

## **Minutes-Regular Meeting April 8, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Hysham School Board was called to order at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Marc Baue, Chad Fink, Chuck Hopf, and Clark Pinkerton. District Clerk Weinmeister, Superintendent Thibault, and Principal Prongua were also present. Public in attendance were: Jessie Walter, Kerry Roberts, Bob Keele, Stephanie Schultz, Patty Duncan, and Glenda Skillen.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS-none**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chuck Hopf moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 11, 2024 as presented. Clark Pinkerton seconded and the motion passed 4-0. Chuck Hopf moved to approve the special meeting minutes of March 27, 2024 as presented. Chad Fink seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Chad Fink moved to approve claim numbers 32319-32344 as presented. Chuck Hopf seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

### **REPORTS**

**Building & Grounds**-For the boilers, the replacement heat exchangers have arrived and are being pressure tested. LONG has been overseeing the testing and will complete the change out when it is ready. We are still waiting for pricing on the unit ventilators and the SCADA system upgrade. LONG is also working out the correct protocol for the building boiler license. Work progresses in the water damaged classrooms, however, the vinyl wall covering was not repairable. MSGIA has approved the change to use wainscoting in that classroom. The sink and fixtures were replaced in the Kindergarten classroom. Lighting and power have been installed in the storage container at the ball field, as well as under the crow's nest. Smoke sensors have been installed in the primary bathrooms in the building. Outside cleanup has begun at the school grounds and football field. Maintenance staff are hopeful to get ahead of weed growth. We are purchasing dishwashing machine detergent from a different company that will supply it at a lower cost and service the dishwasher as well. There was a roof drain leak in the math room that did minimal damage and there was some leaking between the gym and junior high locker room roofing. Empire Roofing was called in to look at that. We have received some email correspondence from the general contractor for the remodel inquiring if they will get paid if their sub-contractor finishes the work. The school had not responded.

**Activities Director**-Junior High and High School Track are underway with a couple meets each. The newly embroidered track warm ups/slicks were well received by the athletes. We have received the girls' basketball trophies, but are still waiting on the volleyball one; Kerry has reached out to Satabra about that. Kerry passed out the 24-25 football, volleyball & junior high basketball schedules. The junior high will play everyone in the conference once, rather than the home/away games in your

subconference like last year. They plan to work this on a rotation that if you play a team at home this year, next year you will travel.

**Principal/Superintendent Report**-Superintendent Thibault stated that Colstrip Public Schools requested approval to allow their bus to come into our district to pick up students. He called and learned that no Hysham district kids are enrolled in Colstrip Public Schools. Superintendent Thibault expects a similar letter from Custer and recommended the board deny the request. Superintendent Thibault and Bob met with an EV Power Pal Solar Panel representative via zoom to listen to their sales pitch. They were not sold on the solar panel package. He contacted Todd Kolstad from MTS regarding IT for the 24-25 school year. Superintendent Thibault feels we can streamline the IT functions if we hire someone in house/local to handle software updates/upgrades. Bob can handle hardwire installations. Kyle Arnold from Peterson Quality Office notified us that the parts companies are no longer making parts for the older copiers we have at the school. He quoted \$205.16 a month for five years on a new copier. If we did away with the big copiers and just used the desktop printers, we would spend over \$3000.00 a year on ink alone. Superintendent Thibault also received pricing on Promethean Panels. Ms. Skillen is interested for one in the library; this would move the TV to the lobby where we could broadcast games. The plan is to combine the elementary & high school libraries and move the board meetings across the hall. Drivers Ed is progressing, but he is having a hard time finding someone to put an auxiliary stopping mechanism in the suburban.

