

Special Board Minutes (Draft)

Sunday, March 15, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

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

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Edwards to approve the agenda with no change. Second by Ms. Bullshoe. All in favor/Motion passed.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Approvals-Discussion/Possible Action Concerning COVID-19: Ms. Yellow Owl stated that a lot of businesses in the community are waiting to hear what the school board decides about the school, students, and staff. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the students are first and foremost at all times and the board would not put any of them in jeopardy. Superintendent Hall stated that she met with several local entities and recommended that the board close the schools for at least 14-days and monitor, and if necessary, extend the timeframe. The Governor's message today is to follow social distancing and eliminate large gatherings closing all k-12 schools from 3/16/20 through 3/27/20. The Governor is requiring that schools continue to provide meals to student and stated that all state funding will continue during the closure; schools will continue to receive all state funding during closure. The Governor asks that all employers be generous with sick and paid leave during this time. Visitations at nursing homes has been suspended. Board members agreed to close the schools but will continue to provide breakfast and lunch. All information will be posted on social media and local radio, i.e. meals will not be delivered door to door but will be handed out of buses at all summer school sites. Staff that will continue to work: Cooks, food service, and maintenance. Custodians will be in to do deep cleaning in all buildings. Transportation will deliver the meals. 260-day staff will continue to work. Because the governor says everyone is paid, the district will ask for volunteers to help feed the kids. Ms. Bremner stated that any employee in an at-risk health position, or sick, will not work. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that all the buildings will be closed to the public. Superintendent Hall stated that she is working with the unions.

James McNeely, Liaison to Incident Command, stated that he is working with the school administration, the boardchair and Robert DesRosier. The council declared this an emergency on the reservation and have activated an operation plan with IHS. Mr. McNeely stated that he will make sure that information out to the public is unified and accurate. The Tribal Council cancelled work for 2-days and will meet on Monday morning to reaffirm details. Mike DesRosier, Commissioner, stated that he has not heard anything from the Glacier County Health Department but they will coordinate and cooperate with the community; he will meet with the health department tomorrow. Karla Bird stated that she will release an official statement from BCC; the campus is shut down for spring break this week and they will reassess after the break.

Garland Stiffarm, IHS Director, stated that they have held meetings for the past week and are trying to educate the public on the virus. Mr. Stiffarm stated he has met with IHS staff and the emergency preparedness team. Mr. Stiffarm explained the process for patient screening on NE side of clinic, moving north clinic to south clinic, etc. You cannot only enter the main side of the building but you can leave through that south clinic. CHNs will be available. There will be testing/screening at the front door. There will be 338 and 800 numbers setup. There will be more education to the public and more news through the local radio station. There are no kits available; once a person is screened, the state is called and they test and make the determination.

Julie Hayes, Certified Union President, stated that she will be available and noted that the Union will need a MOU for any changes after the first 2-weeks. Robert Hall asked if the school will be able to support an option to allow

individuals to purchase necessities that are not available at the stores. Ms. Yellow Owl stated no. No further discussion.

Ms. Yellow Owl called for a motion to approve closing District 9 and monitor for 14 days and after that time the Board will meet again to determine if an extended closure is necessary. Motion by Mr. Evans to approve. Second by Mr. Edwards. Motion passed 7-0 with Donna Yellow Owl-Chair, Wendy Bremner, Jess Edwards, Kristy Bullshoe, James Evans, Brenda Croff, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. Second by Mr. Edwards. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____Stacy Edwards, District Clerk