

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

February 21, 2025

Chair Michael Chandler called a regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The meeting was held in the Board conference room.

PRESENT: Skyler Carroll and Michael Chandler were present at call to order with Trustee Lacy Jones arriving at 12:12pm. Superintendent Keith Tresch and Business Manager/Clerk Laurie Hickethier were present.

GUESTS: Guest present was Lorelei Rosales.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**HEARING OF  
INDIVIDUALS/  
CORRESPONDENCE**

Supt. Tresch stated he has met with Mr. Frick in regard to the Public Comment from the January 2025 board meeting about a series of Montana parental rights laws that went into effect July 2023 – one in particular SB518. SB518 the bill is addressed to the Board of Trustees of the school districts in Montana. The Bill states each school board shall develop and adopt a policy with “procedures by which a parent shall provide written consent before the parent’s child uses a pronoun that does not align with the child’s sex”. Supt. Tresch stated he is still working with MTSBA in regard to the language for a policy and will bring it to the board.

**APPROVE ADDITION**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Items for Action**

**Approve Minutes for January 22, 2025**

A motion was made by Skyler Carroll, seconded by Michael Chandler to approve the minutes of January 22, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Bills for January 2025**

A motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Skyler Carroll to approve the bills for payment. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Approve New Hires**

Supt. Tresch presented the following new hires to Yellowstone Academy:

1. Able Baker – Substitute Teacher

With a couple of staff members being out on Medical Leave and Bereavement, Supt. Tresch presented the hire of Able Baker to help with those vacancies. Skyler Carroll motioned to approve the new hire. Second to the motion was Michael Chandler. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Superintendent Report**

Supt. Tresch reported on the following:

- 1) Teacher Negotiations – Supt. Tresch asked Michael Chandler to sit in on the upcoming negotiations. Currently, for the 24-25 school year, YA was sitting at a deficit of approximately \$500,000. Supt. Tresch realizes the need to give a raise, but not sure what will be financially sound for YA at this point.
- 2) School Calendar – (a) Summer Breaks – Supt. Tresch asked for input from the board on the upcoming calendar. Mr. Tresch stated he is looking to try to put a 2 week break between the start of summer session and another 2 weeks break at the end of summer session before the “regular” 25-26 school year. In order to do this, YA may need to increase the school day length, including during the summer session. Mr. Tresch stated that students do best when have a consistent schedule in school, but the staff also needs a break as well.
- 3) Parental Rights Policy Discussion – This is what Supt. Tresch discussed at the beginning of the meeting in regard to policies related to pronouns for students.
- 4) CRDC Reporting – Mr. Tresch is working on this report which is due by March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 5) OPI Accreditation – The surveys that were sent out to all YA employees, board members and community members is part of the OPI Accreditation. Also, YA transitioned to get set up on NWEA for the accreditation for OPI. However, it has been brought up to OPI, that only around 28 students are the same students that would have taken the MAPS and NWEA tests last year at YA. All other students are new to YA, and the turnover of students at YA makes it hard to use as a tool to show progress. As soon as the final OPI

Accreditation report is received, the report will be shared with the Board.

- 6) School Psych Conference - Dwight Von Schriltz is currently attending a school psychology conference in Seattle, and the hopes is he can share information with the staff when he returns.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Chair Michael Chandler called to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m. Next meeting is the scheduled for Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

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Michael Chandler, Board Chair

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Laurie Hickethier, Clerk