

BOARD MINUTES

December 19, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Tuesday, December 19, 2023 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: Shane Flowers, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Justin Peterson, and Shayne Vandivort

Members excused: Jeff Branson and Shane Rekdal

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 Flowers, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include November claims 132805 – 132884.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Shane Flowers, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include November claims 132805 – 132884, and the approval of the November regular meeting minutes and November special meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Michael Gallagher presented to the Board on his proposal to strengthen the community. He has met with administrators and would like to begin hosting a family gathering night once a month. These family gathering nights would possibly include speakers on topics such as suicide prevention and drug awareness. Mr. Gallagher’s hope is for February 2024 to be the first month of these gatherings and he plans to return to the Board in January to present his full plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

INFORMATIONAL

- 1) Building use requests: As posted in the agenda.
- 2) Water Report
- 3) Nurse's Report
- 4) Resignations:
Katlyn Cumber – Assistant Softball Coach
- 5) Missing Children
- 6) Lunch Donations:
We have received donations from various groups to go towards negative lunch balances.
- 7) Elementary E197 Heat Pump:
The elementary heat pump had to be replaced. This was not replaced during the construction project and that classroom area of the school has not had heat for the past two months. It has been ordered and will be installed over the Christmas break.
- 8) Milligan School Data: Scorecards will continue to be updated each month.

No Action

OLD BUSINESS

Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan and Shepherd Schools 2023-2024 Plan

The Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan is the state required plan for our school. The state also requires the ARP ESSER Plan be updated every six months. Each of these items will be posted on the school website.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan, the Shepherd ARP ESSER Plan and the Shepherd Schools 2023-2024 Plan as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

8th Grade Participation

It was recommended that the administration be removed as a step in the process and the coaches will determine who is eligible to participate as on 8th grader. The coaches will still continue to have the conversations with the administration regarding grades, attendance, and behaviors.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to remove the administration as a step in the approval process for an 8th grader participating in high school sports.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

Patrick Sargent – Substitute Bus Driver
Matthew Viren – Head MS Football Coach
Ely Feuerstein – 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Zac Rupe – MS Track Coach
Alex Bohle – Head Speech Drama Debate Coach
Luke Knaff – Assistant High School Wrestling Coach
Cade Field – Long-term substitute
Kiel Calhoun – Student Worker
Acadius Bermes – Student Worker

Substitute list as attached.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Out-of-District Students

2023-2024 School Year

High School – 1

A High School motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the out of district student for the 2023-2024 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Long Term Sub Pay

It was recommended to increase the daily rate for the long-term substitute pay for the remainder of the school year from \$92.00 per day to \$150.00 per day. Long-term substitutes are required to do the lesson planning while the teacher is absent and are here for more than 30 days at a time.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve increasing the long-term substitute pay to \$150.00 per day.

The motion passed unanimously.

Policy 8310 – Memorials

The Board was asked to consider a memorial bench to be placed on campus in memory of two students who passed away. Board Policy 8310 states “school sites should not serve as the main venue for permanent memorials for students, staff, or community members. Permanent memorials for deceased students, staff, or community members shall be limited in form to perpetual awards or scholarships.”

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to uphold Policy 8310 and not place a memorial on school grounds, and to look at other options for suicide prevention and awareness.

The motion passed unanimously.

Graduate Profile

Shepherd Schools Graduate Profile is a set of attributes each student should have upon graduating from Shepherd Public Schools. The Board was presented with a list of attributes developed by administration and students. Over the next few weeks the administration will choose 5-7 as Shepherd’s main attributes for the Graduate Profile. The Board provided feedback on which items they felt were important.

No action taken.

2024-2025 School Calendar

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Justin Peterson, to the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Second Reading of Policy 1010

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justin Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve Policy 1010 for the second reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

Bus Purchase 2024

Transportation Director, Bobby Trotter, presented the Board with two bids for new school buses. The bids were from I-State (Thomas Buses) and Hartleys (Blue Bird Buses). It was recommended to purchase the Blue Bird Buses from Hartleys as they were the lower bid and had a much better delivery timeframe.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Justine Peterson, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the purchase of two buses from Hartleys for a total of \$335,500.00

The motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Safety Committee – The committee did not meet this month.
- Policy Committee –The committee will continue to meet and bring policies to the board that need to be reviewed. The committee met before the December board meeting.
- Negotiations Committee – The negotiation committee is not currently meeting with the SEA but will start meeting in the spring.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

The Administrators recapped their reports.

OPEN SESSION TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 8:00pm.