

Regular Board Minutes (Draft)

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 @ 12:00PM

Napi Elementary Library (Reconvene @ 5:00PM Administration Conference Room)

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

Mr. RunningFisher called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the Regular Board Minutes of 2/11/25 with no changes. Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. Salway Bullshoe to approve the agenda removing Matthew Augare, Assistant Softball Coach-BHS 2024-2025. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Community Recognition: Superintendent Rappold recognized Tony Wagner for the work he did to bring the wrestling tournament to Browning. Mr. RunningFisher and board thanked Mr. Wagner for all his work.

Staff Recognition: Superintendent Rappold recognized Kellen Hall, BPS Athletic Director, Reid Reagan, Sandi Campbell, Cinnamon Salway, Sandra Rivas, Heidi Bullcalf and Frances Bullcalf for all their work preparing and working the wrestling tournament. Mr. Hall planned all details of the tournament, before and after. Mr. Gallup stated that many people were impressed with the outstanding event. Mr. RunningFisher stated everything went very smoothly at the wrestling tournament; great hospitality was offered to all students, teams, and community and Mr. Hall did an excellent job speaking to the championship crowd; he was very impressive. Mr. RunningFisher stated that “this is a year to remember”.

Student Recognition: Kellen Hall commended Talvin Champ stating there were many compliments from coaches and MHSA for an outstanding job with the music during the tournament. Talvin does great with sound and he is creative and artistic; he sets the tone and the atmosphere to every event. Mr. Hall thanked Talvin and honored him for sharing his vibe with everyone. Ray Champ stated that the school and community are very powerful when they all come together for the right things, and noted that the coach and assistant coach from Columbia Falls bought \$800 of Rodeo Club tickets for the banquet and they were very impressed with events of the tournament. Mr. RunningFisher thanked Mr. Champ for an excellent job of announcing the tournament and commended Kellen Hall and his team for doing a great job bringing all this together.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following reports for Child Nutrition-Copy Center-Warehouse-Dalaina Grant; Curriculum and Instruction-Rebecca Rappold; Special Education Report-Rebecca Rappold; Parent, Community Outreach/ FIT-Irene Augare; Childcare Department-Rose Racine; Blackfeet Language-Native American Studies-Robert Hall; Prevention & Wellness Department-Cinnamon Salway; Student Activities - Heidi Bullcalf; Athletic Department-Kellen Hall; Technology Department-Travis Miller; Transportation Department-Francis Bullcalf; Maintenance/Facilities/Security/Construction-Reid Reagan. *Board discussion:* Kellen Hall stated that BHS will host the girls play-in games. Mr. Bremner stated that BPS is losing 2 VB coaches because of low pay and felt it would be nice to pay the coaches a better rate. Mr. Bremner stated BPS coaches pay is very low compared to other schools, and suggested that the board look at this. Mr. Hall stated that BPS is comparable to a Class C school in some areas of pay.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Update: Superintendent Rappold stated she has a brief update for board review in the packet.

4-Day School Week: Superintendent Rappold stated that certified staff asked for a 4-day school week. Attached is a final report from UofM. BPS did poll principals and directors and had input on their questions and concerns and developed a 4-day week survey for staff. Because board policy #2100 indicates that BPS has 180 school days, it is the board who will decide if BPS would go to a 4-day week and policy would need to reflect the change. Superintendent Rappold asked the board for feedback on bringing a survey to the public. Mr. Bremner wanted to hear from certified and classified staff. Mr. Gallup agreed, stating the more information the better. Mr. Gallup also noted that changing to 4-days will not save the district money; the teachers love it but classified does not support it; Classified staff is the most needed and they will be down to 32 hours per week; BPS cannot pay people not to work. Mr. RunningFisher asked if BPS would still feed kids. Superintendent Rappold stated that BPS would have to hire staff to work on the 5th day (Friday); it could work to use classified staff but would be extra pay for any salaried employees. Superintendent Rappold stated that she has reached out to other schools and there is a lot of positive input and some drawbacks. Ms. Salway Bullshoe asked for information from other reservation schools because BPS community is very unique with high poverty, neglect, and child abuse. Mr. Bremner stated that Great Falls said due to sickness going around they are down to 95% attendance which is very bad for them and suggested to find out what are they doing to have such high attendance and what is BPS not doing. Mr. Hoyt asked if going to 4 days would bring attendance up. Mr. Gallup stated that East Glacier has a modified schedule with every third Friday off and had expected staff attendance to change but it did not and there are issues with students social emotional, no food and homelessness on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the data on learning went down; we are sending kids home to be raised by kid. Mr. Gallup doesn't feel a 4-day school in the state can show any student achievement increase. Other issues discussed: data to back information on the effects of social emotional, no food, homelessness; did homelessness increase, or decrease; meals for field trips on Friday; boarding school impact with federal cuts and, effect of longer days during winter months. Superintendent Rappold stated she will get more information from certified, classified, professional technical and will also reach out to other reservation communities. Superintendent Rappold reminded the board that work on a noninstructional day will cost more and teachers cannot negotiate for a 4-day work week, it would be policy change, and the board decides the outcome. Irene Augare stated that homeless youth are not a new issue and BPS will see multiple cuts in PCOP. Ms. Augare also felt that kids have a hard time meeting 5 days and 4 days would be a day less to stress about. PCOP has food pantries and all kids have access for food insecurity; there are supports in place for this year but a lot of it is grant funded. Rose Racine stated that Fort Belknap changed and went back to 5 days. Dana Bremner asked how Cut Bank was able to change to 4-days. Superintendent Rappold stated that Cut Bank reduced staff preparation and staff lunches. Mr. Evans suggested to look at the model used for Fridays last year, as makeup days, during the school year and stated that all staff worked and student grades went up. Superintendent Rappold stated that the community survey and policy change can be brought back as an action item March 26. Mr. RunningFisher suggested doing the public survey and bring it back on March 26.

