

BOARD MINUTES

April 24, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Shepherd School District #37 was held Friday, April 24, 2020 in the Conference Room of the Administration Building and electronically in accordance with MCA 2-3-202. Chairman, Carl Openshaw called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Members present electronically: Shane Flowers, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Carl Parker, Shane Rekdal, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: Jeff Branson.

Staff present on-site: Superintendent – Drea O’Donnell, Clerk – Janice Ripley, Elementary Principal - Autumn Arlian, Middle School Principal/AD - Rich Hash, and High School Principal – KJ Poepping.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Two parents spoke in favor of continuing with distance learning for the remainder of the school year.

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 School Closures Update

Mrs. O’Donnell stated some of the restrictions that would be necessary to open school for the few days that remain after the Governor lifts his closure.

The Administration team jointly recommended that the school remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

Board members expressed their thoughts and all were in agreement that with the restrictions and guidelines put in place by the Governor it would be almost impossible to hold school in the buildings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, that the Board of Trustees declare an unforeseen emergency within the meaning of that term as set forth in Title 20, Chapter 9, Part 8, to become immediately effective and to continue through June 30, 2020. This motion is based on COVID-19 risks; in recognition that the Governor’s waiver of student instruction time will expire on May 7; and in recognition that the Governor’s April 22, 2020 Directive implicating Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 specify that elected school boards and their districts that adopt their own declaration of emergency will continue to receive all state funding, including transportation funding.

A High School/Joint motion was made Carl Parker, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve COVID-19 Emergency Policies 1900 and 1901.

Both motions passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the possibility of holding graduation and the possible earliest date that it could be held at the school, given the guidelines by the Governor. It was agreed to set a tentative date for 5/31/2020, knowing that it could possibly change. The Board will revisit this date in the middle of May giving the parents a couple of weeks notice if the date has to change.

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 1:20pm.