

BOARD MINUTES

March 20, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, March 20, 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, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Justin Peterson, Shane Rekdal, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: Shane Flowers.

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 Jeff Branson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include February claims 133024 – 133090.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include February claims 133024 – 133090, and the approval of the February regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Russ Hale, former High School assistant football coach, spoke about ideas for improving athletics and the school as a whole. The ideas mentioned included community support for the PTO through community fundraisers, coach involvement in the PTO, and starting a PTO for the Middle School and High School as the current PTO is only Elementary. Another idea mentioned was an annual Teacher Appreciation banquet. Mr. Hale also noted a few ideas he believes would improve the athletic program. Those ideas included periodic athlete behavior check-ins, adjusting the game day tardy policy to allow for corrective action, adjusting the grade check structure, and an annual coach's roundtable.

Matt Beddes also spoke during the hearing of the public and expressed the importance of putting personal feelings aside, coming together as a community, and working together for the common goal of bettering our students and student athletes.

Mike Gallagher expressed his opinion that the Athletic Director needs to be a full time position in Shepherd.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

INFORMATIONAL

- 1) Building use requests: As posted in the agenda.
- 2) Water Report
- 3) Nurse's Report
- 4) Resignations:
Effective June 2024
Stacy Dietz – HS Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor
Leah Dahlquist – 5th Grade Teacher
Chris Hanson – HS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
Caitlin Kessler – HS Science Teacher
Lucas Logan – HS Head Football Coach
Dorothy McElvain – MS Math Teacher
Aurora Young – Elementary SPED Teacher
- 5) Milligan School Data
- 6) Missing Children

No Action

OLD BUSINESS

6th Grade Football

Matt Viren, current Middle School football coach, provided the Board additional information related to 6th grade football. He has estimated it would cost approximately \$3,620.00 to add 10 6th graders to the Middle School football program. A survey was sent out to current 5th grade parents to determine how many kids would be interested in playing in the Middle School program. They had 6 “yes” responses, 5 “no” responses, and 9 “no answer”. Mr. Viren believes if 6th graders were added to the football program, they would need an A/B schedule. AJ VanSetten, the current Yellowstone Youth Football (YYF) coach, spoke against adding 6th graders to the program. Out of his current 20 players who would play 6th grade next year, he has 18 commitments to continue with YYF. There was some discussion amongst parents in attendance that it should be a parent's decision on whether or not their 6th grade child plays in the Middle School program with 7th and 8th graders or continues to play with 6th graders at YYF.

The Board requested additional information be brought back before they will make a decision.

The proposal to add 6th grade football in the Middle School was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Milligan School Data – Staff Surveys

Adam Milligan presented the staff surveys as attached to the agenda. The surveys were conducted in February.

No action.

Negotiations with SEA

Changes were made to the current contract and agreed upon by both committees as well as ratified by the teacher's union. This is a one year contract for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

A High School motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Justin Peterson, to accept the negotiated agreement between the Shepherd School District and the Shepherd Education Association for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Shepherd Athletics

Carl Openshaw, Board Chair, started the discussion regarding the events that transpired over the last couple of weeks in the athletic department. Some people in attendance voiced their frustration with Russ Hale's non-renewal and others voiced their appreciation for our current Activities Director (AD), Tina Downing.

It was again suggested that the AD be a full time position at Shepherd. This is not currently something that the budget can handle.

Mr. Openshaw asked the audience how we can better manage athletics to be successful. One suggestion from Julie Hinkle was more open communication. The events of the last couple of weeks can be largely attributed to lack of communication. Another suggestion was a mentorship program for coaches. Mr. Openshaw's suggestion was creating a committee that focuses on athletics and activities. This committee will be in charge of the hiring and termination of all coaches and advisors as well as other duties related to athletics and activities.

No action.

Shepherd Board Committees

The District's current Board committees need to be reviewed and updated to only have three Board members to avoid having a quorum at each committee meeting. All trainees

also need to be removed from the committees because all current Board members have been on the Board for more than two years. The committees have been updated to include the following individuals:

Shepherd Activities Committee – New Committee. Board members are Julie Hinkle, Shayne Vandivort, and Jeff Branson.

Shepherd Mission and Vision Committee – New Committee. Board members are Justin Peterson, Shane Rekdal, and Shane Flowers.

Insurance Committee – Board members are Shane Flowers and Shane Rekdal. Other members are Drea O'Donnell, Superintendent, and Kinsey Szillat, District Clerk.

Facilities Committee – Board members are Jeff Branson, Carl Openshaw, and Shane Flowers. Additional member is Drea O'Donnell, Superintendent.

Salary and Negotiations Committee – Board members are Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, and Shayne Vandivort.

Handbook Committee – Board members are Shane Flowers and Julie Hinkle. Other members are Autumn Arlian, Elementary Principal, KJ Poepping, High School Principal, Rich Hash, Middle School Principal, Drea O'Donnell, Superintendent, and multiple teachers.

Safety Committee – Board members are Carl Openshaw, Shayne Vandivort, and Jeff Branson. Other members are Drea O'Donnell, Superintendent, and multiple teachers.

Policy Committee – Board members are Shane Rekdal and Julie Hinkle. Other members are Drea O'Donnell, Superintendent, Autumn Arlian, Elementary Principal, Rich Hash, Middle School Principal, KJ Poepping, High School Principal, and Kinsey Szillat, District Clerk.

No action.

Human Resources

New Hires 2023-2024

Charles Nelson – Custodian

Luke Knaff – MS Wrestling

New Hires 2024-2025

Mandy Berens – Elementary Teacher

Robert Barthule – Elementary Teacher

Rehire Recommendations

Certified Teacher rehires as attached to agenda

Sub list as attached.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve hiring the certified employees for the 2024-2025 school year and the employees and substitutes for the current year as listed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Out of District Students

None.

High School Curriculum Guide 2024-2025

A High School motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the High School Curriculum Guide for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Final Reading 3141F2 and 3141F3

With the new requirements for the new out-of-district application process, the District has created two new forms to assist in the process. These forms are the approval and denial letters that are required to be sent to families once the Board approves or denies the out-of-district application.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve forms 3141F2 and 3141F3 for their final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

Final Reading 5430F

Additional information was added to the volunteer form to state that Middle School and High School volunteers need to have been out of high school for at least 4 years before they can volunteer.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve form 5430F for the final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

Shepherd School's Integrated Strategic Action Plan

Shepherd School District is required by the State of Montana to have an Integrated Strategic Action Plan to meet new accreditation standards. This is the action plan for

Shepherd Schools for the next three years and includes our current academic outcomes as well as desired goals. The Action Plan will be placed on the school's website.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Jeff Branson, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the Integrated Strategic Action Plan for the Shepherd School District to be submitted to the OPI for our accreditation.

The motion passed unanimously.

Last Day of School May 24th

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve changing the last day of school on May 24th from a regular 2:30 release time to a 12:30 release time.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution – Non Voted Levies

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the non-voted levies resolution, including all budgeted funds.

A High School motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve the non-voted levies resolution, including all budgeted funds.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Mill Levy Election

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to not run an additional mill levy for the Elementary General Fund in May.

A High School motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Justin Peterson, to not run an additional mill levy for the High School General Fund in May.

Both motions passed unanimously.

2022-2023 Audit

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve the 2022-2023 Audit Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Safety Committee – The committee did not meet this month.

- Policy Committee –The committee will continue to meet and bring policies to the board that need to be reviewed.
- Negotiations Committee – The negotiations committee met March 13th with the SEA group.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

The Administrators recapped their reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 9:50pm.