BPS Aggregate School Hours: Superintendent Rappold stated that with late starts during bad weather, BPS doing good with instructional hours remaining. BES and Stamiksiitsiitskin only need 720 hours and grades 4-11 need 1080 hours. They follow our school day because of our transportation and it puts them over their accreditation hours.

2025 Wrestling Tournament Financial Update: Sandra Rivas has a report in the packet for the board to review.

NAFIS Leadership Fly-In Update: Mr. Gallup attended the Fly-In meeting in Washington, DC. Mr. Gallup stayed an extra day to work with Montana congressional because Sheehy and Downing refuse to take calls or make appointments. BPS is the largest recipient of Impact Aid at \$14 million which is based on taxes. Mr. Gallup met with DOE and it looks very bleak and Sheehy is a strong advocate of getting rid of DOE; his loyalty is to Trump. They are going after all title programs. House passed a bill on a continuing resolution and payments will be 2-years out. There is no way they will pass the budget by the 14th. Mr. Gallup met with Downing's staffer and was able to

setup a meeting on Tuesday, but not on Friday, March 7 with the board. Mr. Gallup asked Zinke to help bring Downing on Board for IA. BPS is looking at getting \$7 million this year with a 6% cut off \$14 million.

Monthly Budget Update: Gwyn Andersen stated the reports list all funds and budget amounts and reviewed what has been spent and the balances; 60 % of money left and 42% money left; general fund has 50% remaining and 3 months of payroll due to teacher contracts and 50% will leave us where we need to be. Transportation is good. Retirement is budgeted very close; there is no adult ed program and only \$18,000 left in Technology; Flex Fund \$400,000 and Building Reserve \$600,000 can be used for some facility issues that were not planned for, i.e. water breaks in radiator units; replacing internal parts, etc. budgeted funds are good; Food service has 42% of year left and only 36% of money; all overages will come out of Impact Aid. Federal programs are good. Rental fund is good and must be spent by end of year; Impact Aid is a concern and BPS will only receive \$8.5 million; there was one year left in IA and board agreed to use \$2.1 million to finish construction with a \$1 million budget short fall and half million to cover wage increases; there could be problems on HS side. General fund has half million and will be used to cover increase of \$200,000 for salary increases. BPS savings account will be depleted. Going into next school year will only have current years IA and no place to tap into. BPS will be in line for funding under the Stars Act. BPS goal is to be very frugal and only purchase what is needed to have funds carry over into new year. BPS only got half of their funds early and some are already obligated and BPS hasn't received funds and might be in some trouble with HS side. Student activities is run through a separate bank account in Browning and the funds belong to the clubs; will balance these funds at end of year. Student activities funds cannot be used by the district. Coaching, construction, student activities are out of IA. HS general fund supports all high school administrators; Elementary general fund is teacher assistants, custodial, teachers. Ms. Andersen stated schools are closer to 90% spent in wages; can't get 3 years on high school side. Mr. Evans asked if there is a way to leverage rental income to get teacher housing. Ms. Andersen stated the funds have to be spent down to \$10,000. Mr. Evans suggested financing a house each year and pay for it. Ms. Andersen stated schools cannot borrow from anyone except the board of investments, BPS could use the annual rental collection to repay the loan; use it to work on the rentals or use in facilities department. Mr. Gallup stated the new law will allow us re-introduce the construction bill in the new Congress. Ms. Andersen stated that one year of impact aid in savings is good. Mr. Bremner asked how we can pay coaches more money with the cuts. Ms. Andersen suggested an increase on gate; check and see what other schools are charging at the gate and do moderate increases in this area. Ms. Andersen stated the district cannot use student's money but the gates and concessions belong to the district; use concessions for athletics, for raises, and don't let students use it. Kellen Hall stated that all schools agree on the same concession prices. Sandra Rivas will bring a report every month after this to see how things are. Mr. Bremner asked about the school audit. Superintendent Rappold stated that they do not have the report completed yet, maybe by the end of this month.

