

Regular Board Minutes (draft)
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.
Administration Conference Room

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

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

Ms. YellowOwl noted that the School Board Retreat has been cancelled and will be rescheduled and a special board meeting will need to be scheduled for hiring and to hear a complaint.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the regular Board Minutes of 3/9/21 and Special Board Minutes of 3/11/21 with no changes. Second by Ms. TallWhiteman. All in favor/Motion passed.

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

Staff/Student Recognition: Everett Armstrong recognized State speech and debate students: Jerika Gallineaux, Justine Whitford, Emily Williams and Coach: Edith Wagner.

Everett Armstrong recognized Browning Wrestling Team for a job well done. Mr. Armstrong noted that girls competed in wrestling this year but did not qualify for state. Boys Wrestling Team qualifiers: Brendyn Whiteman-4th at State, Quentin Campos-5th at State, Chris Hall-6th at State, David Sharp-State Qualifier, Jaren Keene-State Qualifier, Brendyn Running Crane-State Qualifier, Jace Augare-State Qualifier, Waylon Bull Calf-State Qualifier. Coaches: Casey McDonald-Head Coach, Isaac Wippert-Assistant, Mike Burns-Assistant.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: Matthew Johnson, Buffalo Hide Academy, stated that the Academy has had a challenging year but agreed to have positive attitudes. BHA Team Slide Show by Jason Krane and Charlie Speicher to review Curriculum and the evolution to student-voice coursework. There are 88 students enrolled at the Academy with 40 classes available on classroom format, 336 half credits possible and only 50 half credits were earned and 48 half credits recovered (98 from 336 is 29% completion rate). Went to authentic literacy, the Voice of Native Authors + Current Events. Data from the authentic literacy was 88 students, had 10 half credits earned and 12 recovered. Changed to student-voice coursework and had great results with 88 students with 41 half credits and 12 half credits recovered in 8 weeks and 50% assignments completed. Academy staff were at work throughout the year of COVID. Charlie Speicher drove around town with food and homework for Academy students and partnered with Jennifer Wagner at BHS and Nikki Hannon with PCOP. Student spotlight: Mr. Johnson stated Ushwan Goudy is a superstar; honest, impressive, authentic and thanked Verena Goudy, grandmother. Staff members; Charlie Speicher, Chris Lewis, Jason Krane were incredible and worked the whole year to get better student interaction. Academy staff went to every student's home to meet with parents and students. Dominick Yellow Horse is inspiring and is first student through the doors after the pandemic and wants to graduate. Jade Dustybull-Grant challenged staff; makes staff rise to her level and is very academically smart. Maleighia Spotted Eagle makes everyone better. Mr. Johnson stated the Academy is a creative school, and they work hard as a truly trauma informed school. Ms. Yellow Owl acknowledged the following building reports: Child Nutrition-Copy Center-Warehouse-Lynne Keenan, Curriculum & Instruction - Billie Jo Juneau, Parent/Community Outreach/Childcare/FIT - Nikki Hannon, Blackfeet Language/Native American Studies-Robert Hall, Spookinapi (Good Health) Project-Cinnamon Crawford, GEARUP- Melanie Magee, 21st Century Tutoring Program-Heidi Bullcalf, Activities Department - Everett Armstrong, Technology Department-Everett Holm, Transportation Department - Teri DeRoche & Maintenance/Facilities/Construction & Security - Reid Reagan. *Discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl

read a letter from Montana School Nutrition Association recognizing unsung heroes that have worked behind the scenes throughout the past year during the pandemic, noting that these individuals arrive at the break of day, every day to prepare meals and serve children with consistency and devotion following strict nutrition guidelines, navigating food allergies, and producing meals on cramped budgets. Ms. Yellow Owl commended Lynne Keenan-Food Service Director and staff for all they have done for the children in our community.

Public Comment: Garland Stiffarm stated that IHS has done lot of vaccines. IHS will be handing out flyers and will have vaccines for 18-year old and; IHS is working on getting Phizer vaccines for 16 and up. IHS will receive a special freezer for this vaccine and are scheduling at the clinic and sending out flyers; Friday all day is 16-year old and up and they will need parent consent. The second vaccine will be scheduled for Friday, April 23. Both vaccines can be done before graduation. Have 71% vaccines completed on the reservation. Mr. Stiffarm asked that the flyer be put on the school Facebook page. IHS will call and schedule appointments for students to receive their vaccines. Mr. Stiffarm stated that there are enough vaccines for all 16-year old and up, and have targeted Browning and Heart Butte first.

