

**UPPER WEST SHORE
SCHOOL DISTRICT #33
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

Trustees Present: Jim Ferguson, Ben Adams, Jill Sundvahl (via Facetime)

Staff Present: Jamie Bartel, Julie Tallmadge, Amy Sheets, Kim Norman, Jamie Jacobson

Clerk Present: Duskie Dwelle

Superintendent Present: Carolyn Hall

Guests present: Sheriff Don Bell, Under-Sheriff Ben Woods, Deputy County Attorney Wally Congdon, Amanda Adams, Carol Martin, Jessi Wood, Jens Nelson, Sheri Abernathy, Daniel Kennedy, Sara Schmeusser, Kina Nelson, Kari Homola, Pam O'Mara, Norma Commers, Bridgette Cooley, Bev Hubbard, Millar Norman

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Carolyn asked for approval of the Title I School- Parent Compact that she had presented at the January meeting. Ben made a motion to approve the Title I School – Parent Compact. Jill seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve the motion.

Carolyn asked the board for a motion to be entered into the minutes verifying the approval that the Trustees gave via telephone to enter into a contract with New Hope Technology Foundation to act as the District's agent for E-Rate. New Hope will complete the E-Rate application process, apply for any grants available for connecting the school to the Montana Access fiber-optic line running near the school, and any other requirements necessary to bring broadband service to our school. Since eighty percent (80%) of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch, E-Rate may pay eighty percent (80%) of the monthly broadband access fees. Ben made a motion to approve the contract with New Hope Technology Foundation. Jill seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve the motion.

There were no objections to the approval of the January 15, 2018 minutes, the warrants or the PO's.

Julie presented a 'wish list' prepared by the staff and the IEC for the trustees to review and sign. The wish list will be given to the CS&K Tribal Council for guidance if they have any funding available to help Dayton Elementary.

Jamie B asked for permission for her and Jamie J to attend a Googlefest workshop in Kalispell on February 26th. Ben made a motion to approve to pay the \$120 fee, mileage, and lunch for Jamie B and Jamie J to attend the Googlefest workshop. Jill seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve the motion.

Julie asked for permission to attend a SPED conference in Missoula on February 28th, March 1st & 2nd. The fee for the conference is \$325. Carolyn said the focus of the conference will be issues that some of our SPED students are dealing with. Ben made a motion to approve Julie attending the conference, her motel, mileage and meal reimbursement. Jill seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve.

Carolyn said that neither she nor the staff are getting notice from OPI early enough to do much planning ahead on workshops and conferences.

Jamie B said the fire inspector had visited the school. The findings they gave were:

1. The door that used to be an exit and now goes to a supply room needs to be marked with a sign reading 'Not An Exit'. This has been done.
2. Neither of the Exit signs above the doors in the lunch/multi-purpose room light up.
3. The exit door on the east side of the lunch/multi-purpose room needs to have the mechanism repaired or the door replaced. The door currently locks with a dead bolt. This is a violation as it prevents a quick exit in case of an emergency.

Jamie B asked the trustees for permission to have Jen Nelson provide instruction in a computer science elective to the 4th – 6th grade students two days per week for the month of March. Carolyn commented that Jen, who is an office assistant for Dayton Elementary, has a wealth of knowledge in technology. Ben made a motion to approve Jen doing a computer science class for the 4th – 6th grades. Jill seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve the motion.

Duskie presented the Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election and the Trustee Resolution Requesting the County Conduct the Election (this resolution request that Katie Harding, Lake County Election Administrator conduct the election for the district) for approval. This would be a mail ballot election to be held on May 8th for the purpose of electing one trustee for a one-year term and one trustee for a three-year term. The resolution also states that should it be determined that any portion of the election is not required the trustees grant Katie Harding, Lake County Election Administrator to cancel the election. Ben made a motion to approve the Resolution Calling for an Election. Jill seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve the motion.

Duskie presented for approval the first semester TR-5. The TR-5 is the transportation reimbursement to parents who live more than three miles from the school for the first semester. This is provided because Dayton Elementary does not have bus service for students.

Carolyn said that per the trustees' instructions after the paraprofessional position interviews, she had contacted Brittany Hortin to offer her the position. Brittany accepted the position. Brittany was informed that if she provides records for any paraprofessional or SPED training her wages may increase. Brittany can begin on February 26th. Jill made a motion to hire Brittany Hortin for the paraprofessional position. Ben seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve the motion.

Before discussion of the nuisance complaint Pam and Doug O'Mara filed against Dayton Elementary, Jim introduced himself as board chair, Jill as an 8 year trustee, and Ben as a recently appointed trustee. Jim also introduced Wally Congdon, Lake County Deputy Attorney; Don Bell, Lake County Sheriff; and Ben Woods, Lake County Under-Sheriff and thanked them for attending this meeting.

Jim asked who in attendance had signed the petition filed by the O'Maras. By a show of hands, Pam O'Mara, Norma Commers, Bridgette Cooley, and Bev Hubbard indicated that they had.

Jim asked Wally Congdon to address those in attendance regarding the petition. Wally asked that those in attendance know the rules regarding the issue on the petition before signing. The petition refers to after-hour activities (see attached petition). What constitutes after-hour activities? Dayton Elementary is a relatively small rural school with few evening community events all year as opposed to larger schools with sports and community activities several evenings a week.

Dayton Elementary operates Monday through Thursday with staff arriving at 7:30 a.m. There is an after-school program for students until 5:30 p.m. Some evenings, usually Thursday, staff does stay until very early morning to prepare for the following week. This allows them to spend weekends with their families. Staff have been asked to be as quiet as possible, to exit the parking lot onto B Street going east and not turn on their headlights until they have turned east in an effort to appease the O'Maras and in consideration of all neighbors.

Wally told those in attendance that by statute (Montana Code Annotated 20-1-302) a school cannot be a public nuisance (see attached code). The trustees will set the number of days in a term, the length of the school day and the number of days in a school week and report them to the Office of Public Instruction. Wally also stated that all children in Montana have a right to a free public education and to be safe while receiving that education.

Several parents expressed concern about what they feel has been intimidating behavior by Doug O'Mara and his mental stability. Some of those statements are attached. The staff is also intimidated by Doug O'Mara's behavior. He has been observed looking in the windows when they are at the school late, repeatedly circling the school in his car, and following them in his car. Some of these instances have been recorded by the school security camera. Families of the staff expressed their concern for the safety of their loved ones and the stress it is causing those loved ones. Doug has also been observed taking pictures and/or videos of students on the playground.

Sheriff Bell and Under-Sheriff Woods told staff and parents that if they feel threatened to make a report to 911 or 883-7301. They are concerned for the safety of Lake County citizens.

Wally told those present that to build a case against the O'Maras, every instance of intimidation or threatening behavior needs to be reported. Any one has the right to attend an open meeting, such as board meetings, to be heard. No one has the right to confront staff or trustees outside the parameters of the open meeting. Jamie B provided copies of emails and accounts of past instances to Under-Sheriff Woods.

Before the meeting ended all except one of those that had signed the petition said that they are not bothered by noise at the school and that they now understood why staff sometimes stays until early morning hours. They were also unaware of Doug O'Mara's behavior to parents and staff.

Ben made a motion to notify the O'Maras by mail about the outcome of this evening's board meeting and action to taken in the future. Jill seconded the motion. All trustees voted to approve the motion. Wally will compose and send the letter.

There were no objections to the dismissal of the meeting. The board adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk

Date