

# **BOARD MINUTES**

**April 22, 2024**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Monday, April 22, 2024 electronically via Google Meet. Chairman, Carl Openshaw, called the meeting to order at 12:51pm.

Members present electronically: Jeff Branson, Shane Flowers, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Justin Peterson, Shane Rekdal, and Shayne Vandivort

Members excused: None.

Staff present electronically: Superintendent – Drea O'Donnell, Clerk – Kinsey Szillat, and Middle School Principal – Rich Hash.

## **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Football**

Drea O'Donnell started the discussion with budget information. There is currently \$29,000.00 in the athletic budget and so far this school year we have spent \$24,000.00 on officials alone. There is currently \$1,600.00 in the Middle School Football fundraising account and \$1,700.00 in the High School Football fundraising account. Equipment, jerseys, etc. must be purchased out of the athletic budget, not the individual fundraising accounts.

Josh Casares, the Head High School Football Coach, provided his opinion on adding 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the Middle School program. One concern Josh has is that there are not many schools in our area who do allow 6<sup>th</sup> graders to play in Middle School. This could potentially mean our 6<sup>th</sup> graders would be competing against much bigger 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Josh does not believe 6<sup>th</sup> graders can safely compete against 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Realistically, this is not something the budget can currently support, especially if every child who is currently playing with Yellowstone Youth Football decided to come play at the Middle School. He believes this is something that could definitely be looked at in the future, however he would like to see it given more time in order to fundraise and have a more definite number of kids committed to play.

Whitney Knaff, a parent, spoke in support of adding 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The Shepherd Middle School wrestling season overlaps with the Yellowstone Youth Football season by about 3 weeks. By opening up 6<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the Middle School program, students could participate in both sports as the seasons would not overlap.

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Football, pending fundraising.

The motion passed with four “yes” votes – Julie Hinkle, Jeff Branson, Shane Flowers and Carl Openshaw, and one “no” vote – Shane Rekdal.

**Personnel Issue/Pending Litigation Strategy – Possible Closed Session**

At 1:16pm the Board Chair moved the meeting to executive session for the Personnel Issue/Pending Litigation Strategy.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board resumed open session at 1:31pm.

No action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Time of adjournment: 1:31pm