

BELFRY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

9 March, 2021 –7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Regular School Board Meeting of the Belfry School District was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board Chair Mary Lee Krenning.

Board members present were Linda Gasser, Jolene Nose, Duane Hergenrider, and Willis Herden. Superintendent Jason Olson and District Clerk Beth Pulse were present. Tura Gruel, Estaleda Webb, Kasey McClane, Analea Olson, Jenny Ewing, Rebecca Nash, Bethany Turner, Sandi Campbell, Courtney Miles, and Cheryl Brown were present in the public section.

Approval of February 9th Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve the minutes of the February 9th Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: Duane Hergenrider

SECOND: Linda Gasser

VOTE: 5-0

Approval of March Claims/Warrants

There was discussion about the purchase of the fire blankets.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve warrant 30510 through warrant 30540 for a total of \$23,341.49 for March 2021.

MOTION: Duane Hergenrider

SECOND: Linda Gasser

VOTE: 5-0

Review Expenditure Actual to Budget Report

This was reviewed.

Correspondence

There was a letter from the Fromberg School Board regarding district basketball tournament brackets.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Delegates to Address Board

None.

Administrative Report

Jason said the County Commissioners asked if they could hold a public meeting here on March 23 from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm about the Chance Bridge. We will be holding our own prom, here, on March 20th, since administrators didn't want to hold a multi-school prom. Track starts on the 15th. Tura was able to get steel donated by Pacific Steel for Kasey to build a big bar-b-que for the school. It could also be available if we were to have Pioneer days or other community events, here, at the school. Mrs. Campbell had a Special Education Audit and passed with flying colors.

Custodial/Maintenance Report

Jerry was not present but Jason explained that a low-level water sensor will have to be replaced on one of the boilers and it will probably cost around \$3,000.00. It is a necessary repair.

OLD BUSINESS

Cross Curricular Trip

Mr. Olson would like to consider doing an alternative trip in Montana. He's heard that Hawaii locals are not receptive to tourists, right now, and that, along with the political climate and CDC recommendations for small groups, lead him to think that it would not be productive to go. He is proposing a Montana trip from April 12 through the 16th. They would stop in Bozeman, Fairmont, Butte, Phillipsburg, Great Falls, and Helena. He is going to try to get a visit to the Capitol and possibly meet the Governor. There was discussion that the students are handling the possibility of not going to Hawaii very well and are being mature about it. They are still working very hard on the assignments.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to cancel the Hawaii trip and schedule a Montana trip.

MOTION: Jolene Nose

SECOND: Willis Herden

VOTE: 5-0

Hire Track Coach

Angellyn Blair (Estaleda Webb) has submitted a letter of interest for the third coaching position for track. There was discussion that we have twenty kids for track. Kasey McClane said that with there are so many kids doing so many different events that they need a third coach. There was discussion about how many track meets we have scheduled.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to hire Angellyn Blair (Estaleda Webb) as assistant track coach for 20-21.

MOTION: Jolene Nose

SECOND: Duane Hergenrider

VOTE: 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

Information Item: Personnel-Resignation of Title I Teacher

Mr. Olson stated he had accepted the resignation of Angela Spaulding.

Possible Hire of Title I Teacher

Alexandria Knows His Gun applied for the open Title I Teacher. Mr. Olson said he was impressed by her in the interview. She seems like she really wants to be a part of the community and he is recommending her for hire. Willis asked why we needed to replace that position when we no longer had the special-needs students that Mrs. Spaulding was hired for. Jason explained that the position we hired for the special needs kids was the part-time para, not Mrs. Spaulding. He said Mrs. Spaulding was hired to help with Title I reading assistance, K-8 PE, and Library. There was discussion about the High School Library not being open. Willis didn't understand why we added the Title 1 position. It was explained that it wasn't an added position; that Mrs. Weitz previously did the Title 1 reading assistance when she was here. Willis expressed concern about having too many positions in the elementary while not offering any electives, except shop, in the high school. There was discussion about concerns of cutting the Title I position. There was discussion about what duties she would have. Mr. Olson asked the teachers that were on the interview panel for their opinion. Mrs. Miles said Alexandria has experience in combined classrooms and wants to a part of the school and community. There was discussion that we have online options for electives and dual credit courses in the high school and we are still trying to get a music teacher. Mrs. Miles is teaching a performing arts class and yearbook class exposes students to photography and journalism. Duane asked how our students rate statewide or countywide. Sandi said she and Mrs. Miles created a spreadsheet

based on ACT results over the past few years. The results show that our students are college ready. Students that have been here since early elementary school are consistently scoring college ready and are consistently proficient. The students that transfer in are the ones that tend to be behind. Tura Gruel spoke up about the improvement in her daughter's education between here and Fromberg. There was discussion about trying to have the high school library open for one period each day.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to hire Alexandria Knows His Gun for the Title I position for the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION: Jolene Nose

SECOND: Duane Hergenrider

VOTE: 5-0

Renewal of Tenured Teachers

Mr. Olson recommended all tenured teachers for renewal.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve Mr. Olson's recommendation and renew all tenured teacher contracts 2021-2022.

