

MINUTES

The Regular meeting of the Yaak School Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson, Pam Fuqua, at 4:10 p.m. on Wednesday December 15, 2021, at the Yaak School. Pam opened the meeting, welcomed visitors, explained the protocol for the meeting, and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

Trustees Present: Pam Fuqua, Trish Lauer, and Sandy Beder-Miller

Others Present: Diane Downey, District Clerk, Sabre Alderete, Head Teacher, Craig Johnson, Custodian/Maintenance, Herb Oehlke, Sherri Oehlke, Cheri Javorski, Ron Webb, Bill Sullivan, Sue Janssen and Kathy Huber

Minutes:

The minutes from the November 17, 2021, regular meeting were presented. Pam stated that the Trustees had reviewed them, and changes were needed to the face covering policy section. She reviewed the needed changes and submitted the change to Diane for updating and stated that the public was welcome to see them. Trish moved that the minutes from the meeting be accepted with the changes, Sandy seconded, and Pam concurred.

Maintenance Committee:

- Craig reported that the propane tank will be installed on the 29th and he will notify AmeriGas to pick up the old tank. Diane asked Craig to please start looking for the best price on propane so we can have the new tank topped off. Sandy asked if the contact for the propane company on the EOP will need to be updated. Craig said yes, he will get that information to Sandy for needed update.
- LED motion lights Craig installed for the walkway are not sufficient. He will be getting better lighting for that application.
- Sabre' asked if the issue with the generator had been addressed, Craig stated that he had contacted Boundary Electric and was waiting for a service technician to call back. He mentioned that the last time the generator ran there did not seem to be any surging.

Technology Committee:

- Pam reported on the special meeting with EL Internet NW regarding the Point-to-Point Microwave Internet project. This Q & A session with EL Internet NW was very productive and the public had many questions. EL Internet NW is to follow-up on questions that they were unable to address at the meeting. Diane mentioned that the special meeting recording is available on the school website and will stand as the official minutes of that meeting. Pam did a quick synopsis of the project for those in attendance that did not know what it entailed.
- Craig stated that the charging cart was in place and being used. At this time there have been issues with the laptops holding a charge, they are keeping a log of this and after speaking with Greg at AllSystemsGo if the problem continues, they will open a trouble ticket with the manufacturer. Pam asked if the credit for the damage to the charging cart was issued. Diane confirmed that the \$100.00 credit was on the credit card statement. The classroom printer for student use has been installed.

Old Business:

- Pam reported that the Foundation Project was substantially completed. TCI will be coming back when classes are out in May to redo the parking pad and sidewalk to meet ADA compliance. The redo will be paid for by WGM as they failed to make the ADA stipulation on the original plans. Pam invited the public to make arrangements to see the foundation work and crawl spaces if they so desired.
- Policy 1905 section on face coverings was discussed in great detail. Sandy Beder-Miller voiced her opinion that the mask mandate should not be in place due to health concerns associated with extended mask wear. She feels that this should be the choice of the parents of the students, not something that is mandated by the school. She further stated that the virus is not going away any time soon. Trish stated that yes case numbers are declining in Lincoln County but nationwide they are not. The decision for allowing students and the teacher to remove masks while in the classroom observing the six-foot distance was put in place prior to winter break and is to be revisited at the January meeting. By then we will have a better idea of what effect holiday

traveling has had on the community and surrounding area. Sabre' agreed with Trish on the matter. Sherri Oehlke stated that she was a parent of one of the students and as there are only 5 students, she would like to see the school lighten up on the face covering mandate. Sherri voiced her concern that her child had been coming home with headaches, lethargic and tired and felt that this was caused by the wearing of masks for extended periods of time. Also, that the immune system does not function at its peak when masks are worn for extended periods of time. Pam stated that the policy will stay as written "no face covering is required for teacher or students if six-foot physical distance is maintained" and Policy 1905 will be reviewed at the next regular meeting. Sandy Beder-Miller asked that her objection to this policy be noted in the minutes.

- American Rescue Plan, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) plan update is being done by Sabre', Diane and Taralee. Sabre' and Trish gave a brief description of what our plan was reflected and what grant funds were being used for.

New Business:

- Emergency Operation Plan has been reviewed by Sandy and all contact information has been updated. It is the school's plan to have a parent meeting to go over the EOP in detail so they understand what the school will be doing in each emergency that the plan addresses.
- Board Calendar was reviewed and needed no changes.
- Diane presented financial data to support the Transportation Budget Amendment, the Budget Amendment Resolution was read by Pam. Trish moved that the board accept the resolution as presented, Sandy seconded, and Pam concurred. Resolution was signed.
- Trish announced that she and Mary Cambell have placed a Little Free Library here on the school property. This Library is on the National Register and information about this location can be viewed at the registry website. This library is dedicated to Lynette Wilson and is for the public's use. Sabre' reported on the opening ceremony that she and the students did.

