

BOARD MINUTES

September 12, 2018

A regular Board Meeting of the Trustees of Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, September 12, 2018 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, Shane Flowers, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Carl Parker, Shane Rekdal, and Shayne Vandivort.

Superintendent - Scott Carter, Clerk – Janice Ripley, High School Principal - KJ Poepping, Middle School Principal/AD - Rich Hash, Elementary Principal - Autumn Krings, and Curriculum Director – Drea O’Donnell were present for the entire meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts to include August claims 128540 – 128620.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Carl Parker, to approve the High School business claims and accounts to include August claims 128540 – 128620 and the August regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lloyd Reimann expressed his concern over the fact that the school allows so many out-of-district students to attend while planning to ask the voters for a bond issue to expand.

Mrs. Murray read a letter explaining her sudden retirement, and thanked the Board and community for all the support they have given her in her 24 year tenure at Shepherd School.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

INFORMATIONAL

- 1) Building use requests: As posted in the agenda.
- 2) Missing Children Report
- 3) Nurse’s Report
- 4) Water
- 5) Resignations: Karen Murray – Elementary Teacher
James Rooney – Bus Driver

No action.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Policy 1401, 1420, 3121P, 3141, 5002, 5010, 5460, 5500, 6110P, 7260, 7320, 7332, 7530, 8123, 8426, 8426F for Second Reading

- 1401 – Records Available to Public
- 1420 – School Board Meeting Procedure
- 3121P – Enrollment and Attendance Records
- 3141 – Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance Policy
- 5002 - Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities
- 5010 – Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-discrimination
- 5460 – Electronic Resources and Social Networking
- 5500 – Payment of Wages upon Termination
- 6110P – Superintendent
- 7260 – Endowments, Gifts and Investments
- 7320 – Authorization and Control
- 7332 – Advertising in Schools/Revenue Enhancement
- 7530 – Procurement of Supplies or Services
- 8123 – Bus Driver Training and Responsibility
- 8426 – Therapy Animals
- 8426F – Request to use Therapy Animals in School Form

A High School/Joint motion was made by Carl Parker, seconded by Julie Hinkle to approve the listed policies for second reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board Policy Final Reading 5005

5005 – Armed Staff Safety/Security

Mr. Carter stated that the policy has been reviewed by MtSBA and our lawyer. They have both advised that it is a model policy and they will probably share it with other schools. They also said that the school won't have to renegotiate with the teachers' union. The school already has on duty sheriff's deputy carrying a gun at school. Therefore, it would not change the work environment. It was also stated that when a staff member is approved to carry, that vote must be made in open session.

It was recommended to approve the policy listed for final reading.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve the final reading policy 5005 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

New Hires HS/Joint:

- Leo Anderson – Bus Driver
- Heather Ledger – Bus Driver
- Latonya Allen – HS Paraprofessional
- Alexis Rupe – Elem Paraprofessional
- Theodore Kary – Grounds, custodial
- Substitute list

There was some discussion regarding the process of hiring before background checks are complete. It was agreed, best practice is to never hire anyone that will be alone with students until an acceptable background check is complete. However, there are instances when an employee is needed, and they are hired pending a successful background check. It was asked that if the District finds itself in that situation, it take steps to make sure the new employee is never alone with children until the background check is complete.

It was recommended to hire the staff and subs as listed, some pending return of an acceptable background check.

An Elementary motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Julie Hinkle to approve hiring the new staff and substitutes as noted.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve hiring the new staff and substitutes as noted.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Out-of-District Students

For 2018-2019, there are 3 Elementary, 16 Middle School and 6 High School out-of-district students.

It was recommended to approve the out-of-district students.

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve the out-of-district students for the 2018-2019 school year as presented.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Carl Parker, seconded by Shayne Vandivort to approve the out-of-district students for the 2018-2019 school year as presented.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Kindergarten Annex Review

Mr. Carter shared the amount of the two bids that he received for remediating the mold issues in the Annex building; \$47,500.00 and \$59,384.29. This amount would cover remediation only, it would not keep the building from having a recurrence of the same issue. At this time he is not recommending putting any more money into the old building. The classes have all been moved to other areas in the Elementary and while it is not an ideal situation, it is working for now. The music department does not have a room where music can be held. The teacher has to move between classrooms and they don't have access to the piano.

Architect's Timeline Review

The Architecture Firm, Collaborative Design, presented their first timeline to the Board and explained the process needed to achieve the best outcome. Creating a community committee is the first step. Mr. Carter is going to make phone calls to get the committee process started and set a facilities meeting as well. The architects will be back for the October board meeting.

Recommitment to the Special Education Co-op

Shepherd School has been part of Eastern Yellowstone Special Education Co-op for many years. The Co-op provides specialist services to students that the school wouldn't be able to afford otherwise. It was recommended to re-join the Co-op for a 3 year commitment.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Julie Hinkle to approve the Special Education Cooperative agreement for the next three years.

Motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

The Superintendent reported that the school has been using the Alert Now System to call parents that have a low lunch balance and for attendance issues as well.

The Curriculum Director noted that they will be looking at the ELA curriculum this year. She has 4 new teachers to mentor this year, which will be a change from the 13 that she had last year.

The Elementary Principal noted that the new basketball hoops for the multipurpose room will be installed soon. She encouraged everyone in attendance to thank any Lions Club member they may bump into and Scheels for their donation to make this possible.

The Middle School Principal/AD asked for the Board's direction regarding students that are put into the random drug testing pool. The policy says all students involved in extra-curricular programs, and at this point, they have only been including those students that compete in MHSA sanctioned programs. It was agreed that the policy should be followed and all students in an extra-curricular program should be added to the pool. They will still only random the same amount of students per month. Therefore, the cost to the District will not increase, but the pool size will.

OPEN SESSION TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 7:50pm.