

BOARD MINUTES

September 18, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, September 18, 2024 in the Board Room of the New Addition. Chairman, Carl Openshaw, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Justin Peterson, Shane Rekdal, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: Jeff Branson and Shane Flowers.

Superintendent – Drea O’Donnell, Clerk – Kinsey Szillat, Elementary Principal – Autumn Arlian, Middle School Principal – Rich Hash, High School Principal – KJ Poepping, AD – Tina Downing, and Transportation Director – Bobby Trotter were present for the entire meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include August claims 133437 – 133491.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Justin Peterson to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include August claims 133437 – 133491, and the approval of the August regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrators recapped their reports.

INFORMATIONAL

1. Building Use Request
2. Water Report
3. Nurse’s Report
4. Goals:

Each teacher and principal is required to create three goals each year. This year the goals are to be based on information gathered during the stakeholder surveys that were completed last spring.

5. Resignations:
 Laura Jensen – Middle School Paraprofessional
 Donna Olmstead – Elementary Paraprofessional
6. Missing Children
7. Milligan Data

OLD BUSINESS

MTDEQ Issues Update

A conference call between the Superintendent, Drea O'Donnell, the Board Chair, Carl Openshaw, and the school's attorney, Larry Martin, is scheduled for Friday, September 20th to discuss how to move forward.

No action.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

Kitchen

Grace Reynolds – Kitchen Helper

Athletics

Corey Schultz – Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Elementary

McKenzie Terry – Paraprofessional *Pending background check

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve hiring the employees as listed.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve hiring the employees as listed.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Out of District Students

None.

Out of State Trips

The following out of state trips were recommended to be approved:

National Association for Music Education which oversees the Montana Music Education Association to Spokane, WA February 13-16, 2025.

Honor Band trip April 23, 2025 through April 27, 2025 to Minneapolis with stopping points in-between.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the out of state trips for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

SPED Stipend

A SPED Advisor stipend was recommended for the extra work as the K-12 SPED Advisor.

Average SPED teacher case loads for Montana in Class B, A, or AA, range about 30 students per teacher. Our SPED teacher is doing all testing and IEPS for 31 Elementary students, 45 Middle School students, and 34 High School students. Last year there were 4 SPED teachers who covered these students with an average of about 27 students per teacher. This year it is being handled by one teacher.

A High School/Joint was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve paying Tina Downing a SPED stipend of \$5,000.00 for the year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Agreement

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the transportation contract with parent KG for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Job Corps Memorandum of Understanding

This is an agreement between the Shepherd School District and the Job Corps. It is signed each year and allows Shepherd Schools to retain credit if one of our students enrolls in the Job Corps program

A High School motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to enter into an agreement with the Job Corps for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Second Reading of Policies 1000, 4000, 6000

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve Policies 1000, 4000, and 6000 series for the second reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- School Year Committee – Committee was created to discuss the school year moving forward for a 5-day vs 4-day week. Board members on the committee will be Carl Openshaw, Shane Rekdal, and Julie Hinkle. Additional committee members will be added to include staff.
- Safety Committee – The Safety Committee met on Monday, September 16th.
- Policy Committee – The Policy Committee will meet October 1, 2024 at 6:00.
- Negotiations Committee – Not currently meeting with the SEA. If the SEA asks to negotiate, this is a negotiation year.
- CTE Committee – The CTE Committee will meet prior to the November board meeting.
- Mission/Vision Committee – The Mission/Vision Committee will need to meet before negotiations start sometime in December

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 7:13pm.