

BOARD MINUTES

April 17, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, April 17, 2024 in the Board Room of the New Addition. 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, Justin Peterson, Shane Rekdal, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include March claims 133083 – 133149.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include March claims 133083 – 133149, and the approval of the March regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Board Chair, Carl Openshaw, opened this portion of the meeting noting the Board failed to put 6th grade football on the agenda. He opened the hearing of the public up to the members of the audience who were in attendance to speak about 6th grade football. Matt Viren, the current head Middle School football coach spoke in favor of adding 6th graders to the Middle School football program. As stated in previous meetings, it is estimated that the program would need to purchase approximately 10 sets of equipment that would cost roughly \$3,600.00. Matt Viren said he is willing to do camps and anything else that is needed to fundraise money for the program. Currently there are 6 families who would commit to participating at Shepherd if it were offered. Without the program being approved there is no way to really know just how many kids would want to participate.

Yellowstone Youth Football's (YYF) season overlaps with Shepherd's Middle School wrestling season by a few weeks. Matt Viren, Whitney Knaff, and Greg Platt all discussed the benefit adding 6th for their student athletes who participate in both football

and wrestling. Adding 6th grade football to the Middle School program would allow those students who want to participate in both sports do both.

AJ VanSetten, YYF coach, expressed his concern for funding. There are currently 21 kids playing YYF so that is potentially 21 additional kids that could quit YYF and begin playing in the Middle School program. The equipment estimate was for only 10 kids.

It was asked that a decision be made soon as the participation fees for YYF increase from \$250.00 to \$500.00 in May.

It was decided to notice a meeting for Monday, April 22nd to vote on adding 6th grade football to Middle School.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

INFORMATIONAL

- 1) Building use requests: As posted in the agenda.
- 2) Nurse's Report
- 3) Water Report
- 4) Resignations:

Effective June 2024

Ivory Milller – Middle School SPED Teacher

Loran Murphy – Elementary Teacher

Darcy Mayes – Kitchen Helper

Joy Welch – Elementary Paraprofessional

Lucas Logan – Middle School Teacher

Samantha Cole – High School Art Teacher

Effective April 2024

Heather Davis – Adult Ed Manager

Tana Luptak – Cheer Coach

Allie Walker – Cheer Coach

*It was also noted during this portion that Tina Downing has pulled her resignation as the Activities Director. The resignation was not accepted by the Superintendent at the time it was received. Per Policy 5251, an employee can withdraw their resignation up until it is accepted in writing by the Superintendent.

- 5) Missing Children
- 6) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Determinations by OPI
In the spring of 2018, Montana implemented a system of meaningful differentiation based on all indicators in our state accountability system for all students and for each subgroup of students. Through the process, Montana differentiates schools by levels of support: Comprehensive, Targeted, and Universal. Determinations are made for all public schools each year. Shepherd Schools have been given the following ratings and no further action needs to be taken by the District:

Shepherd Elementary – Universal
Shepherd Middle School – Universal
Shepherd High School – Universal

Based on our assessment data and graduation rates, these determinations mean Shepherd Schools do not need any further support from OPI other than what is universally given to all schools.

7) Milligan School Data

No Action

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

The Administrators recapped their reports.

OLD BUSINESS

2024-2025 School Calendar

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

New Hires

Rawley Butler – Adult Ed open weight room
Lindsey Martin – Elementary Teacher *Pending Background Check
Maxwell Kent – Middle School Social Studies Teacher *Pending Background Check
Amber Desmarais – High School English Teacher *Pending Background Check

Rehire Recommendations

Classified Employee rehires as attached
Beth Campbell – Kitchen, Assistant Cook
Heather Lear – Kitchen, Assistant Cook
Faith Russell – Kitchen Helper
Cindy Todd – Daycare Director
Amanda Sandquist – Daycare Aide
Barbara Schultz – Custodian
Lorna Brennan – Print Room
Patsy Phillips – Elementary Library