## **OLD BUSINESS-None**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Literacy Program**-The State is requiring those schools that have an Early K, KinderReady, etc. program to convert to an Early Literacy Program. This requires us to create screening parameters for kids that will be 4 by September 10. The State aims to get many more students enrolled in the public school system, which in turn helps the kids be more prepared for regular school. Screening needs to be done with a State approved program by June. It appears that our current Early K curriculum will still work for this program.
2. **Principal Resignation**-Due to hiring a full time superintendent, the school no longer has need for a principal. Ms. Prongua submitted her letter of resignation. Chuck Hopf moved to accept Ms. Prongua's resignation. Clark Pinkerton seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
3. **School Calendar**-The Calendar Committee submitted one calendar (B) that starts on August 12, 2024 and ends on May 22, 2025 and one calendar (A) that starts on August 12, 2024 but ends on May 29, 2024. The difference between the calendars is due to a longer Christmas break in the second one. The only Fridays on both calendars are September 6, 2024 and a Friday addition to the first calendar on January 3, 2025. Chad Fink moved to accept School Calendar B for the 2024-2025 school year. Chuck Hopf seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
4. **Cucancic/Carpet One Inquiry**-Carpet One sent a letter to OPI requesting the State step in to get us to pay the amount owed to them by Cucancic. It appears Cucancic did

not pay Carpet One at all during the project. The board stated that Carpet One needs to deal with Cucancic. The school also acknowledges that they will likely have to pay Cucancic something to finish out the payments. They would like to include Durward's extra costs, about \$18,000.00, to our list of extra expenditures and lost revenues. Bob is getting quotes from local contractors to complete the work.

5. **MUST Insurance Renewal**-Rates for insurance through MUST increased about 5%, which is one of the lowest of all the policies they wrote this year. This gives us about a \$38.00 increase for a single medical premium. MUST did increase their deductible from \$3000 to \$3500 for one of the HDHP plans. Chuck Hopf moved to renew the 2024-2025 MUST renewal rates as presented. Clark Pinkerton seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
6. **MTSBA Renewal**-There were three renewals slated to be voted on, Policy Maintenance Services (\$1,217.00), Labor Relations Maintenance Services (\$1,000.00), and Public School District Board of Trustees (\$2,383.00). Chuck Hopf requested additional information as to what these services cover. Chuck Hopf moved to table the MTSBA renewals. Chad Fink seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
7. **MSSA Renewal**-This group handles the NWEA testing platform, and offers library and guidance counseling services. In the past, we have elected to use the library services but not the guidance services and opted for MAP Growth and Science testing for certain grades. Board members agreed that we should MAPS test K-10 and Science test 3-12. They would like to look into testing PreK-8 for reading fluency and asked the elementary teachers to discuss that. Chuck Hopf moved to table the MSSA renewal. Clark Pinkerton seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
8. **Clerk Evaluation** (possible executive session)-The clerk requested close session for her evaluation. The meeting recessed to close session at 8:34pm and reconvened at 9:15pm. Chuck Hopf moved to approve the executive session minutes as presented. Chad Fink seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

1. **Bus Purchases**-Superintendent Thibault gave the board a list of buses from Foreman Sales & Service. From that list, the board is interested in a 2014 71 passenger bus, a 2014 65 passenger bus, and a 2007 & a 2010 for spares. These buses are \$30,000, \$28,000, \$6,500, \$10,000 respectively. Superintendent Thibault has visited with Leo from Stockman Bank for a loan that would have one or two large payments a year. The school is looking at paying \$80,000-\$90,000 for buses. There was no motion on this item.
2. **Out of District Transportation Requests**-The board discussed how to handle out of district transportation requests from other schools this year. With the new tuition law, Superintendent Thibault is opposed to letting other schools drive into our district to pick up students. The board took his comments under consideration. We have only received a transportation request from Colstrip which doesn't have any students from

the Hysham District enrolled at this time. They send out a blanket request. The board did not act on this item.

**BUDGET and FINANCE-None**

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Chad Fink moved to adjourn at 9:16pm. Chuck Hopf seconded and the motion passed 4-0. The next regular board meeting is May 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

X

Board Chairperson

X

District Clerk