

Special School Board Meeting Minutes

Hot Springs School

1/29/2025 7:00 PM

@ 301 Broadway

Attendance

Present:

Members: Gerald Chouinard, Jennifer Christensen, Mandie DePoe, Ricky DePoe, Lynette Ek, Julie White

Absent:

Members: Carmen Jackson

Justin Silva, Michele Silva, and Callie Cano

1. Call To Order (7:00 pm)
 - 1.1. Roll Call
 - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.3. Trustee Explanation of Procedures Visitor Sign In
 - 1.4. Public Participation
 - 1.5. Correspondence
2. Transportation Department Discussion
 - 2.1. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Bus Replacement

Motion:

The District's two black travel buses are at the point of needing to be replaced. The newer bus is a 2016 Bluebird; the Bluebird Company has been sold. All replacement parts required to fix the bus must be purchased from a 3rd party. They are costly and hard to find. The other black travel bus is 2009/2010 International and is not operational due to an extensive wiring problem. The District has already spent \$10,000 trying to locate the issue, but it has not been resolved. Randy Woods strongly recommends replacing these buses rather than continuing to spend money on costly repairs.

The District had placed an order for a new travel bus in the Fall of 2023; however, it elected to cancel the purchase in May. Last week, Saxton of Harlows Bus Sales reached out to Michele to ensure the district still wanted to cancel the purchase. The build date is still available, scheduled for about 6 months. The original plan was to trade the two activity buses and one yellow bus that is not operational to reduce the cost of the new activity bus. The activity bus quote was \$189,633 before the trade allowance, so the board canceled the purchase.

The bus would be funded through the Bus Depreciation Fund, which can only be used to purchase or replace buses and bus radios. The Board discussed the high cost of the activity bus and the necessity versus the need. The most significant difference between a travel bus and a regular school bus, besides the safety requirements, is seating and storage. The Board would like to compare the cost of purchasing a yellow bus. In addition, they would like information on costs to improve storage and possibly seating on a yellow bus. Thus providing cost savings and a dual purpose with the purchase.

Move to table the discussion and decision on the Bus Replacement until the February 12, 2024 board meeting.

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Julie White.
Passed

2.2. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Video Camera Purchase & Installation on Buses

Motion:

The District has experienced increased behavior issues on the bus routes recently. Recently, UFFDA Transport has placed a bus monitor on one route due to some major behavior issues on one of the routes; this is at a cost to the District of \$100 per day due to the transportation contract. To discourage further poor behavior and prevent the need to require a bus monitor UFFDA would like to install cameras on all buses. This would include all three of the contractor's buses and all of the district buses, including the activity buses.

Michele and Jason Bangen met with Revier Transport, which contracts with Plains School District, to view their system. They have four cameras installed on every bus. Each camera has a clear line of sight and includes full audio. Reviers stated that behaviors have decreased significantly, the cameras provide proof and protection.

Michele estimated the cost of installing cameras in her three buses would be \$20,000, and would like the District to split the cost of installation of the cameras in the bus route buses. She also recommended that the District install cameras in the district-owned buses.

Move to approve the installation of cameras in the buses and splitting the cost of installation in the contracted buses provided there is an addendum in the contract stating as such and identifying ownership of cameras upon contract termination.

Motion moved by Lynette Ek and motion seconded by Jennifer Christensen.
Passed

3. New Business

3.1. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Sydney Jackson - School Nurse

Motion:

Mr. Chouinard recommended the emergency hire of Sydney Jackson as a part-time, short-term school nurse. Sydney is currently an approved and background checked volunteer within the school system and is properly licensed to provide the services such as immunization verification. The district has not had their records reviewed in a few years and need to bring them into compliance.

Move to approve Sydney Jackson as a part-time, short-term school nurse for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.

Passed

3.2. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Callie Cano - Work Based Learning Student Through the Montana Advanced Opportunity Grant

Motion:

Move to approve the Callie Cano for work-based learning in conjunction with the Montana Advanced Opportunity Grant

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Mandie DePoe.

Passed

4. Superintendent Evaluation - Closed Session (Executive Session)

Close 8:01 pm

Re-Open 9:30 pm

No decisions were made in closed session. The Board discussed the results of the Superintendent Evaluation with the Mr. Chouinard.

5. Adjourn

Adjourn 10:30