

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Yaak School Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson, Trish Lauer, at 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday January 25, 2023, at the Yaak School. Trish opened the meeting, welcomed visitors, reviewed the meeting protocol, and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

Trustees Present: Trish Lauer, Cheri Javorsky, and David Gambill

Others Present: Sabre' Alderete, Head Teacher, Ron Webb, Sherri Oehlke, Herb Oehlke, Pam Fuqua, Craig Johnson, Melissa Johnson, Sue Janssen, Chiena Bridges, Bill Sullivan, and Kathy Huber.

Minutes:

The minutes from the December 14, 2022, board meeting were reviewed. David moved that the December minutes be accepted as presented, Cheri seconded, and Trish concurred.

Technology Report:

- Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) that had been approved by the board at a prior meeting will be put on hold for now because of technical issues that EL Internet NW feels would cause issues with that service at this time.
- Network issues were discussed. The last EL outage was in November, we have had some issues with our internal network, those have been addressed, with the final problem being solved with the installation of a new network switch that Artie installed this past Saturday. Sabre' stated that there have been no issues since the new switch was installed.
- E-Rate form 471 for internet service for the 23-24 SY has been certified. The monthly rate we will pay after our discount is \$91.00 per month.

Maintenance Report:

- David reported that the window project has been completed. Herb Oelke brought his tractor to remove snow to give workers access to work areas. The phone line to the teacherage was damaged during snow removal. Sabre' stated that there is a safety issue with the classroom windows. You can see directly into the classroom from out at the road. She feels that we need to put a covering that would allow for two-way viewing but only from up-close. Library windows need covering for only viewing from inside as this is where the students and staff shelter in place during emergencies. She recommended window wrap for the classroom which would also filter the sunlight that causes problems in the classroom. She will research these and report back to the board.
- A new contractor for snow removal has been hired. The new service is meeting our needs.
- Artie and David have spliced the phone line that was damaged. Sabre' reported that it was not functioning properly. Trish mentioned having the phone company come up and replace the line.
- Sabre' reported that Angelo had checked the filters on water outlets in the teacherage. She presented photos from each filter of the debris that was found. David stated that he and Artie are working on putting in a filtering system in the spring. Filter parts for the hot water heater will be ordered. David asked Sabre to send a pic of the model number of the unit.

Curriculum Committee:

- Trish reported on the meeting that was held prior to the board meeting. They have plans to meet every month prior to board meetings at 2:30 p.m. Curriculum they will be focusing on is Technology Integration, then moving on to Library Media.

Fundraising Committee:

- The first committee meeting will be March 16th, Angelo will be chairing this committee.

Old Business:

- Trish reviewed the ESSER Grants funding, ESSER II funding was mainly budgeted for infrastructure. With those budgeted projects being completed there are remaining funds that will need to be spent by September 2023. The board is looking for input from the community as to how we might best use those funds. Sabre' suggested that we look at upgrades to our playground equipment as several other schools had gotten approval for spending ESSER funds on playground upgrades. Title IVA funds are already budgeted for the playground but will fall short of our need. The use of ESSER II funds for this purpose was discussed by the board with public input. David

moved that we move forward with the process to submit our plan to OPI for approval of use of funds for playground improvements, Cheri seconded, and Trish concurred.

- Public use of school internet was discussed in detail. This was a topic that had been discussed at our May meeting but was tabled. The consensus from those present was that allowing public access was not in the best interest of the student or the school. If in the future this topic needs to be revisited, we can do so.

New Business:

- Approval of Transportation Contracts for the first quarter.
- Trish read the resolution for a transportation Budget Amendment in the amount of \$566.00 that is needed to fund the new contract. David moved to adopt the resolution as presented, Cheri seconded, and Trish concurred.
- The board reviewed the present travel per diem schedule and mileage rate, deciding that it will stay as it is. Breakfast \$10.00, Lunch \$15.00, Dinner \$25.00, and mileage is paid at 62.5 cents per mile.
- Foster Care Point of Contact in the TEAMS system is presently Sabre'. It has been decided that this would be best done by the Homeless Liaison, which is Trish. Diane will make the needed changes to the TEAMS database.

Teacher's Report:

- Sabre' thanked everyone for coming out to the Art Walk in December. She did a PowerPoint presentation of the students' artwork and other activities they did during the month of December. January activities will be reported at the February meeting.
- A new student started January 3rd which changed the whole dynamic of the classroom, but it was a great change. The older students are helping the younger student, making new friends and Sabre' is enjoying the new challenge.
- Emergency drill is planned for next week.
- Lockout doors that had been purchased with Title IVA funds prior to our foundation project can now be installed. We will advertise for a local contractor to do the installation.
- Reminder, this year's Craft Fair will be July 2nd. Sabre' asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Sue Janssen asked for more details on the safety doors. Sabre' explained that they are metal roll down doors that will be placed on entry to the coatroom/kitchen area and entrance to the library. The doors are remote-controlled so they can be closed from anywhere in the building to prevent entry into the library and from the entrance by the clerk's office. David stated that he had spoken to Artie, and they looked at the installation instructions and Artie felt comfortable installing the doors.

David commented on what a great job the school was doing with the art program as reflected in the amazing works that were displayed at the Art Walk.

Clerk's Report, Financials & Expenditures: (presented by Trish as Diane was not present)

- One candidate has submitted their intent to run for the open board position in the May election.
- The November financials balanced with the Treasurer's Office were reviewed. Trish called for a motion to accept the financials as presented. Cheri moved, David seconded, and Trish concurred.
- The December financials balanced with the Treasures Office were reviewed. Trish called for a motion to accept the financials as presented. Cheri moved, David seconded, and Trish concurred.
- January expeditions to date were reviewed.
- Trish reviewed the general fund expenditure budget reflecting present percentages remaining in our expenditure budget.

Public Comment:

(A recording of the public comment is available upon request from the district office. To follow is a summary of the two topics discussed.)

Craig Johnson presented a letter that he received from Susy Rios, County Superintendent of Schools, reading aloud the first paragraph of the letter (letter attached) Craig asked why the school forwarded information about the homeschooled families in the district. Sabre' stated that by MT Code our County Superintendent is required annually to reach out to all homeschooled households within the districts they represent. Susy contacted us and asked if we had a list of homeschoolers as she had found no records in her office with prior registration data. We complied with that request. David Gambill mentioned that he

had received calls from other families that had also received the letter and had concerns. David stated that at the December meeting school policy 3123 Attendance Policy Procedure-Truancy was revised. This revision removed Sabre' as attendance officer as she and the board felt that it was not right that she should have to enforce the law as it is laid out in MCA 20-5-105.

Ron asked Sabre to confirm the speeds she had given for our internet.

Next Regular Meeting: February 15, 2023 @ 3:45 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____ Diane Downey, District Clerk

_____ Trish Lauer, Chair

_____ Cheri Javorsky, Vice Chair

_____ David Gambill, Board Trustee