Teachers Report:

- Sabre' reviewed the Curriculum Committee roster and the cycle used to review the school's curriculum. Sandy stated that Tracey McCready was no longer able to sit on the committee, which does leave an open seat and invited anyone interested in sitting on the committee to contact either her or Sabre'. Sabre' reviewed the process by which curriculum is researched and chosen. Yaak School aligns its curriculum to the OPI Content and Standards which can be found at <https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/K-12-Content-Standards>. She did a detailed review of the 5th grade standards for Math. Each subject has standards. She explained how she imparts all these required standards in her multi graded classroom. Based on these standards the schools present curriculum is state of the art. She stated that there have been rumors circulating in the community regarding what is being taught in the classroom and the reason for her review of how the curriculum is reviewed and chosen was to reassure the public that those rumors are totally untrue. *As requested by Head Teacher the following verbatim account has been inserted for the record.* December 15, 2021 Teacher Input December School Board Meeting Re: Community Concerns:

"Every now and then comments are made about the school that aren't necessarily true. As the teacher for the school, and I am certain the board members would agree, we would like for any information circulating to be true; however, this as we know it, is not the case.

Please, don't misunderstand or mis-state what I am saying, individuals are certainly allowed their personal opinions, and I respect our differences but when questions or concerns are not addressed to the right people, it becomes gossip or rumors.

With that being said, I received a phone call regarding the curriculum that I am "teaching" in the classroom. I just want to say if there are any questions about the curriculum please contact me. I am mandated to teach the children who attend this school, in accordance with the state standards. After my presentation, please voice your opinion, concerns, or tell other community members to come to the school board meeting and discuss issues, rumors, or concerns in a forum that allows for them to be properly documented, recorded in an official manner, and addressed.

What that does is, it provides the school board and/or me an opportunity to respond in an official capacity with the correct information. If it is something that needs to be addressed and/or changed, we can discuss it and get back with you regarding it.

The other option is to continue to listen to other community members or voice your opinions to others in person or on social media, which in turn will have no real impact or changes what you have been told or answer any concerns you have. However, if this is the option community members or your friends decide to do, all that will happen is that rumors, gossip, and unnecessary angst within the community will continue.

The other call I received this week was about why kids are being homeschooled instead of coming here. I know there are many parents that prefer to home school their children and I truly respect their choice. What I have noticed is that it's really not those people who seem to complain (to me at least) about what is being taught here. I don't have an answer for the reason as to why they are homeschooling. I do know that every homeschooling family is required by law to register with the county superintendent. As of November 3rd, there are "0" students being homeschooled from the Yaak. That means not one homeschooling family has registered. If they did this, we might be able to identify why they don't send their children here.

What I have also noticed is, that most concerns, complaints, rumors, gossip etc., are from adults that don't even have children attending this school. This leads me to believe that they may just want to voice their viewpoints on this public school without accurate information. I would ask that when these people voice concerns that you ask them to contact Diane so that she can inform them of the steps for inclusion on the agenda as outlined in Yaak School District Policy 1420."

Sincerely, Sabre' Alderete, Head Teacher/Principal

- Sue Jenssen asked why the Teacher was having to field those kinds of calls during her personal evening time. Sabre' stated that her home number is listed, and she will be screening those calls in the future as they do eat into her personal time. She encouraged the public to use the school phone number and leave a message that she would be more than happy to follow-up on during school hours. Diane suggested that if this is an issue maybe the school should pay for an unlisted number. She reassured the board that she did not need this and would just start screening her calls. Cheri Javorski asked what the present protocol was for classroom observations. Currently the classroom is open for parents and the public to observe anytime if they follow school policy, do not disrupt class, and you may not bring a child with you during your observation time. No appointment is needed. Craig stated that as Sabre's substitute he can attest to the fact that if the public concern is driven by what is currently a hot topic across the nation of schools teaching critical race theory and other such topics that this is not the case at the Yaak School. Ron Web stated that he had also gotten a call from a concerned public member regarding curriculum that is being taught in the school. He reiterated that community members should seek facts and information rather than relying on rumors and gossip.
- The schools holiday program will be at 2 p.m. on the 21st. Please join us.
- Sabre' ask for the board's approval to take the students to Bonners Ferry to the library which is hosting a youth coral program this Monday the 20th. Board approved field trip.

Clerk's Report, Financials & Expenditures:

- Trustee Elections will be held on May 3, 2022. The window for submission of Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy opened December 9th and will close March 24th. If you are interested in running for the 3-year seat that is open, please contact the District Clerk. Notices will be posted around the community and a copy of the Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy is available on the school website but must be signed in the presence of the District Clerk/ Election Administrator.
- Accounting of Indirect Cost revenue and expenditures. Clerk asked that the board approve the payment of legal fees for the review of EL Internet NW contract out of these funds. Board approved.
- Balanced to the Treasures Office financials for the months of October were reviewed. Sandy moved that the financials for the month of October be accepted as presented, Trish seconded, and Pam concurred. Detailed expenditures for the month of November were reviewed. Review and approval of the December expenditure to date. A review of the General Fund Expenditure Budget was done, and Diane fielded questions. Review of all grant spreadsheets that were active since last review. (See attached for all financial detail)

Policy Review:

- It was decided that due to the late hour policy review would be tabled until the January meeting.

Public Comment:

- Sabre' mentioned the school is offering tutoring from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on school days.
- Sabre' asked that we go around the room and introduce ourselves for those who may not know everyone.
- Herb Oehlke suggested the school consider doing geothermal heating under the sidewalk when it gets redone. They have equipment to facilitate the idea and would be willing to help. Pam stated she would take it up with the contractor.

Next Regular Meeting: January 19, 2022 @ 4:10 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____ Diane Downey, District Clerk

_____ Pam Fuqua, Chair

_____ Trish Lauer, Vice Chair

Resigned prior to January approval Sandy Beder-Miller, Board Trustee