

MINUTES

Boulder Elementary School District No. 7  
Regular Meeting

April 17, 2023  
Boulder Elementary School

Board members present:

Carrie Harris – Chair      Matt Strozewski – Vice Chair      Andrea Dolezal – Trustee  
Cheryl Hecht – Trustee      Kyle Simons - Trustee

Administrators present:

Jeff Elliott, Superintendent/Principal  
Britton Mann, Business Manager

Staff:    Devyn Ottman – Go Meet, Facebook Live Meeting Operator

---

Visitors: Matthew Henry, Matt Bowman, Rochelle Hesford

CALL                                      The Elementary Board was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Carrie, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
ELEMENTARY  
BOARD TO ORDER

AGENDA REVIEW                      Will move New Business #6 after Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF                              There were no questions regarding the April 2023 claims. Cheryl motioned to approve claims and warrants for April 2023 with the prior month ending with warrant #10513 and the current warrant numbers #10514-10550 in the amount of \$74,663.68. Andrea seconded, all present approved. Claims were present for review.  
CLAIMS

REVIEW OF                                      There were no questions or comments regarding the March 2023 payroll. Matt motioned to approve the March 2023 payroll, Kyle seconded, all present approved.  
PREVIOUS MONTH  
PAYROLL

APPROVAL OF                                      Andrea motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 2023, Cheryl seconded, all approved.  
PREVIOUS MONTH  
MINUTES

APPROVAL OF                                      There were no questions regarding student activities. Matt motioned to approve the Student Activities ledger as presented. Kyle seconded, all present approved.  
STUDENT  
ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC COMMENT                              Carrie read the public comment. Rochelle Hesford was in attendance and wanted to update the board on her work towards funding a summer program. She had to reapply for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant, which meant there was only funding towards running a 2-week program. Rochelle stated that it is important to continue providing the summer program as a 6-week program. She did fundraisers and received grants, which will allow for the funding of a 6-week program.

COMMUNICATIONS                              **LETTERS:** A resignation letter was received from Mrs. Grant.  
**STUDENT ISSUES:** None

COMMENDATIONS                              Mr. Elliott wanted to recognize the High Quality Work Week organized by Mrs. Breker. As educators we are making a conscious effort to ask kids to produce their best work every time. The classrooms have work displayed to showcase some of the student’s work. All grades will walk through and view each other’s work. The community has also been invited.  
/RECOGNITIONS

UNFINISHED                                      None  
BUSINESS

COMMITTEE                                      **Leadership** – Chair and Vice chair: Carrie Harris & Matt Strozewski: This committee did not meet.  
REPORTS                                      **Handbook/Policy** – Cheryl Hecht & Kyle Simons: This committee met briefly prior to the meeting to review policies that will be on the agenda.  
**Budget/Finance and Negotiations/Personnel** – Carrie Harris & Andrea Dolezal:

This committee will meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 to finish negotiations with both unions.  
**Facilities** – Matt Strozewski & Andrea Dolezal: The committee did not meet. However, Matt suggested they do meet to discuss the main school boiler. Mr. Elliott discussed the Intercap loan and that is a possibility for funding.  
**Transportation** – Andrea Dolezal & Kyle Simons: This committee did not meet. However, there might be a family who will ask to petition the board for a student to ride the bus. Mr. Elliott cautioned the board on keeping with policy on matters like this.

ADMINISTRATORS  
REPORT

Mr. Elliott provided notes for the official minutes.

1. **Student Centered:**
  - a. Kinder and Cub Roundup – March 31<sup>st</sup>. The early numbers show 16 for our kinder class.
  - b. Track started – there are 40 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders participating. Mrs. Ottman and Mrs. Bare are coaching. Mrs. Ottman has a couple meets set up for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade only.
  - c. JHS Honor Society – 8 former BES students came over to BES and helped out in the classrooms. The teachers were excited to see previous students.
  - d. JHS days for 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be on April 18th
2. **Creating and Maintaining a positive school culture:**
  - a. This is a tough time of the year. The staff and students are making a push to the end of the school year.
  - b. We all are continuing to smile through the snow.
3. **Improving Instruction based on best practices:**
  - a. We need to ensure that we always are previewing and assessing the curriculum. It was brought to Mr. Elliott's attention that there was a lesson in Amplify (Language Arts Curriculum) for the Jr High that was questionable to some parents. Mr. Elliott stated that when a curriculum is purchased there has to be involvement from the staff, the board and community members. This is crucial to part of the purchasing process. It was his understanding that this particular curriculum (Amplify) was purchased with only 2 people reviewing it and it has been a struggle for the staff to use it. Andrea asked if Mrs. Breker would be able to filter out some of the lessons in the upper grades since she is the Reading Coach. Mr. Elliott agreed that was a good idea. Mr. Elliott also stated that by reviewing the curriculum we can determine what is fair, equitable and right to teach our students. Moving forward on any curriculum, the board all agreed there has to be more involvement with themselves and especially the staff when purchasing the right curriculum for our school.
  - b. Walkthroughs have picked up – These are 10 minute observations made focusing on specific objectives in each class.
  - c. GLT (Grade Level Team Meetings) will happen April 18-20, 2023
4. **Community Engagement and Communication:**
  - a. Mr. Elliott resigned his position on the SWMYP (Southwest Montana Youth Partnership) board. Cheryl stated that she is concerned and upset to hear how expensive the daycare fees are and that when the school originally donated the use of the school's property for the daycare, that the objective was to provide affordable daycare for the community. The prices are so high that some of our staff members will be unable to personally use the daycare. Mr. Elliott stated that the SWMYP group is supposed to fundraise to help bring the costs down. There was only 1 company interested in running a daycare in Boulder and she sets her own costs. He assured the board that the SWMYP group is still working on bringing costs down through fundraising.
  - b. Summer Program – The summer program will begin June 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Instructional Summit – June 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Right now only BES staff will attend. Para's and newer teachers are the focus. They will be able to use what they learn on actual students from summer