MOTION: Willis Herden

SECOND: Linda Gasser

VOTE: 5-0

Renewal/Non-renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers

Mr. Olson is recommending all for renewal.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve Mr. Olson's recommendation and renew all non-tenured teachers for 2021-2022.

***MOTION: Linda Gasser
Herden opposing***

SECOND: Jolene Nose

VOTE: 4-1 with Willis

Willis Herden expressed concern about the board not being involved with interviews. Duane agreed and said it needs to be policy that the board do the interviews. Jason said interviews have been kind of a grey area in policy. There was discussion about how many board members need to be present in an interview. Mary Lee suggested wording to the effect that all board members would be notified of the interview and then they show up if they are able to. Duane disagreed. He felt it should say that the board will interview and invite staff to sit in and participate on the interview. There was discussion that policy says the board does the hiring and the firing but it doesn't say anything about the interviews. Jason said that we could put that in the policy but stated his concern about the board being able to show up for interviews because there have been times when it's been an emergency and the board hasn't been able to be there. There was discussion that the board has the responsibility to hire but a lot of times they don't know who they are hiring because they were not involved with the interview. As this was a non-agenda item, it will be placed on next month's agenda.

New Curriculum

Jason explained that he thinks it will be beneficial and that we are essentially getting a K-12 library with it (500 books.) The cost includes professional development and, after the fourth year, we would be paying only about \$2,400.00 per year to keep it up to date. We will be able to eliminate approximately \$9,000.00 per year in other expenses. There was discussion about what funds will be used to pay for it. It will work well with remote learning so we will be able to use ESSER funds to pay for it. Willis said he didn't see anything over grade 6 in the proposal. Jason explained we will still need science, math, and history texts in the JH/HS. It includes an assessment tool for K-12 to help track progress of the students. We will still need our math curriculum in the elementary, as well. Willis said that he thought it was to replace all of it. Jason reminded him that he invited the Board to come take a look at it the day they viewed it in use, online, in Shoshone. Jason said it is one of the most effective and best programs out there without a liberal agenda. The library includes informational books at individual students' reading level and still be informative. Mrs. Ewing explained how it will work in K-1 and that it will help kids

research in books and not as much internet. Mrs. Miles said that there are books that can be used to supplement texts in other classes.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve the purchase of the curriculum from American Reading Company for \$85,684.00.

MOTION: Jolene Nose

SECOND: Linda Gasser

VOTE: 5-0

Consideration and Adoption of Resolution Estimating Changes in Revenues/Mills from Tuition, Adult Education, Building Reserve, Transportation and Bus Depreciation Levies for School Fiscal Year 2022

There was discussion that we are required to publish our estimated permissive levy amounts by March 31st and the amounts we are estimating and what they are for. There was discussion about the amount for transportation and that these are estimates, only, and can change. Beth explained the increase in mills for general fund was due to a decrease in state guaranteed tax base aid. There was also discussion that publishing the general fund is not required by law but it doesn't give tax payers a true picture of what their total change in taxes might be. There was discussion about the possible change in taxable value.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve the resolution estimating changes in mills from tuition, bus depreciation, transportation, adult ed, and building reserve funds for 2022.

MOTION: Willis Herden

SECOND: Jolene Nose

VOTE: 5-0

Discussion Regarding Grants

Duane requested this be addressed because he is concerned there may be grants available to schools that have strings attached. He would like all grants to go to the board for approval because he does not want an employee to put the school at risk by accepting grants without board approval. Tura said she has applied for quite a few grants. Duane said he would like to see them before the school accepts them. There was discussion that Tura's grants have education requirements that we are already required by OPI to fulfill. Jason explained that would include our Title I and Perkins grants and he feels approving grants is something that he has been hired to do and is part of his job. He would not apply for something if he felt it would put the school at risk. Duane asked Jason if he approved all of our grants. He said he does. Willis said if there aren't any strings attached to grants, he's okay with them but he agrees with Duane that he doesn't want anything that would require that we do things for years that we need to follow up on. Tura said she approves everything with Jason and Beth. No action was taken.

Discussion Regarding Information Displayed in School Buildings

Duane had requested this. There was discussion that we don't put up anything political and Jason approves everything. No action was taken.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 13th, at 7:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

MOTION: Jolene Nose

SECOND: Linda Gasser

VOTE: 5-0

Beth Pulse, District Clerk

Mary Lee Krenning, Board Chair