

**Regular Board Minutes (Draft)**  
Tuesday, April 14, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Administration Conference Room

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

Ms. Yellow Owl called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Mr. Edwards to approve Regular Board Minutes of 3/25/20 and Special Board Minutes of 3/27/20 with no changes. Second by Ms. Bullshoe. All in favor/Motion passed.

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

**Building Reports:** Ms. Yellow Owl acknowledged the following building reports: KW Vina – Tonia Tatsey, Browning Elementary – Sheila Hall, Napi Elementary – Sicily Bird, Browning Middle School – Angela Heavy Runner, Browning High School – Jennifer Wagner, Babb Elementary – Billie Jo Juneau, Big Sky & Glendale – Natasha Siliezar, Special Education – Maureen Stott, Alternative Schools – Matthew Johnson. *Discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl thanked all for getting material to students and asked for the percentage of returned homework. Jennifer stated that she had 3 students turn in paper work. No further discussion.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

**Discuss Possible Letter to Governor:** Superintendent Hall asked the school board to decide if they want a letter to be sent to the Governor on behalf of the school board. Ms. Yellow Owl noted that the letter to Governor Bullock states, BPS school board is requesting to close school for the remainder of the school year, and the letter from OPI suggests the same. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that she agrees with the letter. Superintendent Hall stated that this letter is different than OPI suggestion which is to continue distance learning plans through the remainder of this school year and plan to not hold large scale in person graduation ceremonies. This letter is to request to not continue with the packets as suggested by Ms. Bremner. Ms. Bremner stated that she also does not want the school to be in position where we say staff is essential and they have to come in to work and expose themselves. Ms. Bremner stated that if the virus is brought to Browning it could be devastating to high risk Native Americans. Mr. Edwards asked if this will affect honor students. Superintendent Hall stated, no. The School Board agreed by consensus to send the letter to Governor.

**County Update:** Superintendent Hall stated that she met, by phone, with Don Wilson and Opal Boggs. During the phone discussion, Mr. Wilson agreed the county owes the school but stated that he did not tell the local newspaper that District 9 owes the County; Mr. Wilson stated that he did not give the paper this information and does not know where it came from. Superintendent Hall stated that the district did receive a deposit from the county last Thursday and Mr. Wilson, Ms. Boggs and Stacy Edwards are continuing to work together to reconcile. Ms. Bremner stated she is not satisfied with Mr. Wilson's response on the information in the paper because it was in the paper stating that the person was present in a meeting. Ms. Bremner wants the district to send letter to county to say the information is inaccurate and take the stance that county owes the school. Ms. Yellow Owl stated that the district will put a retraction in the paper and explain the school's position.

**Accreditation:** Superintendent Hall reviewed the last 3 years accreditation status for Browning Schools and noted that at the bottom of the page it states why a school may be out of compliance, listing Licensure, teaching assignments and areas of deficiency. Superintendent Hall noted that most are teachers who are in the 2+2 program.

**MHSA Spring Activities Status:** As per letter attached, MHSA has suspended all activities through May 4 and may cancel for the school year.

**BHS Virtual Protocol COVID 19 for Suicidal Student/Grading and Graduation Requirements:** Jennifer Wagner explained process of being in touch with suicidal students and also stated that the counseling association says the procedure has to be approved by school legal counsel prior to board approval. All counselors have cell phones and will post their number for students to contact.

**Grading and Graduation:** Ms. Wagner stated that data evidenced that had 300+ students are failing one class or more out of 500 students; 96 graduates and 54 not eligible. Ms. Wagner has contacted the families, cancelled all March activities and moved prom to May 9, 2020 along with portfolios and Honor Society; 21 Jetpacks have been distributed; packets are revised and Internet and tech device list is complete. Ms. Wagner stated she is concerned about the lack of contact with students and students that not accepting google classroom. The social emotional needs are very high and they need to move through a grief process with students. Ms. Wagner stated she recommends to not look at what students are doing in content area, but what they are doing and suggests postponing prom indefinitely because it is causing too much stress. Will try to look at what can do on google classroom. Have virtual celebration and parade around town. Ms. Wagner suggested that the board look at seniors having requirements as per state requirements for graduation of 20; waive the portfolio presentation and make optional another virtual classroom grade. Students can show their portfolio if they want to. All community service requirements should be waived. Ms. Wagner recommend that final grades be their midterm grade and do makeup work if not passing at midterm; any new assignments would be logged in as extra credit and a final grade be given at end of school year; sophomores and juniors would be same as seniors and a final exam would not be mandatory; that Friday would be the final list of who graduates. Ms. Wagner recommended a process of going to the campgrounds for graduation, an online ceremony, and mail diplomas out to students and stated her plan is putting safety first in accordance with the Blackfeet Incident Command recommendations. Ms. Yellow Owl suggested the board waive credit requirements, portfolios, community service and do a virtual google classroom. All Board members, Superintendent Hall, and secondary principals agreed. Prom will be indefinitely postponed. All Board members, Superintendent Hall, and secondary principals agreed. Ms. Wagner stated that the money for the senior trip will be discussed at the next board meeting. Ms. Yellow Owl asked that the board send their ideas for graduation plans to Ms. Wagner. Superintendent Hall suggested a drive-in-movie graduation; Ms. TallWhiteman suggested a homecoming graduation. Ms. Yellow Owl stated whatever is decided will have to be reviewed by tribal council first. Ms. Bremner suggested all counselors work with kids on credits they need and make sure they are eligible for college of preference. All Board members agreed by consensus to waive credit requirements, portfolios, community service, offer a virtual google classroom, and postpone Prom indefinitely.

