

BILLINGS COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
School Board Proceedings

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 19th, 2025
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order by President Kessel at 5:06 p.m. MT, Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at the DeMores School in Medora. Board members Eric Bock, Jessie Evoniuk, Kwirt Johnson, Joey Kessel, and Kinley Slauter were present. Also present for all or part of the meeting were Superintendent Shae Peplinski, Assistant Superintendent Danielle O'Brien, Business Manager Robert Gates, Maintenance Supervisor Bob Hushka. Meeting attendees: Chris Cunningham – JE Dunn, Jen O'Brien, Mat Larson and students of Prairie Elementary.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

M/S Evoniuk/Slauter to approve the consent agenda, which included the January 8th minutes, the payments list, the financial reports, and the addition of one item to the agenda. All in favor.

Chris Cunningham updated the Board on the DeMores expansion project. Discussion included current schedule, window installation, sheetrock, and window miniblinds. Peplinski

presented the Board with a bid for interior furnishings, and an updated bid on Alternate 1.

Hushka gave a written and oral report on facilities and vehicle maintenance. Hushka has contacted America's Best Contractor about the roof replacement at Prairie. Roof color has been chosen and replacement is scheduled for end of school year.

Student members of the Badlands Edge, Silver Spurs, and Badland Edge Archers 4H clubs came before the Board to request permission to use the Prairie Elementary facilities for their upcoming community banquet and fundraiser on March 8th. Upon hearing of the plans as presented by the students, M/S Johnson/Bock to allow the use of the Prairie Elementary facilities on March 8th. Roll call vote -AIF.

Peplinski informed the Board that the parent/teacher conferences are wrapping up at both Prairie and DeMores, and participation in the upcoming Acalympics on Feb. 21st.. O'Brien advised the Board she would be attending the National Education Conference in March. O'Brien also informed the Board on the reasons and the development process used in creating the new school district motto, "Learning today – Leading tomorrow". O'Brien also discussed

staffing at Prairie and requested the Board approve making the 9-month custodial position into a 12-month position. Benefits and wage discussion followed. M/S Evoniuk/Slauter to approve the change of the 9-month custodial position to a 12-month position. Roll call vote AIF. Peplinski then presented the 2025-2026 school calendar. There was discussion in regards to the number of Discovery Days and teacher PLC days. M/S Slauter/Johnson to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar as presented with the adjustment to 6 discovery days and 2 PLC days. Roll call vote -AIF.

Gates reviewed the audit scope letter from Rath & Mehrer. The audit is to take place the week of February 24th for the fiscal 2023/2024 school year. M/S Evoniuk/Bock seconded to accept the audit scope letter from Rath & Mehrer as presented. Roll call vote -AIF. Then Gates gave a review of his recent training on Budget and Budget Forecasting presented by the ND Assoc. of School Business Managers.

The semi-annual Superintendent and annual Business Manager evaluations are due by March 15th.

Gates informed the Board that he would email out links for the evaluations. President Kessel requested that evaluations be completed by March 4th. Kessel also encouraged the board members to engage with the staff while completing their reviews.

Gates presented high school tuition request from the Beach and Belfield school districts followed with some dis-

cussion. Then Gates presented the board with excess property. After discussion, M/S Johnson/Slauter to approve the disposal/sale of excess property. AIF Committee Reports:

WERC: discussion on using WERC to help aid and facilitate Cognia review.

Transportation: Discussion on bus route payment schedule.

Policy committee: The second reading of policies and Board Regs needing amendments.

