

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 24, 2024 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, David Gambill, and Herb Oehlke

Others Present: Diane Downey, District Clerk, Suzy Rios, Co. Superintendent via zoom, Kim Bowcutt, Teresa Charland, Ron Webb, and Sherri Oehlke

Minutes:

The minutes from the December 20, 2023, regular board meeting were reviewed. David moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Herb seconded, and Trish concurred.

Maintenance Report:

- The snow blower is down. Dave is going to drain the fuel, put in fresh fuel to see if that is the problem. If not, he will be taking it to be looked at. If snow accumulations are too much for Eli to use the snow blower, then we will call Odie from the Seventeen Mile to plow. Diane will get Dave the number to contact Odie. He charges \$100.00 per hour and payment for that service will be paid out of the Building Reserve Fund.

Technology Report:

- Internet outage from 1/12 through 1/19 due to router issue at Baldy Mountain site.
- E-Rate 471 for internet service has been filed.

Old Business:

- The ESSER safe return to school plan, the ESSER ARP Plan and all other ESSER reporting is up to date.
- The Facility Health Improvement Flooring Project scope of work document was presented and board approved submission to OPI for approval. Trish will touch base Libby Floor Covering to let them know we accept their bid for Choice A which was submitted on 12/18/2023.
- Diane reported that at this time no one has submitted a Declaration of Intent to be on the ballot for our Trustee Election. Trish informed us that she will not be seeking re-election.
- The board set a date for interviewing one local person that has applied for the District Clerk position.
- Trish reported that there is no new information on the Title IA Schoolwide program application process.

New Business:

- The new school accreditation process was discussed at length. Suzy Rios, our County Superintendent, reported on all she had gleaned from workshops and offered to assist in any way she could with the reporting process. The online survey has been completed and Diane will ask Suzy to have the data we gathered analyzed by OPI in hopes that we will get a snapshot as to what our stakeholders feel our weak points are so we can move forward with addressing them. Trish has offered to assist Sabre' with gathering the required documentation.
- Currently the board has decided to only use the ZOOM platform for internal needs and not offer it as a platform for public attendance via ZOOM for board meetings.
- Trish read the resolution to approve the needed Transportation Budget Amendment Herb moved they approve the resolution David Seconded, and Trish concurred.
- The new student TR-4 transportation contract was approved and signed.

Teachers Report: Given by Trish as Sabre' was not in attendance.

- The updated student count is 8, a new 2nd and 4th grader and our Kindergarten student disenrolled.
- The teacher would like the board to consider the hiring of an additional aide for 2 days a week. As the new students are performing at a year to two years below grade level in reading Sabre' needs to spend more time with them thus taking time away from the rest of the students and she needs the aide to assist students while she focuses on the reading issues. Diane is investigating flexing of Title IVA funds to Title IA to cover these costs and ESSER III funds can be used as the reading problem is more than likely due to learning loss during Covid School Closures in the State they transferred from. Dave moved that we hire Lea Zeiwbel for the requested 2 days a week contingent on available funds, Herd seconded, and Trish concurred.
- Snow removal concerns.

Clerk’s Report, Financials & Expenditures:

- Diane mentioned the need to contact Noble Contracting regarding the schedule for replacing the basketball court. The fund-raising committee needs to be notified that the Arts and Crafts Fair may need to be postponed, conducted elsewhere, or canceled as the playground will not be available due to completion of the Outdoor Learning/Fitness Project. Herb will check with Noble to see when the work is scheduled, and Trish will contact the Fundraising Committee Chair so they can decide how they want to move forward with this year’s fair planning. David suggested we place this issue on the February meeting agenda.
- Grant spreadsheets are in board books for trustees to view later.
- Diane presented the December financials balance to the Treasurer. David moved that the December financials be approved as presented, Herb, seconded and Trish concurred. (See attached for detail)
- January detailed expenditures to date were reviewed.

Policy Review:

- Policy 7500 -Property Records, Trish recommended that we change the second sentence of the second paragraph to read “The Board or designee shall ensure that inventories of equipment are systematically and accurately recorded and are updated as needed to comply with applicable law, meet insurance requirements, and ensure accountability.” David moved to approve changes, Herb seconded, and Trish concurred. Diane will update the Teacher’s job description to reflect change.
- Policy 1420-School Board Meeting Procedure as Yaak school is a third-class district the requirement under new law does not apply to us. Trish reviewed her recommended changes (see attached) and asked for a motion to accept her recommendations. David moved that they accept the changes as recommended, Herb seconded, and Trish concurred.
- Policies 1610 Goals and Objectives and 2320 Field Trips, Excursions, and Outdoor Education be tabled until the following new policies can be adopted, 2110, 2166, 2500, 3610, 5121, and 8132 as these policies are referenced in the updated recommendations for Policies 1610 and 2320. The first reading of aforementioned policies will be on the February meeting agenda. Diane will get needed policies to trustees to prepare for first reading.

Public Comment:

- Ron Webb stated that he thought the States new school accreditation system was flawed and its rollout was not well planned.

Next Regular Meeting: February 21, 2024 @ 3:45 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____ Diane Downey, District Clerk

_____ Trish Lauer, Chair

_____ David Gambill, Vice Chair

_____ Herb Oehlke, Board Trustee