

BOARD MINUTES

February 18, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, February 18, 2026 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, Shane Rekdal, Austin Schlosser, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: Justin Peterson.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Austin Schlosser, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include January claims 134585 – 134655.

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 January claims 134585– 134655, and the approval of the January regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrators recapped their reports.

INFORMATIONAL

1. Building Use Requests
2. Water
3. Nurse's Report
4. Resignations –
Marc Dorfman – High School Science Teacher
Jan Back – Elementary Teacher
Brooklyn Ferestad – Assistant Girls Flag Football Coach
5. Missing Children
6. Shepherd Spring ANB Report
7. Milligan School Data

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

Calli Nicholson – Elementary Principal *Pending background check
Taylor Hanley – Elementary Teacher *Pending background check
Jack Lamb – Middle School Teacher *Pending background check
Jack Lamb – Head Middle School Football Coach *Pending background check
Chris Jimison – Assistant Middle School Football Coach
Matt Viren – Volunteer High School Football Coach
Andrea Christensen – Kitchen Helper
Kevin Cumber – Maintenance Supervisor
Substitute List as attached

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Austin Schlosser, to approve the hiring of Calli Nicholson as the Elementary Principal.

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

Both motions passed unanimously.

Principal Rehires and Administration Salaries

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to rehire Mr. Richard Hash as the Middle School Principal for the 2026-2027 school year, as well as provide the same percentage salary increase to the Middle School Principal that the District provides to the certified teaching staff.

A High School motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to rehire Mr. KJ Poepping as the High School Principal for the 2026-2027 school year, as well as provide the same percentage salary increase to the High School Principal that the District provides to the certified teaching staff.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Final Reading of Policies

This is the final reading for Policies 1014, 1111, 1210, 1401, 1700, 2132, 2158P, 2161, 2335, 2335F1, 2335F2, 3110, 3150, 3600, 3600F1, 3612, 4550, 5015, 5321, and 5321P.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Austin Schlosser, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve the policies as listed for the final readings.

The motion passed unanimously.

2026-2027 School Calendar

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the 2026-2027 calendar.

The motion passed unanimously.

Declaration of Unforeseen Emergency

On Monday, January 26, 2026, the District was closed due to a unique electrical fire situation, in accordance with Montana law. Per Montana Code Annotated 20-9-806 (2), Montana allows a board of trustees to close a school for one school day each school year because of an unforeseen emergency and not require rescheduling of pupil-instruction time lost due to the emergency. The District notified both the OPI and the Yellowstone County Superintendent of Schools of our closure the day it occurred.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve January 26, 2026 as an unforeseen emergency school closure day that, pursuant to MCA 20-9-806, will not be rescheduled.

The motion passed unanimously.

2024-2025 District Audit Report

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Shane Flowers, to approve the 2024-2025 audit report.

The motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 7:06pm.