

BOARD MINUTES

April 21, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, April 21, 2021 in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Chairman, Carl Openshaw called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jeff Branson, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Carl Parker, Shane Rekdal, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: Shane Flowers.

Superintendent – Drea O’Donnell, Clerk – Janice Ripley, MS Principal/AD – Rich Hash, Elem. Principal - Autumn Arlian, and HS Principal – KJ Poepping were present for the entire meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include March claims 130571 - 130635.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Carl Parker, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include March claims 130571 – 130635, and the March regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

INFORMATIONAL

- 1) Building use requests: As posted in the agenda.
- 2) Missing Children
- 3) Nurse’s Report
- 4) Water Report
- 5) Resignations:
 - Taylor Essinger – Elem. Teacher
 - Dawn Sherseth – Elem Music Teacher
 - Rob Nyby – MS Teacher, Head HS Basketball Coach, Head Golf Coach, and MS Football Coach

No Action

OLD BUSINESS

COVID Update

The cases among school age children across the County have been trending downward. The plan is to re-visit the Emergency Policies and bring recommendations to the Board for the start of school in the Fall.

Construction Update

The new construction is coming along well. The reconstruction in the High School and Middle School will start as soon as school is out and all should be ready when school starts in the Fall. A walk through of the new construction is planned for Wednesday, May 19th before the start of the meeting.

Second Reading Policies 2100, 3210, 3225, 3225F, 3225P, 3310, and 5321

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve policies 2100, 3210, 3225, 3225F, 3225P, 3310, and 5321 for the second reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

HS HHP Teaching Position

It was recommended to approve the hiring of a Health and Human Performance (weightlifting) teacher in the HS.

A High School Motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Shane Rekdal to approve hiring a HHP Teacher in the High School.

Motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources

New Hires

Kristen Lunder – Elementary Teacher – pending fingerprint results.

Taylor Cunningham – MS PE Teacher – pending fingerprint results.

Katlyn Stringari – HS HHP Teacher.

Charly Bermes – Asst. Clerk/Student Activities Accountant.

Rehire Recommendations

Attached files with Teacher, Classified Staff, Kitchen Staff, and Transportation Staff rehire recommendations were reviewed.

District Hiring Recommendations

Janice Ripley – Business Manager
Macey Ferguson – Activities and Asst. Clerk, Adult Ed. Director
Amanda Stahl – Head Cook
Robert Trotter – Transportation Director
Andrew Rinaldi – Maintenance/Grounds
Thomas Sieler – Maintenance
Rose Cook – Head Custodian
Hope Martin – Nurse
Jeff Armstrong – IT

An Elementary motion was made by Jule Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve hiring the Elementary/Middle School certified staff, classified staff, and substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year as listed.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Carl Parker, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve hiring the District staff, HS certified staff, classified staff, and substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year as listed.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Out-of-District Students

No out-of-district students were brought to the Board during this meeting. It was discussed that a policy should be in place allowing Shepherd School District to look at out-of-district students from Pioneer before students from other Districts, due to the fact that they are part of our High School District when they reach 9th grade, and the Pioneer Community pays taxes to the Shepherd High School District.

No action was taken.

Audit Report 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 audit report was reviewed. It was noted that during the audit, the auditors found three time sheets that were not signed by an administrator. Steps will be taken to make sure all timesheets have the proper signatures going forward.

A High School/Joint Motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Shayne Vandivort to approve the audit report for 2019-2020.

Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Election Acclamation

Bret Rutherford, the County Election Administrator, advised the school that Carl Openshaw has been declared a Trustee elected by acclamation. Therefore, since there is

no other election-action taking place, Mr. Rutherford will cancel the May 2021 school election for Shepherd School.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Jeff Branson, to accept the letter from the County Election Administrator cancelling the May 2021 election and declaring Carl Openshaw elected to the Board by acclamation.

Motion passed unanimously.

Title Teaching Position

It was recommended to approve hiring a Title Teacher for the Elementary as a 2-year position to address learning loss due to COVID. The salary would be paid through the ESSER funds.

An Elementary motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the hiring of a Title Teacher for the Elementary as a 2-year position to address learning loss due to COVID with the use of ESSER funds.

Motion passed unanimously.

Inter-local Agreement with the Eastern SPED Cooperative

It was recommended to approve the new inter-local agreement with the Eastern Special Education Cooperative.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the new inter-local agreement with the Eastern Special Education Cooperative.

Motion passed unanimously.

Great Falls College Collaborative Agreement

It was recommended, to approve the collaborative agreement between Shepherd Schools and the College of Great Falls for dual enrollment.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Carl Parker, to approve the collaborative agreement between Shepherd Schools and the College of Great Falls for dual enrollment.

Motion passed unanimously.

Job Corps Memorandum of Understanding

This is an annual agreement with the Job Corps. It was recommended to again enter into this agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.

A High School motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to enter into the agreement with the Job Corps for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion passed unanimously.

Student Handbook Review

The Elementary and Middle School Student Handbooks were reviewed, and it was recommended to approve them for the 2021-2022 school year.

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve the Elementary and Middle School Student Handbooks.

Motion passed unanimously.

High School Curriculum Guide Amendment

It was recommended to approve the HS Curriculum Guide with the amendment as presented.

A High School motion was made by Carl Parker, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve the HS Curriculum Guide with the amendment as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

Middle School Credit Requirement Plan

Mr. Hash reviewed the Middle School credit requirement plan and it was recommended to approve it as presented.

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Middle School credit requirement plan.

Motion passed unanimously.

Weight Room/Cardio Room Flooring

Flooring will need to be installed in the new weight room/cardio room before the equipment can be moved from its current location. While we not sure of the exact total cost of this yet, the estimation is that it may be between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to complete the project. Because there is a need to spread students out and make more but smaller classes due to COVID requirements, this project may be funded with the ESSER funds. The building reserve funds will be used if we don't receive approval to use the ESSER funds.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Facilities Committee – The design team and facilities committee will meet every other Monday at 1:00pm. Please join the meetings if you are at all able to do so.
- Policy Committee – The policy committee will continue to meet and bring policies to the Board that need review. A policy committee meeting needs to be set for May.
- Negotiations Committee – The negotiations committee has given their intent to negotiate, but no meetings have been set at this time.
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ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

The Administrators recapped their reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OPEN SESSION TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 7:28pm.