

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SD #58 YELLOWSTONE COUNTY
BILLINGS, MT 59106

April 29, 2020

Board Chair Mitch Burns called a regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on April 29th, 2020. The meeting was via a Zoom meeting on-line.

PRESENT: Mitch Burns Chris Eide and Michael Chandler. Absent: none. Superintendent Keith Tresch, Principal Cass Cole, Dwight VonSchriltz and Clerk Roger Heimbigner were present.

GUESTS: Lorelei Rosales

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**HEARING OF
INDIVIDUALS/
CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

APPROVE ADDITION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Items for Action

Declaration of Unforeseen Emergency Resolution

Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the following resolution:

“Board of Trustees of Yellowstone Academy School District #58 declares an unforeseen emergency within the meaning of that term as set forth in Title 20, Chapter 9, Part 8, to become immediately effective and to continue through June 30, 2020. This motion is based on COVID-19 risks; in recognition that the Governor's waiver of student instruction time will expire on May 7; and in recognition that the Governor's April 22, 2020 Directive implicating Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 specifies that elected school boards and their districts that adopt their own declaration of emergency will continue to receive all state funding, including transportation funding”

Motion passed unanimously. This resolution is valid through June 30th.

Approve Consent Agenda

Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the minutes of March 19th and March 29th, 2020. A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the bills for payment. All motions passed unanimously.

Approve Hiring

A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the following certified staff for the 2020-21 school year: Taylor Beagle, Val Clause, Janelle Cook, Jim Cottingham, Tessa Beach, Linda DelDuca, Dave Eckroth, Ryan Frick, Jon Hicks, Michelle Jutila, Jim Klempel, Nicole Kostelecky, David Middletich, Ron O'Leary, Jami Palchus, Tracy Preston, Denise Puglisi, Lorelei Rosales, Wayne Small, Sharon Voller, Rodney Richard, Cass Cole, Jennica Hammond, and Dwight Von Schritlz.

A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve hiring Superintendent Keith Tresch for an additional year on his contract.

Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the hiring of Brenna Beckett and Karen Johnson as paraprofessionals.

All three motions passed unanimously.

Approve Reduction of a Positions

A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to the reduction of a position for Shyla Schlueter as a Behavior Specialist. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Resignations

Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the resignations of Kamryn Silva, Marissa Kusayanagi, and Justice Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Tuition Agreements

A motion was made by Micheal Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve tuition agreements for Day School students since February 11th. Motion passed unanimously. There were no PRTF students for approval.

Approve ITBR Contract for 2020-2021 School Year

Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the proposed contract to ITBR Solutions for the 2020-21 school year. The contract is a monthly fee of \$2,800 and an annual maintenance fee of \$3,500 – about a 2.7% increase. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Next Board Meeting Time and Date

Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the next board meeting to be Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve New Staff Handbook and Yellowstone Academy Disaster Response

A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the Staff Handbook and the Yellowstone Academy Disaster Response booklet. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve 2020-2021 Calendar

Supt. Tresch presented the 2020-21 school calendar to the board for approval. The calendar follows the Billings School calendar pretty closely as most of the employees are from that district. Also, the Billings School students are the biggest block of students attending the Day School. A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the 2020-21 calendar as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Supt. Tresch discuss the 5 early outs, outside speaker for April 8-9th, progress reports, and staff barbecue day.

Approve Subscription Renewals

Supt. Tresch asked the board to approve subscription renewals for the 2020-21 school year. Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve Cognia (\$1600+), MTSBA services (\$3,700), Renaissance Learning for AR and STAR programs, Gradpoint (\$5,500), and NWEA for Maps testing. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Tuition for Elder Grove for 6 Students

Supt. Tresch stated that the Yellowstone Academy has an agreement with Elder Grove Schools for the employee kids that live on the YBGR campus to attend Elder Grove Schools. There is a \$500 tuition charge per student. A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to approve the \$3,000 tuition to Elder Grove Schools for the students attending Elder Grove Schools. Motion passed unanimously.

Cancel May 5th Election

A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Mitch Burns to cancel the May 6th election by acclamation. There was no levy and Mitch Burns retained his seat as the only candidate. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Report

Supt. Keith Tresch reported on the following:

- 1) PTRF kids are working in small groups for educational purposes;
- 2) Cognia review has been moved to September due to Covid 19;
- 3) The Para Negotiating teams will meet tomorrow at noon. They have agreed to language, 25 cents on the base plus step, and language on sick leave use that gives incentive to employees not using sick leave. It is a 2 year agreement
- 4) Supt. Tresch stated they are providing lunch packets for distance learning;
- 5) Supt. Tresch talked about how the summer may look. The Academy may continue to teach on-line for the Day School Students. There was discussion on charging only 50% for the students that would continue to attend. If students come to the Academy we will plan on how to do that in a safe manner;
- 6) YBGR is contracting the use of the Academy's paras paying the Academy about \$15,000 for every two weeks;
- 7) The Foundation gifted \$22,000 to the Academy for the ELA curriculum program;
- 8) Supt. Tresch informed the board that the Academy is slated to receive \$180,000 from the CARES Act. Because of the reduction in Medicaid revenues because billings has been dramatically reduced, this money will be used to replace those dollars in the program;
- 9) There was discussion on OPI providing up to 1.5 million to YBGR for students in Montana in the residential program. This hasn't been done in the past;

- 10) Supt. Tresch updated the board on some Title grants as there will be a need to shift some expenses due to circumstances. Supt Tresch has asked to replace some chromebooks and a couple other items to replace Mary Buck and Theresa Owens who were slated to come here before the Covid 19 situation;
- 11) Supt. Tresch talked about the OPI Accreditation process. The Academy has met standards but there will be targeted comprehensive work with students not meeting testing measurements. The Academy will have difficulties meeting the testing guidelines every year because of the nature of the type of at-risk students being educated at the Academy;
- 12) Handbooks will be available on-line;
- 13) Supt. Tresch discussed the graduation this year. The Academy has 3 students who will graduate. The chapel will video the event, students will be honored by golf cart progression, and there will be a celebration in the lodges. Graduation is May 22nd.

Trustee Report

None

Adjournment:

Michael Chandler moved, seconded by Mitch Burns to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjournment was at 1:00 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for May 20th , 2020 at noon.

Mitch Burns, Chairman

Roger Heimbigner, Clerk