

BOARD MINUTES

March 19, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, March 19, 2025 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, and Shane Rekdal.

Members excused: Jeff Branson, Shane Flowers, and Shayne Vandivort.

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 February claims 133871 – 133924.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include February claims 133871 – 133924, and the approval of the February regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrators recapped their reports. During Ms. Downing’s report two student members of the Student Activities Advisory Council, Kate O’Donnell and Claire Murnin, presented on their experience during the Aim Higher Leadership Conference they attended. Claire Murnin, a three time state speech and debate champion, also presented her winning speech to the Board.

INFORMATIONAL

1. Building Use Request
2. Water Report

3. Nurse's Report
4. Resignations:
 - Stephanie Bushnell – High School Ag Teacher
 - Stephanie Bushnell – FFA Advisor
 - Heather Ekness – High School Assistant Track Coach
 - Tina Downing – Activities Director
5. Milligan School Data
6. Missing Children
7. Safety Compliance Inspections

OLD BUSINESS

Wrestling Building Update

Luke Knaff, current High School and Middle School wrestling coach, was present to address the Board asking for land to be donated or sold to the AAU Wrestling Program. AAU is currently waiting on bids to build a 40x80 or 50x80 building with their own drain field.

Due to three board members not in attendance, the Board decided to table this issue until the next meeting on April 9th.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

Athletics

Head High School/Middle School Cross Country Coach

Elementary

LeAnn McFarlen – Teacher 25-26 school year

Emelie Edward – Teacher 25-26 school year

District

Mackenzie Carlson – School Nurse 25-26 school year

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Out of District Students

None.

District Business Manager Rehire and Salary

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to rehire Mrs. Kinsey Szillat as the Elementary District Business Manager for the 2025-2026 school year, as well as provide the same percent salary increase that the District provides to the certified teaching staff.

A High School motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Justin Peterson, to rehire Mrs. Kinsey Szillat as the High School District Business Manager for the 2025-2026 school year, as well as provide the same percent salary increase that the District provides to the certified teaching staff.

Both motions passed unanimously.

High School Baseball/Little League

Angel Viren and Josette Barthule were in attendance to present on Little League constructing a field that qualifies in size for upper level teams. Little League would also like to propose adding High School baseball to Shepherd. Little League asked if land located next to the softballs could be donated by the school for the field. There would be no cost to the District for the construction of the field. The Board discussed that they would like more information when all Trustees are in attendance.

No action.

After School and Summer School Programs

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve the Sunshine Academy to hold an after school and summer program at Shepherd for the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Milligan School Data – Staff Surveys

Mrs. O'Donnell presented the survey results from the staff surveys sent out in February.

No action.

MOA with SEA

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Shane Rekdal to accept the MOA between the Shepherd School District and the Shepherd Education Association to move forward with the STARS Act.

The motion passed unanimously.

Shepherd School Climate Plan

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Jeff Branson, to approve the Shepherd School's Climate Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

High School Curriculum Guide 2025-2026

A High School motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the High School curriculum guide for the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Daycare Calendar and Parent Contract

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the daycare calendar and parent contract for the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

April Board Meeting Change

Mrs. O'Donnell requested the April board meeting be moved from April 16, 2025 to April 9, 2025.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve moving the April board meeting to April 9, 2025.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution – Non Voted Levies

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the non-voted levies resolution, including all budgeted funds.

A High School motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the non-voted levies resolution, including all budgeted funds.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Mill Levy Election

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to not run an additional mill levy for the Elementary General Fund in May.

A High School motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to not run an additional mill levy for the High School General Fund in May.

Both motions passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Safety Committee – The safety committee met in the spring, and no further meetings are planned.
- CTE Committee – The CTE committee will plan a meeting for this Spring.
- Policy Committee – The policy committee will meet with MTSBA to continue to review our policies. We have the 3000, 5000, 8000, and 9000 series left. The meeting is scheduled for March 24th.
- Negotiations Committee – The negotiation committee met as a board committee and looked at the STARS Act funding. We will meet with the negotiations committee at the beginning of March.
- Athletic Committee – The athletic committee has met regularly to interview coaches.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 7:57pm.