**Cares Act-State School Emergency Relief Fund Allocations FY 2020:** Stacy Edwards stated that the Cares Act is based on the Title I funding formula and there are eleven allowable uses for the funds that will be run through e-grants. This should not affect nonbudgeted funds and must be expended by September 20, 2021; elementary \$939,000 and high school over \$396,000.

**HR Status Update:** John Salois stated that the report is updated from the last board meeting with resignations. No discussion.

**Coaching Update 2019-2020:** Mr. Salois stated if BPS doesn't have the sport due to MHSA cancellations, the coaches won't be paid. Coaching salaries may be estimated for short seasons. Board agreed to pay high school baseball and track coaches that were hired, for time worked. Ms. Yellow Owl asked for a list of coaches who started and the time they actually worked. Ms. Croff asked if the contract addresses anything about not being able to finish the sport season. Mr. Salois will get this information and forward to school board. Ms. Bremner stated if we have a hiring freeze are we preparing for the fall season. Mr. Salois stated that he has advertised for winter sports; fall season is good, and teaching positions are being advertised; job fairs have been shut down but he can contact MSU and UofM for contact information. Ms. Bremner asked if there is an announcement out for the football coach. Mr. Salois will check on this. Everett Armstrong stated he is going to discuss opening positions for cross country and football coaches with Mr. Salois.

**Resignations:** The following resignations were accepted by Superintendent Hall: Ygnatio LaForge, Assistant Track Coach-BHS, Effective 3-10-20; Ygnatio Laforge, Head Cross Country Coach-BHS Effective 3-10-2020 and Theodora Weatherwax, Teacher-Napi Elementary, Effective 6-4-2020. No discussion.

### **ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Hiring:** Anne Schuschke, Teacher Assistant-KW Vina; Danielle Augare, Girls Basketball Coach-BMS 2020-2021 (\$1,177.00); Arlan Edwards, Girls Basketball Coach-BMS 2020-2021 (\$1,218.00); William Whitegrass, Girls Basketball Coach-BMS 2020-2021 (\$1,073.00) and Whitney Bremner, BHS Assistant Volleyball Coach 2020-2021 (\$2,105.00). Motion passed 8-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Wendy Bremner via Teleconference, Brian Gallup via Teleconference, James Evans via Teleconference, Brenda Croff via Teleconference, Rae TallWhiteman via Teleconference, voting for. Ms. Croff abstained from vote for Danielle Augare, Girls Basketball Coach-BMS; Jess Edwards abstained from vote for Arlan Edwards, Girls Basketball Coach-BMS; Rae TallWhiteman abstained from vote for William Whitegrass, Girls Basketball Coach-BMS; Wendy Bremner abstained from vote for Whitney Bremner, BHS Assistant Volleyball Coach 2020-2021.

