

**Regular Board Minutes (Draft)**  
Wednesday, January 29, 2025 @ 5:00PM  
Browning Elementary Library  
(Reconvene at 5:00PM Administration)

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

Mr. RunningFisher reviewed upcoming Important Dates and thanked Sheila Hall and staff for the building presentations during the noon session at 12:00PM.

**BES Student Recognitions:** Sheila Hall recognized Hazelee CrossGuns, Laken Castillo, Kyrie Aimsback, Skyrah Gobert, Luna LastStar, Kinsley Monroe, Violet Connell, Trayce Bullchild, Josiah Flammond, Rock Gobert, Reid Ingraham, Troy NewBreast, Cameron Augare, Greyson Boggs, Alton Gobert, Savannah NightGun, Jess Omeasoo; Angelina LazyBoy; Warren Crawford

**BES Staff Recognitions:** Sheila Hall recognized Michelle Tailfeathers, Samuel Aimsback, Julius Manyguns, Michele CalfTail, Samantha McFadyean, Kara DeRoche, McKenzie Augare

**BHS Student Recognition:** Rebecca recognized Art Students from Radium Woolf’s class for high quality work in her class. Students entered art contest, warren crawford won an award. Brian recd calls from people in montana acknowledging student awards.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the Regular Board Minutes of 1/14/2025 with no changes. Second by Mr. Bremner.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

**Public Comment:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the agenda removing Termination Hearing: L. RainingBird. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

**ITEM OF DISCUSSION**

**Building Reports:** Mr. RunningFisher acknowledged the following building reports: Child Nutrition-Copy Center-Warehouse-Dalaina Grant; Curriculum and Instruction-Rebecca Rappold; Special Education Report-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 and Maintenance/Facilities, Security/Construction-Reid Reagan. *No discussion.*

**Superintendent Report:** Superintendent Rappold updated included a transfer request from Lori Vaile to BHS Head Secretary; IA application submitted 1/17/25; Wrestling Tournament planning for Feb. 7 & 8; Curriculum review for K-5 ELA program; Summer School planning; Budget planning for 2025-2026 to begin in February; Prepare for Strategic plan update in April to align to new accreditation schedule. Superintendent travel to State Speech & Debate in Laurel; Attendance at MASS Meeting for superintendents in Great Falls on legislation updates.

**STARS-School-Funding-Concept-Brief:** Stars Act HB 252 will make significant impact for quality educators.

**Union Intent to Negotiate:** Union President, Dana Bremner has noticed the Board of Trustees and superintendent of the BFTs intent to commence negotiations for a successor contract.

**Fly-In Meeting:** Mr. Gallup will meet with congressional leaders in Washington, DC to press for legislation and program implementation that will benefit Montana. Montana congressional party was not in attendance and Mr. Gallup asked to extend his travel by 1-day so that he can meet with them. Impact Aid grant application is due to be submitted by January 31; Mr. Gallup does not expect changes to Impact Aid; expecting an increase. A judge changed Trump's order to stop all grants which would have included IDEA, Title programs, school lunch and Tanf.

**HR Status Update:** Elementary: 2 PCAs, 2 SpEd Tas; BHS: Votech weld & auto, Business Ed teacher, Drivers Ed, PCOP: HiSet Tutor, Fd Svc: Assist Cook, SpEd Director (have possible applicant), SpEd Nurse, Transportation: Mechanic, 9-mth Driver. Ms. YellowOwl asked what HR is doing to recruit for open positions. Beverly Sinclair stated she is putting job postings on frontline, MTSBA, MASBO, and is looking at putting classified positions in the local newspaper. Normal attrition will be looked at and she will be attending college job fairs. Ms. YellowOwl asked about making the school website friendlier for employment needs. Beverly Sinclair stated yes, Rudy Rivas is managing the Web page and they will meet with him to put the employment piece on the frontpage so it is more visible. Beverly Sinclair stated Frontline program can be used for employment and applicants can submit their application and upload all attachments; this program has not been used for a while.

**Coaching Season Update:** Kellen Hall stated he needs softball and baseball coaches and he has already talked to Rudy Rivas to create a link for the website for advertising. Mr. Hall stated he was told that BPS never hurts for coaches, however, he is hiring a coach after the fact because there are some that are hired to coach and resign when the season is starting; they commit, then quit when we need them. Mr. Hall stated BPS does not have locker room facilities but they are making accommodations for 13 teams but will make it work for wrestling. There is a parking issue and they will have buses in the football area; staff need to park in the front parking lot and those attending the tournament will need to park in student parking. They have awards from MHSA and have designed beading medallions which they are waiting on beads for embroidery. Cheerleaders are doing t-shirts. They have hired 9 for the table, 15 Security, 2 gate people, 1 floor manager, 1 weight man, EMT. Police will be available. Bracket is ready. All information will go out to State immediately. Mr. Hall has been working closely with the business office on the budget; they ran out of money in the Ronan basketball game and need to be ready for this event. The Hospitality room is in Jimi Lunaks' room. There is a schedule for breakfast, lunch and dinner and Athletics will have snacks and drinks. Need more custodians. Officials have committed and signed their contracts; they will be housed at the Glacier Peaks Hotel. There will be a spreadsheet for the Board, Administration and Coaches; no tickets. Robert Hall did a very good job with the Rosters for each school. Hamilton donated 4-TVs for the mats to help with track wrestling. Still need podiums; the staging area is ready, need more workers, business office has money, 2 concessions available. Will have to use the restroom near the cafeteria, Reid will have security and ushers for the buses and they will need people for parking; gates will be setup in the hallway.