program. If the summit is successful, Mr. Elliott envisions inviting neighboring schools to also attend.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Personnel –

- a. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – There were 2 in house applications who applied for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade position. Mrs. Bare was offered the position and accepted. Next year there will be 1 teacher per grade unless something happens with increased enrollment and then there might be changes. Kyle motioned to hire Mrs. Bare as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher starting the 2023-2024 school year. Matt seconded the vote. Andrea approved the motion and Cheryl abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.
- b. 2023-2024 Coaching Positions – Both football coaches have resigned. We currently coop with Clancy Elementary. As athletic director, Mrs. Ottman stated that she and the Clancy athletic director might reach out to MT City school to see if they are interested in forming a coop with Boulder and Clancy. The assistant girl's coach also turned in her resignation, so that position is also open. along with the assistant girls basketball coach. Andrea motioned to approve the coaching staff as presented for the 2023-2024 school year. Cheryl seconded, all present approved. Britton will post the girls assistant basketball position and the board will wait to hear on the football program.

### 2. Non Resident Student Acceptance – *Standing Agenda Item* – None

### 3. Liquidation of School Property – *Standing Agenda Item* – None

4. **Election** – The election was cancelled by acclamation so Kyle will remain as a trustee for the BES board and Mrs. Eyer will swear him in during the May meeting.

5. **Clerk Evaluation** – Mr. Elliott completed Britton's evaluation last week. He also stated that Britton's knowledge of school finance has been invaluable to him the past 2 years here at Boulder Elementary.

6. **Update on Principal Search** – Mr. Henry was in attendance. There were a total of 10 applicants. Mr. Henry emailed all the applicants. All but 2 responded. Those 2 had found other positions. Mr. Henry met with the staff who requested to be a part of the application review process. 8 staff members participated and were split into 2 groups. Both groups came to the same conclusion of applicants to be interviewed. Mr. Henry then met with Matt and Cheryl. They also came fairly close to the applicants that were chosen by the staff. The staff decided on Denise Chrest, Greg Liedle, and John Flamand. Matt & Cheryl chose Denise Chrest, Doug Richards and John Flamand. It was decided to interview all 4 applicants. Mr. Henry suggested different options for the interview process, can try and eliminate down to 2 or interview all 4, whatever the board wanted to do. Carrie asked for input from each member. Cheryl stated that she was interested in interviewing all 4. Matt, Carrie, Andrea and Kyle all agreed that they would like to hear from all 4 as well. It was decided to do back to back interviews on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Henry will come up with questions the board can ask and he will make all of the arrangements.

7. **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2023-2024 Calendar** – The committee tried to match up with Jefferson High School. Cheryl motioned to approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the 2023-2024 calendar. Matt seconded, all present approved.

8. **Legislative Changes** – There were a couple items in legislature that Mr. Elliott wanted the board to watch. There are 2 for Charter Schools, one would essentially be like a public school and the other would be a school for profit. Also one to privatize special education.

9. **Board Self Evaluation** – The board went over all of the questions/statements and then discussed each response as a group. Carrie stated that when the board re-organizes it would be great to align personal strengths on the committees.

10. **Release COVID Policies** – Cheryl motioned to release the 1900 policy series. Matt seconded, all present approved.

11. **1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policies** – Mr. Elliott wanted to discuss Policy 2335 – Health Enhancement. This used to be a recommended policy, but now it is required. The school nurse teaches the curriculum and it covers elementary through high school. The information that Mrs. Ritchie (County Health Nurse) provides does not included several of the topics covered under this policy. Her information is kept basic to the elementary age.

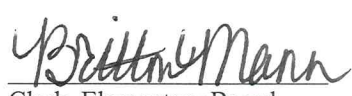
TOPICS FOR  
FUTURE AGENDAS

Policies  
Board Re-Organization  
Graduation

ADJOURNMENT

Carrie adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.

  
Chair, Elementary Board

  
Clerk, Elementary Board