

**Regular Board Minutes (Draft)**  
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 @ 5:00PM  
Administration Conference Room

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. Salway Bullshoe to approve the Regular Board Minutes of September 10, 2024. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

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

**Public Comment:** None.

**ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

**Building Reports:** Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following reports: Stamiksiitsiikin Elementary-Tonia Tatsey; Browning Elementary School, Sheila Hall; Napi Elementary- Sicily Bird; Browning Middle School - Dennis Juneau; Browning High School - Sandi Campbell; Babb Elementary-Jennifer Wagner; Big Sky & Glendale Schools - Rebecca Rappold; Buffalo Hide Academy- Charlie Speicher. *Board discussion:* Mr. RunningFisher commended Ms. YellowOwl for working on the Homecoming Float and winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Ms. YellowOwl asked how long it takes students to get back on benchmark and assessments. Sheila Hall stated this is an assessment that shows where students are at the beginning of the school year compared to where they were at in May; they also review fluency scores to see if students are comprehending. Some students are placed on intervention to get caught up. This year the state test starts in a couple weeks and our kids are not ready for that and they are not comprehending well and are not in line with basic math skills. Sicily Bird stated the comprehension is a problem, math, whole group and extended grade level instruction and small group model at Napi. Superintendent Rappold stated if students have learning loss over the summer, most will recoup by mid-October but if there is greater deficit it is not learning loss, it is skill deficit. Ms. Bird felt that the standards are very abstract and some students are not ready to visualize, i.e. requiring kids to be proficient in fractions in middle school. Tonia Tatsey stated Bullshoe Elementary is more social/emotional and little learners are saying when is our rest time and suggested to educate and work with the whole child not just the instructional piece.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Superintendent Update:** Reb gave brief update on transfers,

**Mental Health Specialist, Contract Rescission:** Kathy Broere is rescinding her contract with BPS and will be working through HIS. Ms. Broere stated she will continue serving BPS students through the IHS program.

**Dot Drug Testing, Contract Rescission:** Tahnee Armstrong is rescinding her DOT drug testing contract; not setup to do this testing.

**NAFIS Fall Conference 2024:** Mr. Bremner stated that the BHS students did a wonderful job and the staffers were really impressed with them. Mr. Bremner stated that it is very important for our school board to continually go out there and for Impact Aid. He met the National Teacher of the Year and she was very impressive. Mr. Gervais stated that it is very interesting learning where the money comes from for IA. Brian Gallup was a lot of help to him as this was his first time there. Mr. RunningFisher commended the school board and administration for their input at Nafis. The IA funds are not forward funded and at any time congress may decide not to give this money out.

Friday the House was in session and the board met with their staffers; Tuesday, Tester met with the BPS group. Tester is an advocate and a champion in Montana. Brian Gallup is well known by many people at Nafis and he is really on top of everything; he also serves on the National NIISA Board and was re-elected for another term. Mr. RunningFisher stated that he is proud of BPS and proud of the high school students that attended Nafis. Superintendent Rappold stated both are excellent ambassadors of BPS. They presented to the aides on Friday, and again on Tuesday with the Senators. Both knew what IA does for BPS. Mr. Gallup stated it was very political in DC; it is the first time anyone ran against him; if military had won this time, the next seat would automatically go to Indian land. Mr. Gallup stated that NIISA Membership Dues had not been paid however E. Glacier was paid so there was not a problem with that. The Senate offered \$20 million and House \$5 million; depending on how the elections go, will determine what we get. Mr. Gallup stated that he was invited to attend a private tour of the Pentagon in the spring. There were 27 Montanans in attendance at the conference this year. Mr. RunningFisher stated that the head of DOE asked how many schools have savings and BPS was one of the very few that has a reserve thanks to the great leadership from 20 years ago. Trysten Hannon stated that this was a real cool opportunity to travel and meet everyone and be a student voice; it made a difference having them there and it was a great experience. Ms. Hannon stated she did not know what Impact Aid was before going on this trip but now knows it supports our District lifeline and many other schools. Callie Wood stated that it was important for them to be there; they were the only students there. Everyone wanted the students' opinion on everything. Ms. Hannon and Ms. Wood were invited to sit on a panel and had to speak in front of hundreds of people. Jennifer Wagner stated as representatives of our district, both girls were very professional, their words were impeccable and they spoke on behalf of the Montana delegate and their districts; they were knowledgeable and they shared it. Mr. Gallup stated that the school board will take other students to DC for the spring conference.