Superintendents Report: Superintendent Hall stated that there must be more activities for reservation students and roads need to be fixed. BPS is working with fish and game for access to areas such as Lower 2-Medicine. BPS could offer field trips, ie. fishing, swimming, etc. the roads can be fixed and restroom facilities can be available. Superintendent Hall is working to create partnership so BPS can access certain areas easier and also working on camps for the summer; tribe wants to charge \$50 per kid. The Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht and our kids can help with this; it can be community involvement. Construction at BMS still doing dirt work and grass will be done this spring. Staff is ready for students to be at school. Sportsplex fencing is up but need fences around the whole unit. Concessions building is up, and the grandstand and volleyball court begins in April and they will need to res-sand the VB court. Still need bleachers for softball. The Bond was approved today and money will be wired for payoff and refinanced. BPS owes DA Davidson and Dan Semmens for the overall savings of \$378,236.34 from the bond refinancing. NAFIS update: Superintendent Hall and Ms. Bullshoe met in Billings for a virtual Spring Nafis Conference. Dixie Guardipee helped setup the meetings with Senators and Representative Rosendale's staffer and Everett Holm helped with technology. Nafis is advocating for full IA and for infrastructure. Superintendent Hall shared the construction information for BPS Sportplex and BMS remodel at the meeting. Principals are working on transition to hybrid model for schooling and they will be communicating with the parents. Robert Hall said it wouldn't work for the kids and he will go into immersion classes to help increase the language.

MTSBA Connect: Superintendent Hall stated she does not know why this item is listed for review. No discussion.

Revised School Counselors Job Description: Superintendent Hall stated that item #6 on the job description for EL/HS School Counselor is changed to state: "classroom instruction for students in such areas as anger management, conflict resolution, chemical dependency, social-emotional skills and other counseling areas needed".

School Based Therapist Job Description Revised: The position has not been advertised yet; the qualifications have been changed from "License and/or Master's degree", to "Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor".

High School BOOST Grant 2020-2021: Jennifer Wagner stated that this grant is from American Indian Student Achievement (AISA) Unit, Department of School Innovation and Improvement. OPI staff in attendance to present are Dan McGee-Data Specialist, Todd Hanson-Support Specialist, Durand Bearmedicine and Patrick Armstrong-Student Support Specialists, Lona Running Wolf-Instructional Support, each presented on how the grant will impact BPS and students with the sustained processes BHS will put into place. The goal is to find missing credit in the Infinite Campus data; already found 25.5 missing credits from BPS student transcripts.

Ms. Wagner was commended for taking on a great leadership role for the grant. Todd Hanson is a school support specialist on policy review, analysis, and has looked at procedures that may unintentionally have created barriers for students. Mr. Hanson offered training opportunities around policy implementation and analysis, strategic

planning, operational framework, and relationship building with school boards; all are provided under the BOOST grant.

Graduation Update: Jennifer Wagner stated that graduation is May 23 at 11:00 a.m. and the high school administration has reached out to parents, students, staff with 3 options that were sent out on google and has 55% of the school population who want graduation in the high school gym. The high school gym capacity in bleachers is 3500 at 75%. Ms. Wagner is in process now to get the plans to Tribal IC. The graduation is being condensed from 3 hours to 1½ hours; there are timelines for all speeches, graduation process, and diploma process. A photographer will take pictures as the student receives their diplomas and the families can take pictures outside on the lawn and by the cafeteria to avoid congregation. There will be a large screen in the parking lot and a camera on the inside to relay out to the screen. Ms. Wagner has worked with the local TV station to tie into the big screen setup at the school as they do not have a wide base and they will work with Starlink. The students want to parade through town following graduation. Ms. Wagner will take this to the tribal IC. Ms. Wagner stated that students want to do the portfolios; it is a requirement of graduation and the high school administration will establish guidelines. Students should direct their questions to the high school administration and check their email daily (this is a college readiness skill). Manpower is offering \$150.00 to students who fill out paperwork to do their portfolio. Roger Zentzis has a parent connection page where there is an example of a portfolio that kids can utilize. Ms. Wagner stated that students have advisory time to work on their portfolios and they have also had every Friday since December but they have not been taking advantage of these options. All graduation plans will be planned for inside the gym and a plan will be given to the tribal IC.