Motion by Ms. Bremner to approve hiring 2020 Election Judges, Teresa Roland, Linda Baker, Nicklo Cross Guns (\$1,200.00) and Certified Administrators-Principals-Professional Technical 2020-2021: Sicily Bird, Sheila Hall, Angela HeavyRunner, William Huebsch, Jennifer LaFromboise-Wagner, Kari McKay, Jessica Racine, Rebecca Rappold, Natasha Siliezar, Tonia Tatsey, Arlene Wippert, Everett Armstrong, Cinnamon Crawford, Teri DeRoche, Stacy Edwards, Robert Hall, Julia Nicole Hannon, Everett Holm, Matthew Johnson, Billie Jo Juneau, Lynette Keenan, Melanie Magee, John Salois, Maureen Stott, Carlene Adamson, Sherie Blue, Arlan Edwards, Jennifer Ehlers, William Kennedy, Kristin Krupa, Zita Ottersbach, Tessa Racine, Daniella Reinhart, Regina Rink, Juliana Salois, Nathan Stone, Crystal Tailfeathers, Kimberly Tatsey-McKay. Second by Mr. Evans. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Croff stated that she does not agree with moving a principal to an assistant principal position. It was noted that Superintendent Hall has the authority by policy to transfer staff following notification of school board. Ms. Bullshoe asked if it is legal to decrease wages. Superintendent Hall stated, yes, this was an administrator filling an interim position. *No further discussion.* Motion passed 8-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Wendy Bremner via Teleconference, Brian Gallup via Teleconference, James Evans via Teleconference, Brenda Croff via Teleconference, Rae TallWhiteman via Teleconference, voting for.

**Contract Service Agreements:** None.

**Out of State Travel:** None.

**In State Travel:** None.

**Approvals:** Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Early Graduation Request-Jaycelynn Hannon 2020-2021. Second by Ms. Croff. No public participation. No board discussion. Motion passed 8-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Wendy Bremner via Teleconference, Brian Gallup via Teleconference, James Evans via Teleconference, Brenda Croff via Teleconference, Rae TallWhiteman via Teleconference, voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Discussion/Possible Action Concerning COVID-19. Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that she is asking the school board to continue to pay all staff, continue to allow people to work who are able to volunteer, using the approved substitute list through end of school year. Ms. Bremner asked to also include in the motion to provide online learning and paper packets to students as recommended by State Superintendent of Public Instruction and to continue to pay staff, and support high school recommendation to continue with graduation plan and waive policy on the distinguished diploma. *No further discussion.* Motion passed 8-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Wendy Bremner via Teleconference, Brian Gallup via Teleconference, James Evans via Teleconference, Brenda Croff via Teleconference, Rae TallWhiteman via Teleconference, voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve Salary Increase for Administrators/Directors/Professional Technical 2020-2021 (\$64,581.00). Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl stated that Stacy Edwards, Matthew Johnson, Maureen Stott have been recommended for a larger salary increase and stated that she wants to see raises fair across board for all administrators. Ms. TallWhiteman agreed and noted that Teri DeRoche, Lynne Keenan, John Salois have been stepping up in vital, essential areas and when giving raises it needs to be fair and across the board; if these raises are based on performance than the others need it as well. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that there are some that are going unnoticed that do a lot. Superintendent Hall stated that there are many that work above and beyond normal. Mr. Gallup stated that they are only looking at extra duties and increase in days. Mr. Edwards stated that Ms. Edwards goes the extra mile and works many long hours at home and on weekends. Rebecca Rappold felt that Maureen Stott's initial salary is very low considering the positions needs. Board members agreed to approve a 2% salary increase except three individuals, Matthew Johnson, Stacy Edwards and Maureen, who will be brought forward separately because these are not performance raises. Ms. Bremner asked that an explanation of what kind of work they are doing be included in the request for increases. *No further discussion.* Motion passed 8-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Wendy Bremner via Teleconference, Brian Gallup via Teleconference, James Evans via Teleconference, Brenda Croff via Teleconference, Rae TallWhiteman via Teleconference, voting for.

Motion by Ms. Croff to approve the following items: Playground and Equipment for Glendale Colony (\$30,078.59); Purchase Propane route Buses (\$227,000.00); Amended Resolution Calling for Election 2020; New Tax Market-Compilation of a Financial Forecast-Consulting Services; Purchases Over \$10,000.00; District Claims Check #430563 - #430631 (\$53,211.33); District Claims Check #430567 - #430635 (\$130,016.38); Student Activities Claims Check #704347 (\$2,622.66) and Additional Pays/Payroll. Second by Ms. Bremner. No public participation. *Board discussion:* Ms. Yellow Owl noted to board members that the playground for Glendale has not been brought to the facilities meeting due to Covid 19. Superintendent Hall stated that the district is offering Glendale the same option that was given to Big Sky. No further discussion. Motion passed 8-0 with Donna Yellow Owl, Kristy Bullshoe, Jess Edwards, Wendy Bremner via Teleconference, Brian Gallup via Teleconference, James Evans via Teleconference, Brenda Croff via Teleconference, Rae TallWhiteman via Teleconference, voting for.

**Personnel:** None.

**Legal Issues:** None.

Motion by Mr. Edwards to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Second by Mr. Edwards. All in favor/Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna Yellow Owl, Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Stacy Edwards, District Clerk