**HR Status Update:** Beverly KW: 2 guidance counselors, Home School Coordinator; BES: SpEd Teacher currently filled with iTutor; BMS: Teacher, 8<sup>th</sup> Gd Resource Teacher, Self-Contained Teacher, Custodian; BHS: Vo-Tech Teacher, Business Ed Teacher, ELA Teacher, Driver's Ed Teacher, Sped Resource Teacher, Self-Contained SpEd Teacher, BHA: SpEd Teacher; Babb: SpEd Teacher; Childcare: 2 Childcare Aides; PCOP: Hi-Set Tutor; Colonies: SpEd Teacher currently filled with iTutor; Food Services: 3 Assistant Cooks, 1 Supper Program Assistant Cook, 1 Supper Program Head Cook, Supper Program Supv; Transportation: Mechanic, 3-Nine Mth Bus Drivers; Special Services Director.

**Coaches Update:** BHS: Head Girls Wrestling, Girls Assistant Wrestling, Head Winter Cheer, 2-Assistant Winter Cheer, Head Softball, 3- Assistant Softball, Head Boys Tennis, Head Girls Tennis, 2-Assistant Boys BB, Concession Coordinator; BMS: 2-FB, 16<sup>th</sup> Gr BXC, 1GVB, 4-6<sup>th</sup> Gr Wrestling, 4-7<sup>th</sup> Gr Wrestling, 4-8<sup>th</sup> Gr Wrestling; Napi: 4<sup>th</sup>/th Nap X-Country. There will be some hires on the next board agenda.

Mr. Bremner asked why there are 3 certified staff just now going up on lane changes; 6-months late. Beverly Sinclair stated that these are some that weren't on the radar and fell through the cracks as they got buried in her email. Superintendent Rappold stated the teachers have to submit their request by April 1, and some take courses at different times and don't have final transcripts until December; as soon as documentation is available, it is brought to the board for approval.

**Resignations:** The following resignations were accepted by Superintendent Rappold: Tova CreeMedicine, PCA-BES, Effective 9-9-2024; Mike Burns, Girls Head Wrestling-BHS, Effective 9-10-2024; Roberta Wagner, SPED Nurse, Effective 9-13-2024; Jack Parrent Jr, BHS Counselor, Effective 9-17-2024 and Ranee BirdRattler, Head Secretary-Stamiksiitsitkin Elementary, Effective 10-4-2024.

### **ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Hiring:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following hires pending successful background checks/drug tests: Ramona Paulson, Home School Coordinator-Stamiksiitsitkin; Danikqua Thomas, Personal Care Assistant-Stamiksiitsitkin; Joshua TailFeathers, Teacher Assistant-BES; Nado MadPlume Personal Care Assistant-BES; Maurinda BullPlume, SPED Teacher Assistant-BMS and Taysia Andrews, Assistant Cook-BMS. Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans,

Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following hires pending successful background checks/drug tests: Anna Ollinger, SPED Teacher Assistant; Maggie MountainHorse, Child Care Aide I; Megan Daniels, Child Care Aide I; Kylie Farmer, Supper Program Head Cook; Dawn Marxer, Special Olympics Coach 2024-2025 (\$2,080) and Dewey Skunkcap, 9-Month Bus Driver. Second by Mr. Gallup. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

**Contract Service Agreements:** Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve contract service agreements pending successful background checks: Jada Glaze, Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht Afterschool Student Worker 2024-2025 (\$6,262.40); Edward Running Rabbit, Classified Adult Worker for the Ee-Kah-Ki-Maht After-School Program 2024-2025 (\$7,904.00); Rick Hoyt, Assistant Coordinator-Ee Kah Kii Maht After-School Program 2024-2025 (\$9,728.00) and Building, Department Mentors 2024-2025 (\$1,500.00 ea). Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve contract service agreements pending successful background checks: Mabel RunningFisher, Provide Community Mentor Support for New Teachers 2024-2025 (up to \$5,000.00) and Gwyn Andersen, Reconciling Budget, Finance Director & Grant Close Out Training 2024-202. Second by Ms. YellowOwl.

