

Regular Board Minutes (Draft)
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 @ 5:00PM
Administration Conference Room

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Special Board Minutes of 8/8/24, Special Board Minutes of 8/20/24, and Regular Board Minutes of 8/13/24 with no changes. Second by Mr. Gervais. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the agenda with no changes. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Building Reports: Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following reports: Child Nutrition-Copy Center-Warehouse-Dalaina Grant; Curriculum and Instruction-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 and Construction - Reid Reagan; Superintendent's Report; Schedule Date for Strategic Planning 2024-2025; Presentation on BNAS Starlab aikoo•koosii (it makes the night); HR Status Report and Coaching Update. *No discussion.*

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Update: Superintendent Rappold gave an update on orientation day and noted that Robert Hall took a staff photo, by drone, on the Arrowhead Football Field; the first 2 days of school went well. Transfers were requested by two cooks, at the employee request and a teacher transferred to Babb Elementary. Listed in the report are upcoming events: Title I Meeting; September 2, no school; Nafis Meeting September 19-24; Strategic Planning TBD.

Schedule Date for Strategic Planning 2024-2025: Superintendent Rappold requested that the board members schedule a day in October for Strategic Planning. Board members agreed on October 8 & 9, 2024 @ 6:00PM each day (October 8, 2024 will take place immediately following the board meeting).

Superintendent Rappold noted that the school insurance company has approved a bid for Wahl's Roofing and Construction out of Clinton, MT to repair the HS roof; the bid is half the cost of the first bid that was submitted earlier. The Contractor is requesting BPS pay half of cost up front in order to get the panels ordered. Superintendent Rappold requested to schedule a special meeting Tuesday, September 3, at noon to approve this bid. Reid Reagan stated that he will be asking this Contractor to look at the other roofs that are leaking as well; Wahl's Roofing/Construction bid is \$31,940 which is half the amount of the first bid submitted at \$65,000. Board members agreed to schedule the special meeting September 3, at noon.

Presentation on BNAS Starlab Aikoo-koosii (it makes the night): Robert Hall shared information on the Star Lab which can seat up to 30 people; it can be set-up in VC Gym, BES Gym or Library, Napi Gym or library, BMS gym or Cafetorium, or BHA. Lessons include Blackfoot stories, Astronomy, Geology, Biology, Philosophy.

Mr. Hall has had several community entities and East Glacier School request to present Starlab and felt that costs for outside entities could be considered to cover personnel costs, per diem, mileage and equipment, films and noted that Browning is a hot spot for tourism; BPS has the technology to make films but it would cost around \$8,000 to create a good 15 minutes video. Mr. Hall stated he did not include Babb, but can setup there as well. He is trying to decide where to house the Starlab and will be creating a SOP for usage. The Starlab provides an opportunity for BPS students to learn about the stars, constellations, our stories, etc. Mr. Hall will write up costs for the Superintendent and plan for staff costs, and manpower for a partnership.

HR Status Update: Superintendent Rappold reviewed status of open positions: KW: counselor, TA; SpEd positions are filled with iTutors and positions will remain open until filled; BMS: TA; BHS: custodian, vo-tech auto, Bs Education, Drivers Ed; Childcare: Aide; PCOP: Hiset Tutor; Child Nutrition: Assist cooks, flex cook, supper program cooks; Maintenance: custodians; Transportation: bus drivers.

Coaching Update: Kellen Hall stated he has open positions for BHS: girls soccer assistant, 6 coach positions and coach will 1 work with BMS on Mondays and Tuesdays, 1 football coach, Volleyball assistant golf coach and fall sports will be completed. There are still vacancies for winter coaches.

Resignations: Board members acknowledged the following resignations accepted by the superintendent: Cheyenne Bird, Food Service Asst. Cook-BHS, Effective 8-23-2024 and Rebecca Crawford, SPED Teacher Assistant - BMS, Effective 8-19-2024.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Hiring: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hiring pending successful background checks/drug tests: Emmitt Augare, BMS 7&8 Football Coach 2024-2025 (\$860.00) and Tyler RunningCrane, BMS 6th Gr Basketball Coach 2024-2025 (\$860.00). Second by Mr. Gervais. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following hiring pending successful background checks/drug tests: Brandon Aimsback, BHS Assistant Football Coach 2024-2025 (\$2,064.00); Gwenalee McConnell, Assistant Soccer Coach-BHS 2024-2025 (\$2,064.00); Cydnie Saddleback, Math Teacher - BHS 2024-2025 (\$43,944.00). No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve hiring Koby Harwood, 9-Month Bus Driver pending successful background check/drug test. Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Contract Service Agreements: Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Native Metal Works, Repair Flap on North Teepee at Arrowhead Stadium-BHS 2024-2025 (\$1,000.00). Second by Mr. Hoyt. *Board discussion:* Mr. Evans asked why this would go to the board for approval. Superintendent Rappold stated that any repairs with a CSA is standard and would be approved by the school board, if it were repaired by district maintenance, it would not be brought forward. Mr. Gallup felt that this contractor should have repaired at no charge to district. Reid Reagan stated that he has the piece that blew off and Sletten will weld the piece at no charge to the district. Motion to approve failed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting opposed.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Brenda Guardipee, 1st Aid-CPR Training 2024-2025 (\$840.00) and Building/Department Mentors 2024-2025 (\$1,500.00 ea). *Board discussion:* Mr. Evans asked what the building/department mentors do. Superintendent Rappold stated that they partner with SpEd teacher or a new teacher to support in their role as teacher; Community mentors help with parents and community to build relations with