HR Status Update: BHS: 2-Voc Ed, Bus. Ed, Drivers Ed, PCOP-Hi-Set, 3 Assistant Cooks, SpEd Nurse, Transportation 9-month (1) and 12-month driver (1).

Coaching Season Update: BHS: 2-Assistant SB coaches-BHS, 1-Girls high school Tennis coach, 1-Boys high school Tennis coach, 1-high school Baseball coach, Concession sponsor. BMS: 2 track coaches, 2 SB coaches. Napi 2 VB coaches, 2 SB coaches, 3 Track coaches.

Resignations: The following resignations were accepted by Superintendent Rappold: Taysia Andrews, Assistant cook, BMS, Effective 2-19-2025 and Brooke RunningCrane, Assistant Cook-BHS, Effective 2-11-2025.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve hiring Marlin Wippert, BMS Wrestling Coach 2024-2025 (\$860.00) pending successful background checks/drug tests. Second by Mr. Hoyt. *Board discussion:* Mr. Evans asked if there are enough coaches for BMS. Kellen Hall stated they have 95 boys and girls out for wrestling and if they are complying at BMS level, they are to be separated. BMS has an Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach donating time and still need one at the high school level. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, 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: Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, Assistant Softball Coach 2024-2025 (\$2,436.00) and Iliff Scott Kipp, Jr., Assistant Baseball Coach 2024-2025 (\$2,096.00). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve hiring Turley Belinda, Special Services Director 2024-2025 (\$32,442.00 pro-rated) pending successful background checks/drug tests. Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. *Board discussion:* Ms. Turley has good references and she bought a house in Cut Bank and will rent the Napi apartment until her house is ready to move into. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve a contract service agreement for Sharon Tucker, DeLaSalle Math Tutor SY 2024-2025 (\$11,760.00) pending successful background check. Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve contract service agreements for Genevieve Goudy, Building-Department Mentor 2024-2025 (\$1,500.00) and Robert Miller and Leo Bullchild, Wellness Day and Summer Wellness Activities 2024-25 & 2025-26 (\$3,360.00 ea). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Out of State Travel: Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve out of state travel for Robert Hall, Peigan Board of Education Language Symposium in Brocket Alberta, Canada 2024-2025 (School Related Leave Only). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

In State Travel: Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve in state travel for Robert Hall, IEFA Best Practices Conference in Helena, MT 2024-2025 (\$520.58) and Travis Miller, META Tech Conference in Helena, MT 2024-2025 (\$645.40). Second by Mr. Hoyt. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve NEW Club, Sponsors, Goals & Objectives-BHS Boys Basketball Club 2024-2025 (\$516.00). Second by Mr. Hoyt. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility Roster; ERC Solutions, Supervisor-Director Training 2024-2025 (\$3,100.00); Academic Calendar 2025-2026 and Montana GEAR UP Agreement 2024-2031. Second by Mr. Bremner. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Resolution for Notice of Tax Impact from Non-Voted Levies for EL and HS 2024-2025:

1. Mr. Evans moved to approve Elementary Resolution 2025, Notice of Tax Impact from Non-Voted Levies. Second by Mr. Hoyt. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed 6-1 with James RunningFisher, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for. James Evans voting opposed.
2. Mr. Evans moved to approve High School Resolution 2025, Notice of Tax Impact from Non-Voted Levies. Second by Mr. Gallup. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed 6-1 with James RunningFisher,

Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for. James Evans voting opposed.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) \$35,000.00; Purchases Over \$10,000; District Claims Check #93047-#93052; #4422048-#4422698 (\$241,687.19); Student Activities Claims #706180 - #706216 (\$28,509.03) Canceled Checks #706147 & #706161 and Additional Pays/Payroll. *Board discussion:* Reid Reagan stated BPS will need to catch up on the financial responsibilities for the fuel tank storage units, they did not pass inspection. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

There were no Personnel or Legal Issues.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to adjourn at 6:42PM. Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

Sandra Rivas, District Clerk