

Special Board Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.
Administration Conference Room

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

Ms. Yellow Owl called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

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

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility Roster 2019-2020; BNAS Consultant 2019-2020; Pursue New Market Tax Credit Option and Discuss and Approve Middle School Remodel and Sports Complex Costs with Sletten Construction. Second by Mr. Evans. Public participation/Board discussion: Jeff Seidel, Dakotas America; Tim Peterson, LPW; and Cliff Darnell, Sletten, were present. Mr. Darnell noted that Roger Sand is the construction superintendent. Mr. Siedel explained the process for new market tax and noted that the amount the school is eligible for is \$2,362,500.00. Tim Peterson reviewed the cost breakdown for the middle school and sports complex and noted that the sports complex, phase 1 is overbudget in the amount of \$1,139,184.00. Phase 1 includes; football field with turf, softball field, track field, parking lots and A&E fees (\$5,210,816.00); the football field lights cost \$550,000 and materials testing cost is \$100,000.00. Sports complex, phase 2. The board was asked to determine what are the most important of the items left to finish the sports complex: grandstands, concessions building, warming rooms, practice field, tennis courts which cannot be covered with the remaining funds of \$1,139,184.00. Jeri Matt asked if the existing lights can be moved and reused and also suggested Booster Club and BIA help pay for the lights. Tim Peterson stated that the new lights are LED and the lights from the football field may be too old; Tim will check into this. Jeri Matt suggested partnering to reduce costs, and find a way to raise money. Mr. Evans felt that the middle school should be the priority and should be started right away adding the \$1,130,184.00 to the middle school project. Total cost for the middle school \$12,873,607.00 which includes gym, cafeteria, kitchen addition, 6th grade wing, remodel of existing gym, new entrance and offices at the northeast side of building, parent parking /drop off, A&E fees and testing and boilers. Alternate work includes: existing south entry offices; pod A work, pod "B" work, fire sprinklers in existing building, new generator, new playfield, NW parking lot. Remaining amount of budget \$1,637,550.00. Ms. Yellow Owl felt that the practice field and tennis courts could be done later. Mr. Evans stated that the warming rooms, concessions, and grandstands are all needed. Tim Peterson stated that the district needs the new market tax to meet costs of \$5 million more. The turf for the football field, combined practice field with soccer field and softball field will cost another million on turf; but the turn will bring maintenance costs way down; there is no budget on this yet. Mr. Gallup stated that the setaside has another million that can be used on this project. Also, Tim will need to get a quote to repair the middle school roof. The middle school remodel does not include: existing south entry offices, pod A work, which includes new lockers, painting; pod b work, fire sprinklers in existing building, new generator, new playfield, NW parking lot. Reid Reagan stated that they do not need a new generator and if necessary can be added later. Mr. Peterson stated that the parking lots can be done with the new market tax credit by changing to add gravel on the backside of middle school for alternative #7 which would cost half of \$370,250.00 or give the remaining amount of \$1,139,184 to middle school and leave as is. Ms. Yellow Owl suggested coming up with a Plan B to make up the difference in case the tax market credit does not come through. Superintendent Hall suggested to not add the 6th grade to middle school. Mr. Gallup and Mr. Evans both disagreed and suggested to pay more now to do it right; the district can live without a practice field if we have turf but both want locker rooms and bleachers. The district can save enough in the next year to do all of Phase 2. Superintendent Hall stated that will have this year and next year for tax credit; although the district was thrown under the bus by Kathleen Wanner from OPI who claimed BPS is a high risk because of the county. OPI wants

the schools to pull all funds from the county; because of this Dakotas America pulled out of the tax market credit. Dakotas America was sent another letter asking them to reconsider BPS request for tax credit. BPS will approve a resolution at the first meeting in October to move all funds from the county. If the board approved this, Dakotas America will reconsider BPS. Their verbal commitment is as long as BPS moves their funds from the county and the state sends a letter stating that BPS is financially secure and can pay their debts they will support us. Mr. Gallup stated that Kathleen Wanner/OPI is out of line in talking to the tax credit people and he is working OPI on this because it is not their business. Mr. Gallup asked if Kathleen Wanner is now saying she would write a letter on our behalf. Superintendent Hall stated that Kathleen's letter contradicts itself and she has Jeff working on the wording of the letter. Mr. Gallup stated that he has about had it with Glacier County and dealing with OPI. There are two (2) other schools in Glacier County passing a resolution to pull their money. Mr. Gallup stated that if OPI does not support the tax credits BPS will not get accepted. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she has negative feelings about this and suggested the district pull the \$1 million from the Sportsplex Phase 1 and put it into the middle school project and consider any other emergencies with the other schools that may happen; we can't take it all. We can work on where the additional money will come from. Superintendent Hall felt that the district will get tax credit funds as long as the resolution is done soon. Tim Peterson stated that Dakotas America wants to give BPS the money; Kathleen Wanner should not have intervened; claiming BPS is a high-risk status, and city of Browning already folded so why look at Browning school. Mr. Peterson stated that Dakotas America did dedicate the money to BPS until Kathleen did this. Superintendent Hall stated that BPS will give them the resolution to pull their funds and a letter from the State. Ms. Yellow Owl asked for consensus to give \$1 million to the middle school. Mr. Peterson noted that they are not going to spend all the money in the first six month and suggested leave the million where it is and use setaside; leave ½ million in and take \$900,000 to supplant BMS and take \$1 million and add to the sports complex and have \$2 million for the other project. Mr. Gallup agreed and stated that setaside two years it can make up the money. Ms. Yellow Owl asked if there is any inflation in the material over next year and stated that if setaside could pay for the total remaining Phase 2 the district can go forward on both projects and if tax credit does not come through then use setaside. Mr. Peterson stated that \$1.1 million will get the grandstand, concessions, warming rooms and bathrooms. Mr. Evans does not want to short the middle school and suggested to cash flow the both projects. Ms. Croff agreed to move forward. Superintendent Hall stated that the district has one year of \$10 million for school operations, state money and no IA. Mr. Gallup stated that Impact Aid is stable and we could do the whole project with reserves and 2 years of setaside. Stacy Edwards will get the money amount for the next meeting. Mr. Gallup stated that the board will make the decision when they get the numbers. Board asked Mr. Peterson to bring forward a firm cost to do all fields with turf. Mr. Peterson stated that he can change the contract and add base bid to middle school; the gym and cafeteria have to be done to renovate the existing area and it may go into next fall; the new gym can be done at the end of next summer. The Sportsplex will be done on time to house football next fall. Mr. Peterson stated they will get the hallway at middle school done right away so they can get students back into the classrooms by Christmas or sooner. Mr. Peterson stated that they will need a contractor purchase order for Sletten to get started right away. All board members agreed. Motion passed 5-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, Brenda Croff, Brian Gallup, James Evans voting for.

Motion by Ms. Croff to recess at 6:02 p.m. Second by Mr. Evans. All in favor/Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

_____ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

_____ Stacy Edwards, District Clerk