*Board discussion:* It was noted that Mabel RunningFisher and Gwyn Andersen were advertised for 15 days per MCA. Mr. Bremner asked if there is anyone looking at the cost of training for the finance director position and staff and asked if they have looked at hiring someone that does not need training. Superintendent Rappold stated that Ms. Andersen has done a forensic audit for BPS on reserves, setaside, major construction and ESSER funds which are challenging components as well as and federal grants and all title funds, Medicaid, century 21, etc. those budgets are extra challenging as they carry over funds year to year and if they are not closed out, and we continue to use them, it will run the budgets in a hole that we don't have money for. BPS had almost \$2 million overspent in federal grants and we were able to reallocate money because of Ms. Andersen's work. Looking at what Ms. Andersen has recently reported to the board, BPS now knows where the money is, it is visible, and present. Superintendent Rappold stated that the director of finance is the most difficult position in the district due to accountability, coding, and precision required in that role; there is no one that does not take 5-7 years to learn this job. Also noted, is that every size of school district has different finances, and codes, and a Class B school couldn't just come here and do this work as it would be a learning curve for them to do finances for a Class A district. Superintendent Rappold stated that the district is basically paying for two finance directors, but we now know where our money is. Ms. Andersen has given a one-year notice, when this contract came up, that she will not do another year. Sandra Rivas stated that there is a lot of the work that has been cleaned up and she cannot keep working 80-hour weeks to do this and she is getting all the accounts in order. Mr. Gallup stated that it is getting cleaned-up and some was a county issue; no theft but they could not account for BPS money up to two years ago; the intent is that after this it will be manageable to do this work. Superintendent Rappold stated that BPS would have lost \$12.5 million in ESSER without Ms. Andersen and she has gone toe-to-toe with the banks getting our funds in order. Mr. Bremner stated he is not questioning hiring Ms. Andersen, and asked if BPS is in compliance with their audits yet. Superintendent Rappold stated BPS is 3-years behind and the state is 2-years behind on their audits. BPS switched auditors and we are putting pressure on them to get done and stated that the next couple audits will go much quicker because Sandra Rivas and Ms. Andersen have done the work to make information more accountable, more visible, etc. Mr. Bremner stated that Ms. Andersen did find the money to give all staff raises which would not have been available without her. Ms. Rivas stated that she has not been able to do training she needs with Ms. Andersen because she has been cleaning up what was not done before her. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner all except James Evans abstained from approving Gwyn Andersen, Finance Training and Michael Hoyt abstained from approving Rick Hoyt, EeKahKiiMaht.

**Out of State Travel:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following out of state travel: Irene Augare, Tamara Guardipee, NAE for Homeless Youth in Orlando, Florida (\$4,054.06); Dana Bremner, Lea Whitford, NIEA Conference in Palm Springs, California 2024-2025 (School Related Leave Only) and Jennifer LaFromboise Wagner, Nafis Fall Conference 2024-2025 (\$4,794.69). Second by Mr. Gervais. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

