Bill and have tried to create more legislation this year in the same line but other counties have seen how it affects their counties and are not supportive. Ms. Yellow Owl thanked the commissioners and Don Wilson for explaining what has been going on and asked the county to understand that when OPI sends a letter to pull their money out of the county, and Mr. Wilson accuses the school of spending county money in error, the board will have concerns. Mr. Wilson stated that the county has not spent any of the school's money and the county does have funds to finish their fiscal year. The negative balances in the paper are a result of the cash report which does not state that cash amount budgeted or receivables. The county has PILT which is similar to Impact Aid and is used to zero negative balances at the end of the fiscal year, but for unknown reasons those funds were listed as loans in the reports, i.e. a building is listed showing \$1.6 million in the red but the county owes \$0 and it has been carried forward on the reports showing that the county owes money for this building. Mr. Wilson is working with DOR and OPI on the proper accounting method to clear these issues up. Mr. Wilson invited school board to look at the county books at any time. Superintendent Hall stated that at the end of this month the district will hire a general construction manager for the \$19 million in projects that are scheduled to be done by the fall of 2020. The district has bonded \$4 million and will need the other \$15 million. Mr. DesRosier stated that the county has done grants with an

engineering firm in the past and offered support, or to partner, with the school for the sports complex and also noted that the county has had success working with other entities, i.e. BCC building, walking paths, etc. Mr. Gallup stated that the obligation bond was taken before getting to the county, BPS went to the voter for Impact Aid bond and is nontaxed and the excess cash is \$15 million and noted that the school will most likely need help with the sports complex after it is built. Mr. Gallup stated that he trusts the county and it is not the intent of District 9 to pull their money unless they have to; the board can see that things are improving. Mr. Running Fisher stated that he appreciates the county coming in to meet with the board and also stated that since the Glacier County Commissioners have been from Browning, there are a lot more locals working in the courthouse; this is something that was not heard of before and it should have taken place 50 years ago. Mr. Running Fisher stated concern because of the negativity in the Cut Bank and Browning papers; the paper says the county is doing nothing right. Mr. Running Fisher told the Commissioners to keep up the hard work and work together. Mr. Evans asked how much time is spent investing school's money. Mr. Wilson stated that he spends very little time on investments; he cannot do much except roll them over into additional investments, however he spends a lot of time transferring money from OPI or other entities to the schools. Mr. Wilson stated that the county doesn't make money working with school money. Mr. Evans asked why the county would want that headache if they don't make anything. Mike DesRosier stated that it has to do with the valuation of the county; the state rates the county value, i.e. mills, levies, taxes, etc. and it does help the county for schools to go through the county. Mr. DesRosier stated that the Commissioners have no authority, no power. Mr. Gallup stated the state won't let the county's get rid of the schools; and county's do not have a choice in the matter and schools run like counties. Mr. Wilson stated that he has spent lot of time working with OPI showing them records and making sure that the schools' money is intact and stated he is surprised that they came up with the solution for the school to move their money. Mr. Gallup stated that if DOJ turns up with a finding he will bring the information to the board to make a decision. Mr. Gallup stated that we need the county and school in it together, striving for healthy schools, county, and kids. Mr. Gallup stated that they will discuss the investment board committee at the next meeting. Mr. Running Fisher commended the commissioners for their hard work, and stated that they are appreciated. Mr. Gallup stated that the board will talk with the county on grants that could benefit the school and the sports complex. John Overcast stated that he is the new kid on the block and he has heard all the negativity from the press before being elected and he has seen a whole new light on the subject since being on the board of commissioners. Mike DesRosier stated that Cut Bank is a good community but there are some that don't like its local government and they have made quite a bit of problems for them. Mr. Gallup stated that we all need to keep open communications with each other and work together. No further discussion.

Break at 6:25 p.m.

Reconvene at 6:39 p.m.

Superintendent Hall stated that her and Stacy Edwards will ask to meet with the tribe and asked the board to attend the meeting to discuss Tero tax for both projects \$1.6 million. Mr. Edwards suggested asking to meet on a Wednesday in special session. All Board agreed. Mr. Running Fisher asked the administration to write up a plan to submit and have a spokesman and get right to the point of discussion. Mr. Gallup stated that the school has a tribal resolution right now that says BPS will not pay Tero tax. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that this resolution was only for the one project and the tribe also wrote resolution where BPS paid Tero tax to the tribe and the tribe was supposed to pay it back to the school. Mr. Gallup stated that the contractor does not pay the Tero taxes, the school pays it and suggested asking for a reduced tax amount. Mr. Gallup noted that the next facilities meeting is 3/21/19 at 5:00 p.m. and the committee will interview for the general contractor's position. No further discussion.

