

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SD #4

The trustees met in regular session, December 17, 2018 at 7:04 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chairman Jason Matt, Brent Lipp, Superintendent, Amanda Agyeman-Budu, Trustee, Jeanne Carroll, Business Manager, and Jamie Wegner, Trustee.

The chairman called the meeting to order and led the group in the pledge of **CONSENT AGENDA** allegiance. *Amanda moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Jamie seconded. All in favor.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather C. asked the Board who was aware of the proposed gravel pit. She said it is a 120 acre open pit mine on the corner of Wise and Story, with rock crushing. She said as a they neighborhood worried about air, water quality, bus safety, kid safety and where does the school stand on it. Jason said the board will talk about it tonight and Brent will give them information on it tonight, so they are still in the information collection stage. He said some will be attending the public zoning meeting. Brent has talked with someone who came and visited with him.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

### MONTH IN REVIEW

\*Conferences: Brent said they went very smoothly. Parents are very invested in their students this year. Student-led conferences were done by the junior high and are kind of a new thing. He described traditional parent teacher conferences. The students “own” the conference this way. Brent feels it is more valuable. Brent sat in for one student whose parents couldn’t come and he found it very valuable and pretty cool. He commends the junior high staff for taking that on.

\*Music Concert: This is Thursday with our new music teacher.

\*School Growth and Community Planning: Brent said with all the activity in our community, he would like to throw the idea of a school growth and community planning committee out there. He feels we are the last gem waiting for development, look at other districts with large growth, find out their growing pains and put together a school/community planning meeting.

This is to look at what the community might like to see for the area. He doesn’t feel the school needs to be involved in it, however, we could provide a meeting place for the community to discuss it. They could develop a vision and mission statement and then go out and talk to people who could develop it this way. We are not a rural school district anymore and that’s healthy. We’d like to see trails, subdivisions, etc.

\*Gravel Pit Proposal: Brent said he has had conversations with those sitting in the audience. He is going to share what he knows about it. He found out about it from the Gazette and then was contacted. He handed out a copy of the letter that was handed out to property owners within a half mile of the site. There were meetings scheduled that have not happened yet. They call these open-pit mines. He read all the zoning information from the zoning commission. The zoning for the mine is already legitimately zoned for that. A gravel pit can go anywhere except a residential area as a member of the audience stated. It is the zoned piece that they have to have a zone review by the county commissioners. The commissioners are rumored to be in favor of it. Apparently there is a statute on the books saying they have to approve it. However, the commissioners can put conditions to that. Brent said the other side of that is applying for a permit to mine. A gentleman came in and talked to Brent last week. He is doing a traffic and impact assessment to meet DEQ requirements on mining and the company has to provide answers for those concerns. He submits it for review, they have to have a hearing and at that point, people can express concerns and ask questions. He is open to people calling him and Brent will share that information. From the district’s standpoint, he feels waiting for the application made to DEQ is the next step. The audience said they need the school to be involved so they cannot get that permit. They said the commissioners can issue a letter to them saying they can drive wherever they want and don’t have to listen to the school. Brent said he did talk to him about the impact to the safety of the students, the buses and the roads. Property

owners said their property values would drop by 30%. Brent said the Frontage Road is a state road. He said the county has been very good about keeping our other roads clear. Audience members said they are leasing the product, and different rules apply, since it is owned by Oscars Dreamland. The water issues were discussed. Jason thanked everyone for sharing information and said this is a process. He said we will get independent verification of information and will be transparent. Brent received kudos on his idea to have a community planning committee for just such items as these. \*Adjacent Property to the School: He has started looking at that property. He thinks maybe we should approach the landowner about the possibility of the school obtaining some of that. He thinks maybe our school could handle 100 students. And right now, we don't have any storage. Historically, we did approach these people in 2011, but it wasn't a good time. If the board thinks they might be interested in it, he can check into it. He has heard it is quite expensive for 197 acres. Brent has talked with John Eisen, whom he has worked with at Lockwood, and he has offered to talk to us about giving some projections. He said it is food for thought.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

*Jamie moved to approve changed #1A bus route with additional miles. **APPROVE BUS ROUTE CHANGES***  
Amanda seconded. Brent gave more information on why the route has increased miles. This is a special ed route. *All in favor.*

*Jamie moved to approve the resolution for budget amendment. Amanda seconded. Jeanne explained it. All in favor.*

#### Approval Radio Proposal

#### **APPROVE RADIO PROPOSAL**

Brent said we were approached by this company letting us know that the Billings public schools have spent millions of dollars on this for repeater stations and they are allowing us to jump on to be able to communicate with the sheriff's department, First Student, etc. This saves us a huge cost since Billings is paying about \$100,000 of it. The proposal we received is for 40 Motorola radios, a base station in the office, and also some licensing for our frequency for 3 channels for daily use, second one for First Student, and the third is for the sheriff's department. We can finance this over 5 years which makes it much more affordable for better quality radios. Jeanne shared that with our current radios over 5 years we spend approximately \$15,268 for radios that can stop working on a dime. The board felt this was a "no-brainer" decision for safety. We are allowed to pay the loan off early without penalty if we can.

*Jamie moved to approve the radio proposal as presented. Amanda seconded.* This radio upgrade is possible if we do the 5 year option for payment. Billings Schools are picking up 90% of the cost and allowing us to piggyback onto the opportunity. The board wondered about getting a letter from Billings saying we are allowed to use this for a period of time and thank you for the opportunity.  
*All in favor.*

#### **APPROVE LUNCH SUB PAY INCREASE**

Jamie moved to increase the lunch sub pay to \$9.00/hour effective immediately. Amanda seconded. Minimum wage is increasing January 1<sup>st</sup> and this person has been very loyal. All in favor.

Brent's evaluation form was handed out to the board. It needs to be returned to Jeanne in a sealed envelope by January 11, 2019.

There being no further business, *Amanda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Jamie seconded. All in favor.*

The January board meeting will be January 21st, 2019.

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Jeanne Carroll, Business Manager/Clerk

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Jason Matt, Chairman