**In State Travel:** None.

**Approvals:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Lane Change Request: Samantha Linke, Certified Teacher Napi 2024-2025 (\$3,154.00); Lane Change Request: Carson Bryant, Certified Teacher Napi 2024-2025 (\$10,328.00); Lane Change Request: Corina Stoves, Certified Teacher-BES 2024-2025 (\$3,150.00); New BMS Club-Code Girls United, Sponsor, Goals & Objectives-BMS 2024-2025 (\$516.00); BMS Clubs, Sponsors, Goals & Objectives 2024-2025 (\$2,166.00); FISEF Good Ideas Grant Approval 2024-2025 and Stepping Stones Grant Approval 2024-2025 and Tony Wagner, Compensation for BMS Athletic Coordinator Duties 2023-2024 (\$2,340.00+20% fringe). Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. *Board discussion:* Ms. YellowOwl stated that Tony Wagner's request so far after the fact and disagreed with paying it. Mr. Bremner suggested tabling and bring back, and stated that he doesn't disagree that maybe BPS owes him but felt that Mr. Wagner owes the district with a lot of missing documentation from his computer that was not given to the current AD. Ms. YellowOwl felt that this issue needs to be checked into no matter how the vote goes. Mr. RunningFisher felt that filling this position is part of the AD's duties and feels the board should be involved in making a decision on this request and also noted that there are a lot of directors in the district that are doing other duties and they are not compensated. Mr. Gallup stated that Mr. Wagner was not the director. Mr. Hoyt stated that the role of Athletic Director is district wide and in case of an athletic coordinator's absence, Mr. Wagner should step into the role. Motion passed for all items with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner except motion failed for Tony Wagner, Compensation for BMS Athletic Coordinator Duties 2023-2024 with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Lockley Bremner, Donna YellowOwl, Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt, Kristy Salway Bullshoe voting opposed.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Extended Contract-Debra High, Team Meetings & Extended Day Wednesday 2024-2025 (\$3,626.88); Student Attendance Agreement-Helena 2024-2025 and Student Attendance Agreement-Cut Bank 2024-2025. Second by Mr. Gervais. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility Roster; Cultural Consultants 2024-2025; Change Professional/Technical Employee, Heidi Bullcalf, from Exempt Status to Non-Exempt 2024-2025; MOU Agreement between Behavior Health, BTBH and Browning Public Schools 2024-2025; MOU Between BPS and Montana Job Corp 2024-2025; MOU between Browning Federation of Teachers and BPS; Special Education Teachers 2024-2025; ILIP (Indian Language Immersion Program) Grant Approval-BNAS 2024-2025; TransTax Advisors LLC 2024-2025; Commercial Energy Contract 2024-2025; Purchase 3-New School buses for BPS District #9 2024-2025 (\$475,500.00); District Claims Check #93324-#93335; Check #441638-#441642 (\$69,054.39) and District Claims#93336-#93384; Check #441503-#441637 (43,333,475.46); Student Activities Check #705964-#705971 (\$8,411.42); Cancelled Check #705958 and #705972-#706003 (\$7,102.31) and Additional Pays/Payroll. *Board discussion:*

Mr. Evans asked about Commercial Energy. Superintendent Rappold did check into this and stated that BPS pays NW Energy \$57,000 for delivery of natural gas. NW can provide delivery and supply. Currently BPS savings is \$10,000 with commercial energy they use their estimates from the prior year to give us a fixed rate on natural gas. This contract came about in 2009 and was a higher savings for the district but natural gas is at an all-time high now. Transtax reached out in regards to tax rebate for alternative fuel sources. This is a Legal group that specializes in helping schools get tax rebates they qualify for. It is \$1,500 rebate per bus, per year, and we can go back 3 years.

BPS is billed only for what we actually receive and we don't pay ahead of time to apply for the tax credit. Transtax will help BPS meet the deadline to recoup the rebate for a 3-year period. Mr. Gallup stated that all reservations in Montana are going electric; there is a lot of grant money out there and BPS might want to look at electric buses. Francis Bullcalf stated that we ordered propane buses and we get 6 hours of use and the electric buses only get half of that in winter; he does not know where the surveys are coming from on the electric buses and there could be problems with the batteries. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Mr. RunningFisher stated that tomorrow is board training and encouraged everyone to be in attendance. Superintendent Rappold stated that there is strategic planning tonight and a walk through of the new warehouse at 4PM on Wednesday before the Facilities Committee meeting. Members of Glendale and Big Sky Colonies asked that the school board conduct a board meeting at their schools and see what is happening and also invited the board members to attend their Christmas Program this year in December.

There were no Personnel or Legal Issues.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to adjourn at 6:09PM. Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Thomas Gervais, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Sandra Rivas, District Clerk