

**Regular “Virtual” Board Minutes**  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Administration Conference Room

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

Ms. Yellow Owl called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to approve the Regular Board Minutes of 9/30/20 and Special “Emergency” Board Minutes of 9/25/20 with no changes. Second by Ms. Bremner. All in favor/Motion passed.

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

**Public Comment:** None

**ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

**Building Reports:** Ms. Yellow Owl acknowledged the following reports: KW Vina-Tonia Tatsey, Browning Elementary-Sheila Hall, Napi Elementary-Sicily Bird, Browning Middle School-William Heubsch, Browning High School-Jennifer LaFromboise-Wagner, Babb Elementary-Billie Jo Juneau, Special Education-Maureen Stott, Buffalo Hide Academy-Matthew Johnson. *Discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the middle school shows 85% return on paper packets and asked about parent training on Google Meet and Google Classroom mix-up. Dennis Juneau stated that he did have orientation for this and more, and will have another training this week and will forward the model to other buildings to be replicated. Rebecca Rappold stated that return on packets at KW Vina has gone down significantly to 41% and staff is making phone contact but is continuing to remain low. Ms. Rappold is hoping the percentages will go up when they receive more iPads. Toni Tatsey stated that the stay at home order has affected the packet distribution and hopes the younger kids can use the older kids iPads. Superintendent Hall stated the frustration with the problems encountered trying to get more iPads in. Everett Holm stated that he is waiting for tracking numbers for the iPads that were sent to Texas instead of to BPS and hopes to have items by next week.

**Superintendent’s Report**

**NAFIS Update:** Board members and administration attended the virtual NAFIS training in September and reported on a Stimulus increase and \$500 million in construction; there was great congressional support. All congressmen met with Browning virtually except meeting with Gianforte’s Aide. There was over 450 membership participation. Browning sent booklets with letters of support, and information on construction and funding.

**Superintendent Newsletter:** Superintendent Hall reported that B/NAS received the Alaskan Native Indian Education grant. There is grant requirement to approve new position in order to comply with vertical and horizontal language, history, culture, etc. The Wellness Committee working on policy and equipment and supplies for every building in the district and may order now and have ready when school starts; Robert Miller is chair and brings in a lot of positiveness. There is trauma training for all counselors as well as telehealth, and working to provide health care, a very innovative program. Construction update: BMS will not be ready until end of November due to issues with furniture coming in later than expected and COVID issues, as well as COVID issues at Sports complex. Superintendent Hall met with smiles across Montana for dental services through the health-based clinic and these services will be available to our buildings doing sealants, and connect those for surgery needs, and help them with Medicaid. Jetpacks were discussed with costs reimbursed and possibly pay for by the district by Cares Act funds at \$200,000.00 per year; each family can use 1 jetpack.

Superintendent Hall will bring this back to the next meeting. Brian Gallup asked for costs and expenditures from the Cares Act funds to be presented at the next meeting and also asked for information on what the funds can be spent on. Also Mr. Gallup asked if administration can spend the funds where they want and supersede the board. Superintendent Hall stated that she has sent emails to the board informing them of expenditures of Cares Act and also noted that any purchase over \$10,000 is approved by the board. Superintendent Hall will have Cares Act information on the next agenda. Superintendent Hall thanked Crystal Tailfeathers for the work she has done to get the TFS and Budgets completed and submitted to OPI.

