BOARD MINUTES
October 21, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, October 21, 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: Josette Barthule, Tenille Bomar, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Justin Peterson, Austin Schlosser, and Taner Sorge.

Members excused: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Josette Barthule, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include September claims 135111 – 135168.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Tenille Bomar, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include September claims 135111 - 135168, and the approval of the September regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Jon Sprenger spoke during the hearing of the public. Jon, and other members of the Shepherd community, have created a group called "We Are Shepherd" that has, for the last three years, organized and funded an all staff Christmas party for the District. The Christmas party is for all staff of the district as well as board members and is a way for the community to say "thank you" for all the employees and board members have done through the year. This year's Christmas party will be on December 19th, beginning at 5:00pm at the Rhoadside Event Center in Huntley.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrators recapped their reports.

INFORMATIONAL

1. Building Use Requests
2. Nurse's Report
3. Resignations –
   Loretta Michels – Elementary Counselor
   Michaelia Rogers – Kitchen Helper
4. Water
5. Milligan School Data
6. School Budget Information
7. Gifted and Talented Plan 2026-2027
8. Shepherd Fall ANB Report

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bus Transportation Safety

The Board Chair moved this item from number 7 on the agenda to number 1.

The Board engaged in a discussion on how to help solve the bus safety issue of vehicles passing our school buses with the lights on and stop arms out. Also in attendance to join the discussion was a Montana Highway Patrol Trooper and two school district bus drivers, Denise Bacon and Bill Rusche. Last school year there were 80 instances of individuals passing our school buses with the lights on and stop arms out, with the majority of those violations happening on Highway 312, Roundup Road, and Shepherd Road. So far this year there have been 12 instances. The Board discussed ways to raise awareness to our community about the importance following traffic laws and stopping when our buses are stopped with red lights flashing and stop arms out.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Tenille Bomar, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve posting videos obtained from the bus cameras of individuals passing school buses with lights on and stop arms out on to the District's Facebook page in order to bring awareness to the issue.

The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources

Kitchen
Terryne Dupuis – Kitchen Helper

Athletics
Tyraa Manuel – Assistant High School Girls Basketball Coach
Chris Hanson – Assistant High School Girls Basketball Coach
Robert Lewis-Walker – Assistant High School Baseball Coach

Termination of 2026-2027 Contracts
Adrian Leichner – Bus Driver
Allison Long - Paraprofessional

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Austin Schlosser, to approve hiring the employees as listed.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Austin Schlosser, seconded by Tenille Bomar, to approve the termination of the contract for Adrian Leichner as a bus driver for the 2026-2027 school year.

A High School motion was made by Tenille Bomar, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the termination of the contract for Allison Long as a paraprofessional for the 2026-2027 school year.

All three motions passed unanimously.

Out of District 3141F

It was recommended to add required documents to be provided by the parents/guardians to our out of district application. All documents will need to be provided prior to approval of application.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Taner Sorge, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the out of district form 3141F with the required documents for new applications.

The motion passed unanimously.

Snow Removal

Four quotes for snow removal were presented and attached to the agenda.

A High School/Joint was made by Josette Barthule, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve hiring A & L Exteriors LLC for snow removal for the 2026-2027 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Eastern Yellowstone Cooperative Service Commitment

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Taner Sorge, to approve the 3 year commitment to the Eastern Yellowstone Cooperative for Special Education support services.

The motion passed unanimously.

Out of State Trip

The Tri-County Honor Band trip has been scheduled for April 21-25, 2027 in Seattle, WA.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Taner Sorge, seconded by Tenille Bomar, to approve the out of state trip for the Honor Band for the 2026-2027 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Routes

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Josette Barthule, to approve the updated bus routes as presented with the individual routes included for the 2026-2027 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Each committee needs to appoint a Committee Chair person to run their meetings. The person selected will be responsible for closing the meeting if committee needs to address any confidential information. The Committee Chairs were selected as follows:

Shepherd Mission and Vision Committee – Justin Peterson
Safety Committee – Taner Sorge
CTE Committee – Carl Openshaw
Salary and Negotiations Committee – Julie Hinkle
Insurance Committee – Tenille Bomar
Shepherd Activities Committee – Carl Openshaw
Facilities Committee – Austin Schlosser
Policy Committee – Austin Schlosser

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 7:52pm.