New Policy, 2nd Reading #1640, #1441F, #1403: *No discussion.*

Instruction Report: Dennis Juneau reviewed the summer academy proposal which will support student academic and social/emotional learning. Summer Enrichment and Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht will operate at differing times of the day to give students a full day of learning activities. Summer School 9am-2pm & Ee-Gahk-Ee-Maht 3pm-7pm. Session 1 will begin June 7th and end July 1st; session 2 will begin on July 12th and end July 29th. Each Summer School session will be four days per week Monday through Thursday. Summer School will be focused on academic skills such as writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading being learned through a variety of hands on and technology-based lessons. The goal is for students to learn, re-learn or refine their basic academic skills in a fun, structured, and experimental learning environment. Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht will be available to BPS students throughout the summer with a schedule set by the coordinator. Each week will also be Monday-Thursday with a daily schedule of 3pm to 7pm. Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht will be focused upon students participating in a number of different activities that incorporate inclusion, building self-esteem, & learning respectful communication skills. Mr. Evans requested projected student numbers after Indian Days. Superintendent Hall stated that after the pandemic there will be many students and can use ESSR funds and possibly offer more if there is enough staffing; also, Superintendent Hall has talked with BCC and UofM Western to provide a culture camp.

Business Office Update-March: Crystal Tailfeathers reported on audit findings and noted that one finding on student count will be cleared and also stated that there are missing invoices. Ms. Tailfeathers stated that there is a lot of improvement in the business office and announced her new staff member Tracy Coursey in payroll, as well as Glenna Hall and Sasheen Crawford, both recently started. Ms. Tailfeathers gave a shout out to Everett Holm for providing all of the technology training/support for the business office and stated that Browning Schools is fortunate to have him. Ms. TallWhiteman asked about the student count finding. Ms. Tailfeathers stated during the student count the district claimed 2-students in their report that Maefairs did not have; the students should have been dropped and BPS received money for them. Ms. TallWhiteman stated they need to make sure their counts are accurate as Maefairs is also the graduation count and also stated it is an issue for her that there are invoices missing with the auditors coming in. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that the district needs to make sure all SOPs are in place and business office is keeping copies of everything. Ms. Tailfeathers explained that the student count was thoroughly reviewed and students were dropped according to policy however one secretary dropped 2-students prior to receiving the state approved reports. Ms. Tailfeathers has met with staff and discussed the missing invoices which are from 2020 school year and they have not been found. The cabinet has a key but that is

missing too; at this time there will be one person managing the records for accountability. Ms. Tailfeathers stated that she is finding issues every day in her department that she has concerns with and is currently working to correct them.

Budget Update: Ms. Bremner asked if the percentage of funds have been spent to the correct level for this time of year. Ms. Tailfeathers stated that there will be more money this year because of the Cares Act money. Schools are required to expend their discretionary money by April 15, and at the end of the school year, any leftover money in the budgets is put into Reserves. Mr. Gallup stated that Reserves are down due to construction and do not have one year of Impact Aid according to policy.

HR Status Update 3/16/21: John Salois stated that M. Augare transferred to a teacher at BES, J. MCW transferred to BES as a TA, L. Olson was hired and is working, J. Rutherford will transfer to SpEd, and T. Coursey will transfer to payroll.

Coaching Season Update: John Salois reported that there are some positions on to be hired tonight and will be bringing coaches forward for fall sports. Mr. Salois stated that he attended career fairs and has worked with OPI, and is sending advertisements to Universities. Ms. Bremner asked that the district

Wendy do not wait until we have qualified apps for this. John soon as we get an app will send to supervisor/principal to review.

Resignations: The following resignations were accepted by the superintendent: Kylie Farmer, Head Cook-Napi Elementary, Effective 3-12-2021; Laura Hall, Special Education Teacher-BMS Effective 6/4/2021; Karen Nielson-Salois, School Psychologist-Special Services, Effective 6-3-2021; Melinda Juneau, Dean of Students-BMS, Effective 6-3-2021; Francis Guardipee, Art Teacher -BHS Effective 6-4-2021 and Danielle Augare, Assistant Track Coach-BHS Effective 3-15-2021. *No discussion.*