families; and Instructional mentors to improve classroom instruction. Superintendent Rappold stated that with the number of new and emergency hires it is critical to support these groups and retain them for longevity. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Out of State Travel: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve out of state travel for Callie Wood, Tristen Hannon, Nafis Fall Conference 2024-2025 (\$2,308.00 ea). Second by Mr. Gallup. *Board discussion:* Superintendent Rappold stated that she will be the chaperone for the students and has met with both so that they are prepared for the meetings with the representatives and senator. Amy Andreas and Sienna Schildt are also supporting them to be prepared for their role in advocating for BPS and be very reflective on the support services across the district; both are doing a great job with these students. The students reached out and looked at the whole picture, not just construction and sports, but also on how IA benefitted them; both are amazing and have a real interest in presenting. They have reviewed the previous booklets from BPS and have a bigger picture of what is needed. Brian they are being trained with all the right people; both are great students; this is about kids and BPS is about kids. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for. Lockley Bremner abstained.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve out of state travel for Francis Bullcalf, Edward Burke, National Transportation in Indian Country Conference in Durant, OK. 2024-2025 (\$715.66 ea) and Certified Staff to Tour Saskatoon Farm for MT PECK Grant in Alberta, Canada 2024-2025 (\$105.00 ea). Second by Mr. Gervais. *Board discussion:* Mr. RunningFisher noted that transportation is already on their trip. Superintendent Rappold stated that Mr. Bullcalf did ask for both to attend but did not get the paperwork turned in for board approval in time for the last meeting; most of their expenses are being paid by the other party. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

In State Travel: Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve Board of Trustees, Rebecca Rappold, IISM-MCEL Conference in Missoula, MT 2024-2025. Second by Mr. Evans. *Board discussion:* Mr. RunningFisher asked board members to get their travel requests into Carlene Adamson right away for this. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following items: Student Attendance Agreements-Cut Bank 2024-2025; Babb Elementary Parent Student HB 2024-2025; Bid Opening/Approval of Browning Elementary Bleachers 2024-2025 to Montana School & Equipment. Second by Mr. Evans. *Board discussion:* Sandra Rivas opened the closed bid and noted that there is only 1 bid for the BES Bleachers from Montana School & Equipment Company, Aaron Johnson from Great Falls, MT. The bid is for \$57,972 for Bank 1 of 73" x 7 rows x 2, 301 seats and bid for \$66,900 for Bank 2 of 85', 9"x 7 rows 361 seats plus 85"x9"x 7 rows 361 seats plus \$14,900 to remove and dispose of the old bleachers. Reid Reagan stated the original bid was \$124,000 as discussed at facilities meeting and stated that it is best to replace all bleachers due to safety issues; the timeframe to install and complete is approximately 2 weeks. Board members agree they should do all bleachers now. Ms. Rivas stated that is up to the board to determine if they do all now or half and half. The amount will come out of Elementary IA. Superintendent Rappold stated that the disposal of the old bleachers is approximately \$15,000 more than the original amount and recommended to bid the old bleachers at no lower than \$15,000. Ms. YellowOwl asked if they are unsafe or just old. Superintendent Rappold stated that MTSBA said we can surplus with a legal statement saying that we determine the bleachers to be unsafe. Board agreed to replace all bleachers now. Ms. Andersen stated to remember to do the property surplus notice. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility Roster 2024-2025; Activities Handbook 2024-2025; Danielle RhineHart-Langlois-Telemental Health Svcs 2024-2025 (\$44,400.00); Approve Ratified Browning Federation of Teachers Master Contract 2024-2025 (\$718,322.00); NIISA Membership Dues 2024-2025 (\$3,000.00); Amend Impact Aid Set Aside Policy #7130; District Claims #93430-#93448; #441302-

