

BOARD MINUTES

December 17, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 in the Board Room of the New Addition. Board Chair, Carl Openshaw, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Shane Flowers, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Justin Peterson, Austin Schlosser, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: Shane Rekdal.

Superintendent – Drea O’Donnell, Clerk – Kinsey Szillat, Elementary Principal – Autumn Arlian, Middle School Principal – Rich Hash, High School Principal – KJ Poepping, and High School AD – Tina Downing, Middle School AD – Dan Hansen, and Transportation Director – Bobby Trotter were present for the entire meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include November claims 134480 – 134527.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include November claims 134480– 134527, and the approval of the November regular meeting minutes and the December special meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Community member, Jen Mignard, was present to address her concern with the lack of ADA compliant parking spaces on the Elementary side. She has requested the District bring the parking lot back into ADA compliance by adding a handicap parking space in the main elementary lot as well as in the elementary pick up area. She has also requested the District make the elevator accessible for board meetings.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrators recapped their reports.

INFORMATIONAL

1. Building Use Requests
2. Water
3. Nurse's Report
4. Resignations –
 - Angie Schmidt – Assistant high school volleyball coach
 - Sven Jeuschede – Middle school girls basketball coach
 - Kaiden Deveraux – Volunteer high school football coach
5. Missing Children
6. Milligan School Data

OLD BUSINESS

Diligent Community vs Simbli

At the November regular board meeting it was discussed moving from BoardDocs to Diligent Community. The cost to transition was not received until the week of December 15th. The cost to use Diligent Community is \$6,000.00 which is two times the current cost of BoardDocs. MTSBA works with Simbli for board meeting management and is currently running a 40% off special through January 31, 2026. The initial cost with the promotion will be \$2,250.00 plus the cost to convert our BoardDocs documents. After the promotion the annual cost of Simbli would be \$3,750.00

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve moving our Board meeting platform to Simbli.

The motion passed unanimously.

AAU Wrestling Building Plan

Board Chair, Carl Openshaw, opened this discussion stating he would like to get the plans of the AAU wrestling building out to the community to prevent further misunderstandings or misconceptions being put out regarding the plan. He has asked the AAU wrestling group and Mrs. O'Donnell to work together to get something put out on social media as well as speaking with Yellowstone County News for a news article.

At this point in time, nothing has been finalized as the ground water has to be tested to determine if the site can have a septic placed. The testing began in September and will likely be many more months before it can be completed. The District has continued to work with their attorneys throughout the entire process.

No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

Josh Greenfield – Custodian

Chris Hansen – High School girls basketball volunteer coach

Substitute List as attached

A High School/Joint motion was made by Austin Schlosser, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve hiring the employees and substitutes as listed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Out of District Students

None.

MS Girls Softball

High School softball coach, Lori Goodell, approached the athletic committee with a proposal to add Middle School softball as a sport offered at Shepherd. The athletic committee agreed to bring the proposal to the Board. Coach Goodell stated there is currently no feeder program to High School softball as little league ends prior to middle school. She would like to see consistency among middle school programs – currently the District offers middle school football, volleyball, basketball, cross country, and track but does not offer softball. Coach Goodell polled 59 middle school/upcoming middle school students with the results showing 18.6% would be interested in playing softball and 32.2% would be interested in playing both softball and volleyball. Originally the proposal estimated costs to be about \$2,000.00 per season, however after review of coaching salaries and transportation, the addition of the sport would cost closer to \$4,000.00-\$5,000.00 per season.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Austin Schlosser, to approve moving forward with adding middle school softball with one coach and a limited schedule.

The motion passed unanimously.

Individual Transportation Agreement

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve a transportation contract with parent JL for the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Election Contract

The County has provided all school districts in Yellowstone County an election contract to clearly define what the county is responsible for and what the school district is responsible for during a school election.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the election contract with Yellowstone County for our school elections in 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Policy Committee – The policy committee will meet prior to the board meeting on January 21st at 5:30pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 7:43pm.