Hiring: Motion by Ms. TallWhiteman to approve the following hiring pending successful background checks/drug tests: Theresa M. Leisinger, Assistant Cook-Napi; Earl Tail, Napi Activities Coordinator 2020-2021 (\$2,000.00 prorated) and Certified Elementary Staff Renewals 2021-2022. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that nontenured staff hired after the board member was elected must have 100% majority vote and the related board member will need to abstain from hiring. Hiring Taylor Crawford was tabled until advertised for 15-days. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Certified Secondary Staff Renewal Recommendations. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve hiring Election Judges-Teresa Roland, Linda Baker, Jocko Parrent 2020-2021 (\$1,200.00). Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Contract Service Agreement: Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve the following contract service agreements pending successful background checks for Brian Harrell, Certified Tutor, Spring Break 2020-2021 (\$420.00); Lisa Screeton, Certified Tutor, Spring Break 2020-2021 (\$420.00) and Zebah Burdeau, Certified Tutor, Spring Break 2020-2021 (\$420.00). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Out of State Travel: None.

In State Travel: None.

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Early Student Admittance for Early Kindergarten; Middle School Wrestling 2020-2021; J2 Business Products: BMS Change Order #1 and Change Order #2 (\$34,558.00) and Sletten Construction Change Order #2, Browning Middle School (\$258,755.00). Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to approve Prom Proposal/Protocol 2020-2021; Amend Graduation Policy #4500 and Propose Montana Graduation Diploma; 19-Year Old Student Attendance Buffalo Hide Alternative School 2020-2021: Cody Day Rider; Seth Loring, Darrell Vielle, Jestin Wegner; BHS Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$202.00); NEW BHS Clubs & Sponsors 2020-2021 (\$606.00) and Create Driver's Education Teacher Position. Second by Mr. Evans. *Public participation/Board discussion:* Mr. Evans stated that middle school basketball coaches were paid and asked if the middle school wrestling coach will be paid. Superintendent Hall stated he is a volunteer. Ms. Bremner suggested checking with wage and hour. High School Principal, Jennifer Wagner reviewed the prom proposal protocols and stated that the high school has sent a proposal for Prom events to the Tribal IC and they have given their okay to move forward. Mr. Gallup proposed that students should not pay for their prom tickets this year. Ms. Wagner stated that the high school has not sold any tickets yet and she is working through Manpower on some opportunities that will help with prom costs. Prom is scheduled for 4/10/21 and only eligible Browning students can attend. Ms. Wagner stated that the students will be working to get prom together. Mr. Gallup stated that even though prom is up to the Junior class to sponsor, he felt that because of the pandemic the students should not be out there; just give all students the best prom ever. Ms. Wagner stated that there are some who want to fundraise and they will be using the theme from last year's prom as they did not have a prom and the decorations were never used. High school administration sent out a survey to students, parents, staff and the majority of responses want to move it to April 17. Ms. TallWhiteman asked that the current year's funds roll over to next year's senior class and stated that she supports rescheduling the prom if the majority of the "students" support the change; changing the date will give the students more time to be prepared. Mr. Evans asked if changing the date will interfere with sports. Ms. Wagner stated that it will affect the track meet on both dates 4/10/21 in Havre and 4/17/21 in Libby. Board agreed to support changing prom date if the majority of students support it. Ms. Wagner will discuss the option of interviewing the students as they walk onto the stage, or not, and let the board know and also noted that the high school administration has discussed parents coming into the cafeteria, watching their student, and leaving immediately. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that the students asked for help with the food again. Ms. Wagner stated it is "grab and go" and they will need to decide what it will be. All board agreed and stated they will help with this. Everett Armstrong stated that the dance is scheduled from 7:30 to 10:30 and stated that one person wants to increase the timeframe. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that is not a problem except that the school will need to check with Tribal IC as there is a curfew for students under age 18. Ms. Bremner suggested not to increase arrival time as it is too hard to get them ready in time. Ms. Wagner will take this to Tribal IC. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Substitute Eligibility Roster 2020-2021; Intent to Impose Increase in Levies; Purchases Over \$10,000.00; District Claims Check #432325 - #432431 (\$352,682.95); Cancelled Student Activities Claims Check #704518 - 704550 (\$-976.71) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Mr. Evans asked if the district needs to impose an increase in levies. Superintendent Hall stated that the board is not proposing to impose a levy; this item is always on the agenda in case it is needed. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor voting for.

Personnel: None.

Legal Issues: None.

Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Second by Mr. Evans. All in favor/Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____ Crystal Tailfeathers, District Clerk