#441403 (\$1,187,862.48); Student Activities Claims: None, and Additional Pays/Payroll. *Board discussion:* Mr. Bremner stated the Activities HB has incorrect dates on several places and felt there is a lot of language that is condescending toward parents, telling them what they can do, how to behave, etc. Mr. Bremner does not feel people should be told how they should behave or how to be an all-star parent. Superintendent Rappold stated that there are changes that can be made now and bring back again for changes later. Ms. YellowOwl felt that if approved now, then bring again in the fall to change again is not fair to all sports; it would be like changing a policy during the school year, some sports would follow one policy then the others would follow another policy. Ms. YellowOwl felt that policy should change in beginning of year and change again at end of year so all activities follow the same procedure through the year. Superintendent Rappold stated this is procedure and it would not change in the middle of the season, just at the end of one and starting another one. Ms. YellowOwl asked about the travel policy for overnight sports trips, is there mileage, is distance considered when staying overnight, is it based on the regular handbook. Mr. Hoyt stated that procedure is a working document and can be changed anytime if needed. Kellen Hall stated it is Varsity that stays overnight throughout the season depending on bus driving time and distance. There are some trips only one driver can be sent because of the lack of bus drivers; BPS travels more than any other school district in the state. Superintendent Rappold stated that she will meet with Mr. Hall and make adjustments in the handbook and bring back to the special meeting. Mr. Hall stated the wording will also change to “guardian” and it will clarify if “parent or guardian” is there, but if it is working with grandparents, it cannot happen. Gwyn Andersen stated reviewed policy vs Impact Aid and what the Setaside looks like. The Setaside policy is for new construction and as of June 2024, on various construction projects, ie. Babb boiler, VC connector (which has change orders), Admin building, childcare, windows, HVAC, gym, Napi re-roof, baseball field, food distribution center, sportsplex, BHS cooling, KW gym wall, BMS is complete, Babb is complete; the KW connector was paid from ESSER III and has a balance of \$44,981 that will be paid from IA.

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As of June 24 on various const projects: babb boiler, vc connector which has change orders for admin, childcare, windows, hvac and gym; napi refoof, bb field \$1,666,983-, food distribution center \$3,898,131 with change orders, sportsplex, bms complete, bhs cooling, kw gym wall with change orders, Babb is done. The connector from ESSER III with balance \$44,981 from IA. OPI did not approve an extension date for ESSER III for new buildings. Ms. Andersen will take some of the teacher salaries out of ESSER III and use Impact aide for the connector. Will remove Tennis courts and noted the HS side is in trouble. Trying to get equipment in place and pay invoices now with ESSER III for the BHS Cooling. ESSER is \$3,385,275 and IA is \$7,274,469 and Setaside was \$27,079,420 and has \$1,000,488 remaining; there is no HS Setaside left. The Setaside is 15% of annual basic IA and Reserves is what is not spent each year; Elementary is in good shape; down to \$10 million in reserves with \$1 million budget shortfall with IA and estimated expenditures; bleachers will come out of this and also the teacher increases which are now \$800,000. HS side is in bad shape, reserves down to \$5 million and construction will be \$5 million, and teacher increases will be \$300,000. The Setaside policy needs to be revised; it was for new construction only, but it has not been used just for that, the policy was revised to use it for what was needed. Mr. Gallup suggested to release the 15%, revise and visit the policy before a year is up, revise the whole policy. Ms. Andersen agreed for only one year and look at it again at that time. Superintendent Rappold stated there will be teacher negotiations again in one year. Reid Reagan stated they need to decide what to do on the roof drains and balancing the system after air handlers are in at Napi. Mr. Reagan will check to see if FICO is programming air handlers now. Ms. YellowOwl asked why the teachers master contract is only for 1 year. Superintendent Rappold stated they did not have a good handle on finances in May and asked the Union to negotiate for one year. Ms. YellowOwl asked how the dollar amount was decided on the salary scale. Superintendent Rappold stated the Union asked for 8% and administration wanted a higher base pay because we compete with IHS, tribe, BCC and cannot recruit because they are getting higher base pay from those places so they agreed to make the steps 1 through 16, 16%; and worked with Ms. Andersen on a one time only stipend out of ESSER for those teachers at the top of the pay scale. Superintendent Rappold is hoping to do a 3-year contract for the next teacher negotiations and a 2-years for classified. Ms. YellowOwl stated she feels this is high and understands why but classified only got \$1.00. Superintendent Rappold stated to be mindful of the budget discussion; they don't want to eliminate staff or cut jobs and noted that both contracts are retro to July 1, 2024.

Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for all except to table the 2024-2025 Activities Handbook.

There were no Personnel or Legal Issues.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Thomas Gervais, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Donna YellowOwl voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

_____ Sandra Rivas, District Clerk