**Continue with Scenario 1 Distance Learning:** Superintendent Hall stated that the administration is proposing to stay with Distance Learning due to the high COVID numbers in the community; however, if the numbers drop between 25-40, she will bring a plan to the board requesting to change to Scenario 2 blended learning model. If the numbers do not drop, the school will stay with distance learning. Dennis Juneau stated there is no comparison between distance learning vs traditional learning; he used the historic ADA that shows each grade level has set number in attendance from prek-12 with 67% return rate; students are not engaged. Because middle school and high school are waiting for iPads, students are not being referred to family court. Mr. Juneau is working to get attendance addendum to parents for help and support; held BMS training for parents and iPads should be in all student hands by the end of October. At this time, we have 10 days left in the quarter. Ms. Yellow Owl felt that 25-40 cases is too high and before moving into a new scenario next quarter this needs to go before the board first. Mr. Juneau stated that administration is suggesting 2-week increments before this is to be implemented but will go to the board first. Board members supported 2-week increments. Ms. Bremner stated that no one should be beat-up over attendance issues because of COVID. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor expressed concern over childcare issues. Superintendent Hall stated that she will ask for childcare when the schools go to blended learning. A video was presented that shows a finding that students, in school, are not causing the big outbreaks especially not in the lower grades K-5. The video reflects optimism in schools reopening. The video reflects optimism in schools reopening. Superintendent Hall stated concern that not having school widens the achievement gap, causes mental health issues, extended period of time is harmful hopes to bring back at least the blended learning model. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that Browning has multigenerational homes; Browning is different and she does not see getting better soon; the hospital does not have capability to house the sick or have decent health care. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that she does not feel they should look at a blended model until the beginning or middle of next year. Superintendent Hall stated that she is only sharing this information with everyone and when it is safe to be back in school, we will know that there is information all grades can be safe. Status of other reservations schools in the state: Poplar, Hardin, Rock Boy have distance learning; Crow, Box Elder is blended learning. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that those schools don't have 2000 students. Ms. Bremner stated that Browning needs to be careful and felt that the superintendent should not be pushing to open the schools, it causes problems with anxiety in the community; Browning has 29 hospitalized in Great Falls and Kalispell. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that it is premature to bring a blended model forward and most other schools are looking at the Browning model.

**Board Policy Review:** There was no discussion on the following 2000 Series Board Policy: 2000 Administration Goal; 21-5 Recruitment of Superintendent; 2106 Superintendent Contract; 2110 Superintendent/Board Relations; 2112 Duties of Superintendent; 2121 Administration Organization; 2121R Line of Authority; 2123 Administrative Regulation.

**HR Status Report:** John Salois stated he made changes from hiring at the last meeting and has some new teachers on the agenda for tonight; there will be two recommendations for BMS at the next meeting, one for is for a substitute which he will ask for retro pay; BHS social studies position will be hired at the next meeting. Mr. Salois stated that local people are applying for positions that have their degrees and are certified.

**Coaching Season Update:** Mr. Salois stated that the last meeting they hired winter sports coaches. However, MHSA has pushed winter sports start date back to January. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor asked if staff, drivers, aides, cooks, etc. are offered any kind of assistance or being checked on for support and stated she is just wanting staff to know that we are here for them and support them. Superintendent Hall stated that the principals/supervisors do reach out to staff. Ms. Bremner asked if Dennis Juneau could do a poll to see how many staff/students are

impacted by COVID. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor stated that the incident command center should have that information. Mr. Juneau stated that he will narrow it down to BPS staff & students and have the information in his report. Ms. Bremner asked for a measure against attendance as well. Superintendent Hall stated that she has already sent this information out to the district and school board.

**Resignations:** The following resignation was accepted by Superintendent Hall: Natasha Bartha, Special Education Teacher Assistant, Speech Effective 9-16-2020.

### **ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Hiring:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hiring pending successful background check/drug tests: Jaylyn Parrent, Elementary Teacher-Napi 2020-2021 (\$48,615.00); Jacy Racine, Teacher Assistant-Middle School; Michelle Calf Tail, Teacher Assistant- BES and Masala Prellwitz, Elementary Teacher-BMS 2020-2021 (\$37,879.00). Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hiring pending successful background check/drug tests: Lisa Screeton, Social Studies Teacher-BHS 2020-2021 (\$52,533.00). Second by Ms. TallWhiteman. *Discussion:* Mr. Salois stated that the administration is asking to approve this hire pending successful background check and drug test. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

**Contract Service Agreements:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve a contract service agreement for the following pending successful background checks: Big Sky Colony, Substitute Teaching and Custodial Services 2020-2021 (\$7,245.00) and Glendale Colony, Substitute Teaching and Custodial Services 2020-2021 (\$7,245.00). Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. *Discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that the district has not done this before but the colonies German teachers are subbing for the district and making sure kids are doing distance learning as well as doing custodial and deep cleaning and noted that the CSA is to the Colonies because all funds are to be submitted to the Colony. Ms. YellowOwl asked if they have the proper custodial skills such as; the Right to Know, Bloodborne Pathogens, etc. John Salois stated that BPS can provide online learning for this. Superintendent Hall stated that the current Administration Custodian has been out to the Colony to train them. Ms. YellowOwl stated that if the required by the district, we need to provide the training. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Rae TallWhiteman voting for. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Ms. TallWhiteman to approve a contract service agreement pending successful background check for Colleen Wilson, Virtual Writing Instruction Support 2020-2021 (\$300.00). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