HR Status Update: The supper program supervisors are being recommended at next board meeting. No other discussion.

Coach Worksheet 2018-2019 to 2019-2020: No discussion.

Resignations: Violet Sinclair Boggs, Golf Coach-BMS Effective 3/4/2019.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion Mr. Evans to approve Shaylea Tatsey, Track Coach-BMS 2018-2019 (\$860.00) pending successful background/drug tests. Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed 8-0 with Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner, James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve the following hiring pending successful background/drug tests: Megan Adams, Assistant Track Coach-BHS 2018-2019 (\$2,064.00); Ansel Traynor, Head Football Coach 2019-2020 (\$3,096.00) and Myndi Gallagher Horn, Student Activities Secretary. Second by Mr. Running Fisher. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting for. James Running Fisher abstained.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve hiring Jaime Lee BullCalf, Bus Driver – Transportation pending successful background/drug test. Second by Mr. Running Fisher. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Bremner asked if all bus driver positions have been filled. John Salois stated that they are very close to having all driving positions filled. No further discussion. Motion passed 8-0 with Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner, James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: None.

Out of State Travel: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve out of state travel for I Teach-Professional Development in Las Vegas, NV (\$55,806.13) for Corrina Guardipee, Jeri Matt. KW/VC: Rebecca Rappold, Cheri Show, Ruth Shea, Sheila Grady, Sandi Campbell, Nicole Whitney. BES: Jennifer Wagner, Arlene Wippert, Sheila Hall, Melissa Henderson. NAPI: Sicily Bird, Edith Wagner, Genevieve Brag-Wilson, Anna Armstrong, Andrea Sangray. Second by Ms. Yellow Owl. No public participation. Board discussion: Superintendent Hall noted that this training is a requirement in the MCLP grant for Instruction coaches and principals. The grant stipulates that the principal and the SLT from each building will attend. Superintendent Hall stated that she told Jeri Matt to make sure that other teachers are included from each building. This travel does not include high school and middle school; these staff travel through AVID and AVID attendees will be decided by principals. No further discussion. Motion passed 8-0 with Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner, James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

In State Travel: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve in state travel for Everett Holm, META Board of Directors conference in Helena, MT (\$579.66) and Stacy Edwards, MASBO Budget Workshop in Great Falls, MT (\$371.25). Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed 8-0 with Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner, James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Approval: Motion by Mr. Evans to Amend Stipend for Danielle Augare, 2018-2019 Middle School Track Coach to \$860.00 and Amend Stipend for David Ricci, 2018-2019 Middle School Softball Coach to \$860.00. Second by Mr. Edwards. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed 8-0 with Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner, James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to Rescind Resignation for Tony Wagner. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following: Substitute Eligibility List 2018-2019; 2019-2020 Academic Calendar; Leavitt Great West Insurance Services; Tribal Resolution to Apply for Funding from the Shakopee Tribe; Resolution for Intent to Impose Increase in Levies; District Claims Check #420305-420445 (\$197,146.96); District Claims Check #420446 (\$820.00); Student Activities Claims Check #703695-#703712 (\$13,923.94) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Ms. Yellow Owl. No public participation. Board discussion: Superintendent stated that the district is using Payne West as the insurance broker at this time and is requesting to change to

Leavitt Insurance. There is no additional charge and with Leavitt the district only has one vendor to pay. Leavitt will work to find a less expensive insurance for the district. Stacy Edwards stated that Leavitt is the districts property insurance carrier. Mr. Evans asked about the Resolution for Intent to Impose Increase in Levies. Ms. Edwards stated that it is required by law to pass the levy each year. Motion passed 8-0 with Brian Gallup, Wendy Bremner, James Running Fisher, James Evans, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Donna Yellow Owl, Rae TallWhiteman voting for all, and Mr. Evans voting opposed to the Resolution for Intent to Impose Increase in Levies.

There was no Personnel or Legal.

Motion by Mr. Running Fisher to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Second by Mr. Ewdwards. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Brian Gallup, Board Chairperson

_____ Stacy Edwards, District Clerk