District Rehire Recommendations

Kinsey Szillat – Business Manager

Charly Bermes – Activities Accountant and Assistant Clerk
Amanda Stahl – Head Cook
Robert Trotter – Transportation Director
Kevin Cumber – Maintenance/Grounds
Thomas Sieler – Maintenance
Hope Goodburn – Nurse
Jeff Armstrong – IT

Athletics

Sven Jeuschede – Assistant Middle School Track Coach
Bryan Anderson – Volunteer Softball Coach
Darcy Stracke – Head High School Boys Basketball Coach 24-25 Season
Josh Casares – Head High School Football Coach 24-25 Season
Megan Logan – Assistant Speech, Drama, and Debate Coach 24-25 Season

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve the new hires, classified employee rehires, coaches, and district hires for the 24-25 school year and the substitute list as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Out of District Students

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the out-of-district students for the 2024-2025 school year as attached.

An Elementary motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to deny the out-of-district students for the 2024-2025 school year as attached.

A High School motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the out-of-district students for the 2024-2025 school year as attached.

All motions passed unanimously.

Milligan School Data – Student Surveys

Surveys were distributed to students in grades 4-12. The results of the surveys were attached to the agenda. The next batch of surveys will go out to parents in the coming weeks.

No action.

Student Handbook Review

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Middle School and Elementary student handbooks for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Daycare 24-25 School Year

A High School/Joint motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the daycare student handbook, daycare calendar, and the daycare contract for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

AAU Wrestling Building Proposal

Luke Knaff, current Middle School assistant wrestling and High School assistant wrestling coach, and Scott Berens, current Middle School head wrestling coach were in attendance on behalf of the AAU Wrestling Program to present the idea of building a wrestling building on Shepherd School's land. Shepherd's AAU Wrestling Program would be responsible for all costs associated with the construction of the building and it would then be given to the school and the school would assume responsibility over the utilities and maintenance of the building. The AAU Wrestling Program has also been in discussions with Shepherd's softball team and they would like to also include an indoor batting cage in the building. The preference would be that the building only be used by AAU wrestling, high school and middle school wrestling, and softball. Having this building would open up space in the high school and middle school currently being taken up by all of the wrestling mats and equipment. The estimated size of the building is 120ft x 60ft and suggested locations are over by the bus barn and softball outfield.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the AAU Wrestling Program to continue in the process of determining costs, location, and permits.

The motion passed unanimously.

Phone System Upgrade

Last fall, there were two different weeks where the District did not have functioning phones for several days. This is a major safety concern. It has been recommended to upgrade and move the phone system to an internet based phone system. This upgrade would also provide a cost savings for the district each month.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve upgrading our phone system to an internet based system through High Country Phones.

The motion passed unanimously.

Camera System Upgrade

Mountain Alarm is currently used by the District for security systems. There are several cameras that are no longer working. The proposal presented will replace 48 Pelco cameras with 48 Hikvision cameras and includes the cameras, installation, and programming.

As only one bid from Mountain Alarm was presented, this agenda item was tabled. When more bids are provided it will be brought back for discussion and a vote.

HS/MS Front Entry

The doors at the Middle School and High School front entrance are not functioning properly. One bid, from Kings Doors, was presented to replace both sets of doors. Kings Doors is who has replaced doors for the District in the past and they work with our current security system.

As only one bid from Kings Doors was presented, this agenda item was tabled. When more bids are provided it will be brought back for discussion and a vote.

Emergency Action Plan

A High School/Joint motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Emergency Action Plan to be sent to MHSA.

The motion passed unanimously.

Possible Closed Session – Personnel Issue

At 8:17pm the Board Chair moved the meeting to executive session for the Personnel Issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Issue

The Board resumed open session at 8:37pm.

No action.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Handbook Committee – The committee needs to review the advisor handbook prior to the June meeting.
- Policy Committee – Mrs. O'Donnell is looking into pricing for MTSBA to update our policies. More information to follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 8:38pm.