**Out of State Travel:** None.

**In State Travel:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve in state travel for the following: Everett Armstrong, Corrina Guardipee-Hall, Volleyball State in Bozeman, MT (\$633.53); Everett Armstrong, CMR Holiday Classic Wrestling in Great Falls, MT 2020-2021 (\$298.53); Corrina Guardipee-Hall, Everett Armstrong, GBB-BBB State Tournament in Butte, MT 020-2021 (\$569.74 ea) and Everett Armstrong, Track Divisional in Hamilton, MT 2020-2021 (\$673.74). Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. *Discussion:* It was noted that this travel is approved only if the board continues with fall and winter sports. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

**Approvals:** Motion by Ms. TallWhiteman to approve COVID-19 Operations for District 9, Shutdown 10/12/20 through 10/28/20: a) Operate Under Scenario 0: Smaller group in each building; each building option to Continue

with distance learning. Second by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor. *Discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that the district will continue with smaller groups but wants essential staff in on a rotating basis. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the Council took action to continue shut down to 10/25/20 reservation wide and felt that the school should continue doing the same as they have been doing. Ms. Yellow Owl asked if teachers are positive, is there a substitute for them; when you have COVID, you are not able to work and those teachers should not be made to get on line to do classwork. Bill Heusbach, BMS, stated that staff do notify him and a TA will go in and take attendance and students can go into class assignments and work. Matthew Johnson, Academy, stated that teachers want to continue working with the students, case by case basis; teachers jump in for other teachers to help the kids. Sicily Bird stated that Napi uses the buddy system. Tonia Tatsey stated that KW Vina is still getting lesson plans in the week prior and they pair up with other staff that can help the students with their packets. Jennifer Wagner, BHS, stated they have not utilized subs and have synchronized classrooms; teachers need to make plan due to not hearing if they have the virus until late. Ms. Yellow Owl felt that staff should have a buddy system and not be required to be on line teaching. Ms. Wagner reminded all that staff needs to inform their supervisor/principal if they are not well or they are sick; their supervisor needs to know. Ms. Wagner stated that not everyone knows what the virus looks like and want staff to know that they are here for them; students, (4) are positive, and they do feel the effects if an instructor is not in class; emotions are real high. John Salois stated that staff are listed for COVID leave in Frontline and the school does receive notice of quarantine; he sends out letter to reaffirm and lets the staff person know of their rights and their leave status. Board members agreed to continue with Scenario 1; essential staff working on rotating basis; all maintenance (12), transportation/food service only work on Mondays (22/12), custodians (3 in each building), secretaries at home answering phones, administration staff in on as needed basis; rotating status; all principals are in. Superintendent Hall stated that there are a lot of deliveries for buildings and help is needed in the mail area. Mr. Evans felt whatever is easiest should be happening. Ms. Bremner stated she talked with principals and staff who feel they are fine working from home and wants to keep things the same but continue to provide services. KW Vina has essential tasks to be done and iPads to go out. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she does want many in the building; Ms. Rappold stated she may be the only one in. Tonia Tatsey stated there are 2 at KW and 2 at Vina. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she understands needing to get the iPads out, but the school is on a stay at home order. Superintendent Hall stated they will keep staff on a limited basis and if someone is in the building the custodian will be in to clean. Jennifer Wagner stated that BHS will do senior stuff with Jostens without being in the school. Superintendent Hall stated that OPI rescheduled assessments to November. Board members agreed to continue to Operate Under Scenario 0: Smaller group in each building; each building continue with distance learning until 10/28/20 board meeting. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to Allow Bonus Pay for Essential Workers That Work in the Buildings. Second by Ms. TallWhiteman. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Board members asked that the district get the student iPads and packets out for pickup or by mail with only essential staff working in buildings on rotating basis. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Ms. TallWhiteman to approve Calamity Pay for Certified/Classified staff; staff will not use their own leave with the expectation that they are working from home. Second by Mr. Evans. *Discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that there are instances where staff is not communicating with their principal/supervisor and they will be required to take their own leave unless they are COVID sick and they have documentation sent to human resources. Mr. Evans asked that this be monitored. Board members agreed stating that staff need to communicate when they are supposed to and they need to do their job/s if they can. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans for Fall Sports to Resume (or not). Second by Ms. TallWhiteman. *Discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl stated this is a tough decision to make but the tribe has a stay at home order in place and felt that the decision made needs to keep kids safe; games are limited after this month and Ms. Yellow Owl felt that with the high amount of positive cases and deaths, the district should not resume sports. Mr. Evans stated concern that the board let the golf students continue to attend tournaments during the tribes stay at home order and he did not understand