**Resignations:** the following resignations were accepted by the superintendent: Maurinda BullPlume, Special Education Teacher Assistant-BMS, Effective 1-17-2025; Jennifer Fenner, Elementary Teacher-BES, Effective 1-23-2025; Serenity Sinclair, Personal Care Attendant-BHS Effective 2-5-2025 and Lea Whitford, Instructional Coach - BNAS, Effective 6-6-2025.

### **ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Hiring:** Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the following hires pending successful background check: Verna Owl Child, Counselor-Stamiksiitsiitskin Elementary 2024-2025 (\$28,487.00 prorated) and Tyler RunningCrane, 7th Grade BBB Coach-BMS 2024-2025 (\$1,032.00). Second by Mr. Evans. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve hiring Whisper Michel, Custodian-BHS. Second by Mr. Bremner. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

**Contract Service Agreements:** None.

**Out of state Travel:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following out of state travel for Kari McKay, National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) in Washington, DC (\$590.18). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following out of state travel for Dana Bremner, Lea Whitford, NIEA 2025 Hill Week in Washington, DC 2024-2025 (School Related Leave Only). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

**In State Travel:** Motion by Mr. Gallup to approve in state travel for Kellen Hall, AD Scheduling Meeting in Columbia Falls, MT 2024-2025 (\$179.23). Second by Mr. Bremner. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

**Approvals:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items Extended Contract: Angela Archuleta, Supervise/Administer Testing/Assess Access 2.0 2024-2025 (\$1,363.00); Waiver of 8% Penalty Fee for Early Resignation-Jennifer Fenner 2024- 2025 (\$5,130.08) and BES Clubs, Sponsors, Goals & Objectives 2024-2025 (\$3,550.00). Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve the following items: NEW Buffalo Hide Club, Sponsor-Lacey Salois, Goals & Objectives 2024-2025 (\$516.00) and HS Students (2) Attendance Agreement District #10 Anaconda, MT 2024-2025. Second by Mr. Evans. *No public participation. No board discussion.* Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve the following items: Substitute Eligibility Roster 1/29/25, BNAS Consultants 2024-2025; SafeTrac Agreement for DOT Employment Screening 2024-2025; Tahnee Armstrong, Drug Testing Agreement 2024-2025; BNAS Application for Humanities of Montana Grant "Imiiaisskii & Friends"; Apply for MT OPI 2025-2030 MONTANA READS Literacy Grant; MOU Blackfeet Tribe & BPS (Truancy Court, Wellness Court, Family SVCS-CPS, Attendance) 2024-2025; Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election 2024-2025; Declare Property as Surplus 2024-2025; District Claims #93118-#93121; \$442059-442183 (\$604,474.84); Student Activities Claim #706113-#706144 (\$9,137.21); Cancelled Claims #706087 & 706106 and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *Board discussion:* The Safetrack agreement is DOT for bus drivers. Ms. YellowOwl asked about surplus property, and if activities is already selling the shirts. Sandra Rivas stated that there was a miscommunication error and they have stopped selling the shirts until surplus is board approved; there were only a couple sold. The athletic department wants to sell the shirts and restock and the team that wore them are interested in buying them. Ms. Rivas asked the school board if they want a poll election or mailout ballot election and stated that the board has to make this decision tonight. The Browning precincts are the Administration building and Babb and East Glacier votes in their area. Mr. Bremner suggested mail ballot and stated there are absentee voters and by mail ballot they will all be mailed and if you don't get your ballot, you can come in and vote. Ms. Rivas stated that there are no voting polls if the board does mail ballot. Mr. Bremner felt that this is not correct information. Crystal Cole, County Election Officer, (virtual) stated if it is all mail then there is no in-person to place a vote, you can only pick-up a ballot. All those registered to vote receive ballots by mail; if you did not receive one in the mail, you can fill out a request for an absentee ballot. Board members agreed to have a poll ballot. Crystal Cole also stated that in Resolution, Title 20-20-203, School Elections states when you pass the resolution you will appoint election judges that are working the polling places. Sandra Rivas stated that Cicily CalfBossRibs is the only judge she has at this point. Ms. Cole stated if you want to pass a resolution now, you will have to submit a revised resolution with the election judges listed to stay compliant with the law, or table, and do the resolution on February 11. BPS has until February 25 to pass a resolution. Board members agreed to do a revised resolution for February 11 board meeting.

Motion passed for all items, with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais voting for.

Break at 5:46PM. Mr. Gervais left meeting; Michael Hoyt entered meeting.

**Legal Issues**-Closed session at 6:00PM

**Present:** James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt, Rebecca Rappold-Superintendent, Carlene Adamson-Secretary.

Meeting convened to open session at 6:13PM.

Mr. Bremner asked about the Lighthouse Club. Superintendent Rappold stated they are not ready yet to bring it forward. A copy of the policy has been provided to the person who leads the club and she will meet with the student.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to adjourn at 6:15PM. Second by Mr. Bremner. Motion passed with Mr. RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Lockley Bremner, Thomas Gervais, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

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

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

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