

Special “Virtual” Board Minutes (Draft)

Thursday, April 8, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

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

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

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

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF ACTION - Approvals

Emergency Discussion - Request to Waive Student Handbook Requirements Regarding Dances: Jennifer Wagner stated that in the activities handbook, policy #3520 includes “Attendance at concerts, dances, sporting events, etc. sponsored by the school”. The high school administration reviewed the criteria, which states “a student must be regularly enrolled in school, must be in regular attendance from the enrollment date, and receiving a passing grade in at least twenty periods of prepared class work, or its equivalent, etc.”. The criteria states “actively attending school” and Ms. Wagner requested that the board waive this portion of policy, this one time only. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the school board is the policy maker and because the board has approved the 2020-2021 Activities Handbook which effects eligibility of students to attend dances, asked the board to waive line 17&18 in policy #3520 which affects attendance at concerts, dances, sporting events, etc. sponsored by the school, for the purpose of attending Prom, this one time only. Mr. Gallup made the motion to waive this portion of policy, one time only, for the 2020-2021 Prom. Second by Mr. Evans. *Public participation/Board discussion:* Ms. Wagner stated that the high school has 324 F’s and students are aware that Friday, in person or virtual, those kids who need additional help or support can contact their teachers. Mr. Gallup stated that although these are different times felt that all students should be actively engaged or at least participating in school online or in person. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor suggested actively at least 3-days and have some kind of percentage. Mr. Evans supported some type of percentage in their classes. Ms. Bremner felt it is too late to draw a line now and asked the high school how they will measure it in such a short amount of time. Ms. TallWhiteman felt that actively engaged is too broad and should have been brought forward a while ago; all should know, for the future, the goal is to graduate students and get them passing and asked how this would be policed now when it is so close to the event. Mr. Gallup stated that BPS has enrolled students who may not be taking part in school, if they have not been dropped then they are in school, and suggested adding some type of percentage. Ms. Bremner stated that all grades are not entered by their teachers regularly and there are many F’s. Ms. Wagner stated that the high school has been and still is reaching out to students by mail, email, Facebook, etc. and have notified senior students about upcoming events, i.e. prom, scholarships, banquet, and more. Board members agreed that if a student is enrolled as of this meeting, they can go to prom, but tonight is the deadline. Ms. TallWhiteman felt that Principal Wagner should have the discretion to decide on student attendance as there are kids who transferred back to Browning just to go to prom and actively attending is enrolling Thursday, then going to prom and sign on to class tomorrow then not attend class. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that kids should just participate in classes, as it is important; you can see change in students being involved as if they see a light at end of the tunnel. No further discussion. Motion passed with Donna

Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Universal Athletic Quotes-Staff Appreciation 2021: Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. Second by Mr. Evans. *Public participation/Board discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl stated there are four quotes for different items on the agenda and asked the board what they would like to go with. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor stated she would like something new and fresh and suggested tote bags because more teachers are looking for something new and maybe binders or notebooks, etc. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor stated she asked some staff and these are things they would like and she feels the board should do more this year because staff have worked really hard. Mr. Evans suggested tote bags and a dinner. Ms. Yellow Owl stated there will be a dinner but needs to know what items the board wants. Ms. Croff suggested giving the t-shirts and tote bags and if there is extra money, get more door prizes. Ms. TallWhiteman stated everyone is saying they don't want this or that, but most staff do wear what they get and felt that staff deserve to feel more special and suggested t-shirt, hooded sweater or ¼ zip. Ms. TallWhiteman stated there was no travel used out of the board's budget all year and suggested using that money for staff appreciation rather than letting it go back into the general fund. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that the board is grasping for straws and they should not differentiate, give staff both dinner and a tote/sweater, etc. Ms. TallWhiteman asked what is the district going to do with the money if it is not used; it just goes into the general fund. Mr. Gallup stated that the board approved a \$10,000.00 budget last fall for staff appreciation then approved extra \$5,000.00 but did not approve to keep adding and increasing the amount. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that whatever the board decides tonight is what it will be. The meal will be an estimated amount and will be catered, there will be decorations, lanyards, gift cards; Sam's club is listed for \$1,000.00 but may not spend all of it. Ms. Yellow Owl and Ms. TallWhiteman asked for the travel money designated for their travel to be transferred to staff appreciation. Ms. Bremner stated that this makes her uncomfortable as she has been accused of trying to get people to vote for them by doing this, and there is a legal opinion out. All board members agreed that it has been a hard year and they want to show staff their appreciated. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she can remove the motions and when the full amount comes before the board, they can see it. Ms. TallWhiteman again stated that she feels the board is grasping for straws, and if the board fights among themselves, it is sad and it is lateral oppressive; there is manipulation that has been like this for years and now the board is questioning what they are doing and stated "were that shallow to say that some are trying to get votes off a t-shirt or tote bag". Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she has done staff appreciation for 20 years and some of the board helps and some only help at last minute but this is the first year she has had to bring this to be approved and suggested to table the decision until Tuesday. Superintendent Hall offered clarification to the board that the money not spent at the end of the school year goes back into Reserves, it does not go to the general fund. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor stated that the board does need to be aware of the money and spending and stated it is not about not wanting or doing. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she wanted the dinner to be catered, and have Pendleton bags and requested to withdraw the motions and table the issue until next Tuesdays' meeting. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that she does not want to table this and stated it is pretty sad that the board can't move on and get going and noted that they put a lot of work into this, and stated to the board, you guys plan it. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor and Mr. Evans withdrew their motions and Mr. Evans motioned to table Universal Athletic Quotes/Staff Appreciation 2021 until the regular board meeting of 4/13/21. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. Motion passed to table with Donna Yellow Owl, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, Brenda Croff, Wendy Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Second by Mr. RidesAtTheDoor. All in favor/Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____ Crystal Tailfeathers, District Clerk