how the board can punish kids for what has not happened yet. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that they are not punishing students and also stated that she does not like Mr. Evans statement. Mr. Evans stated that athletes have done everything asked of them and they have had no issues with the virus and they did not give it to any of their team mates. Mr. Evans stated that the board allowed one sport to continue and asked, "what does that look like"? Ms. Bremner stated that some kids in sports have been affected and not all the students feel they are being punished. Ms. Bremner agreed with Ms. Yellow Owl to follow the stay at home order. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that she does not see this as a punishment and felt the board is looking out for every aspect of the students. Ms. TallWhiteman felt that there were a lot of things lost to last years' senior class and it should be viewed as necessary at this time. Jerry Racine stated that from the coach's standpoint, they proved they could follow protocol and be safe; the football team wants to play. Coaches are working with the kids and if keep cancelling and removing games, they will find other things to do and they will be exposed to COVID; kids in sports do follow protocol so they can finish their season, and their numbers are down, school is the safest place for kids. Ms. RidesAtTheDoor felt that the teams should be able to finish sports during last two weeks, athletes have not contracted COVID. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that students in the athletic programs have tested positive but wants to keep the kids safe and feels that the board needs to follow the tribal stay at home order and also recommended to shut down until 10/28/20. Motion passed for "No Sports to Resume" with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman voting not to resume fall sports. Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans voting for fall sports to resume.

Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to approve MOU-Between BPS and Crystal Creek Treatment Center 2020-2021. Second by Mr. Gallup. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Trustee Financial Summary, EL/HS 2019-2020. Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Final Adopted Budgets EL/HS 2020-2021. Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans voting for.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve Discussion/Possible Approval of Agreement to Settlement Between Glacier County & School District #9. Second by Mr. Evans. No public discussion. *Board discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that she did get information from the Counties auditing firm but has not received information from the private auditing firm. Superintendent Hall noted that the last budget of what the district thought was owed (\$3,472,017.30) is different than what was received in the last board meeting (\$2,196,318.02); errors were fixed and according to the school's numbers, the county owes \$2,181,688.85. The county showed the schools ending 2019-2020 budget at \$24,347,693.39 and the school has \$24,477,414.03 which is a difference of \$129,720.64. Superintendent Hall stated that she did speak with Terry Matt and the County is drawing up a contract where the county is paying \$1,662,302.22 and if the school can show documentation that there is a difference in the amount owed, the County will pay the school the difference they owe. The private auditing firm said the board is welcome to call and discuss the audit or can call Don Wilson or the County auditor. MTSBA is waiting for board information but feels they have reached out and the County is taking a stand that they owe \$1,662,302.22 and agrees that whoever owes who, they will pay. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she feels the school does not owe the county. Ms. Yellow Owl asked to see all documentation prior to making a final decision. Ms. Bremner stated that these are public finds and they cannot legally agree and say it is okay for the county to keep the difference but agreed that the District should accept the \$1,662,302.22 million, and everything should be put in writing. All Board agreed. Ms. Yellow Owl asked that the motion be reversed and this item be tabled. Mr. Evans removed his second and motioned to table until the school receives further documentation and an agreement. Second by Ms. Bremner. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve District Claims Check #431476 - #431504 (\$95,381.33); District Claims Check #431505 - #431520 (\$3,789,274.15) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation/No board discussion. Motion passed with Donna Yellow Owl, Wendy Bremner, Brian Gallup, Rae TallWhiteman, Mistee RidesAtTheDoor, James Evans voting for.

Motion by Ms. RidesAtTheDoor to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_ Carlene Adamson, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Crystal Tailfeathers, District Clerk