ABDA-BR1 Website Accessibility Complaints

FDE – Education of Special Education Students/Students with Disabilities

FDE-E Section 504 Eligibility Determination Form ABAA School District Organization Plan

AAC Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

AAC-BR1 Discrimination and Harassment Grievance Procedure

AAC-E1 Filing a State or Federal Discrimination and/or Harassment Complaint

ABBB Community Use of District Property

DE Staff Code of Conduct ACF Whistleblower Protections Policy: Prohibition Against Retaliation

BA-BR1 School Board Ethics Regulation

BA-BR2 Board Member Internet and Social Media Use

IAD Sale of District Real Property

HEAC Management of Student Activities Funds

FFF Field and Other School Sponsored Trips

FFF-AR1 School Spon-

sored Trip Rules

FFF-AR2 Travel Study Programs

HBAA Federal Fiscal Compliance

HBAA-AR2 District Personnel Time and Effort

M/S Slauter/Evoniuk to amend the policies and board regs. as presented by the committee. Roll call vote -AIF.

Correspondence: The school district has received request from the Beach, Belfield, South Heart, and Killdeer after prom party committees. The student council of both schools have made donations.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025 at 5p.m.

With no further business, M/S Bock/Johnson to adjourn the meeting. AIF.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Billings County School District 1 Approved Payments

JE Dunn Construction Co 349,111.00

JLG ARCHITECTS, LTD 23,418.38

ANDERSON, K..... 328.10

BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST 3,320.46

BELFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 57,350.85

BCBS of ND..... 1,427.56

CAPITAL ONE 97.20

CERBERUS SECURITY 336.00

CERKONEY, S 743.58

CITY OF MEDORA 944.31

DPI..... 623.66

DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY 5,073.97

FILKOWSKI, L..... 313.96

GATES, R..... 241.20

GERBIG, J..... 2,896.80

GS PUBLISHING, LLC .. 934.20

HIGH POINT NETWORKS, LLC 57.50
HUSHKA, R..... 45.00
KASIAN, R..... 1,489.20
KEMPS LLC 1,103.29
KESSEL, E 330.48
KESSEL, K..... 743.58
KESSEL, W 165.24
KUBAS, D..... 45.56
Lishchuk, I 1,310.70
Madison National Life Ins 455.72
MALKOWSKI, K 9,173.05
MEDORA CONVENIENCE 127.15
MEDUNA, G 9,106.56
ND ATTORNEY GENERAL 0.00
ND EDUCATORS SERVICE COOP..... 156.00
ND Business Mgr Cert Program 150.00
PEARCE DURICK PLLC 1,797.50
PICKETT, K 94.00
Richard, D 326.40
ROMANYSHYN, M 1,321.92
SITTER, J 1,310.70
SMART COMPUTERS 3,975.65
STROMMEN, S 2,121.60
SW WATER AUTHORITY 93.78
SYMINOW, R 29,229.77
SYSCO NORTH DAKOTA 6,334.14
TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 157.70
VESEY, E..... 289.17
WEST DAKOTA OIL INC 56.28
WR STUDENT SERVICES 8,009.04
WERC..... 270.00

/s/ Joey Kessel
Joey Kessel, President
/s/ Robert Gates
Robert Gates, Business Manager
Published April 17, 2025

CITY OF MEDORA
Council Proceedings

erance and indicates that overall assessments are near market value, but too low. Residential and Commercial Buildings for 2025, the mass-appraisal modeling for the City of Medora was not changed. 21 percent of total true and full value in Medora is residential, with the remaining 79% commercial. City Council members, serving as the City Board of Equalization, reviewed the valuations. The 2025 projected net taxable value is \$2,950,265.00. One mil is about \$2,950.27.

Sitter moved to approve the 2025 tax assessments as presented, Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sexton moved the meeting to be adjourned at 5:40pm.

/s/ Derwin Zuroff
Derwin Zuroff, Mayor
/s/ Ivy Maus
Ivy Maus, Auditor
Published April 17, 2025

ments were determined. Land was last updated in 2020. Land values were reviewed for 2025 and it showed there was a pattern in the data that showed parcels on the north side of the tracks typically have a higher market value per square foot than parcels on the south side. Lots on the south side of Medora were increased from \$4.00 per square foot to \$5.00 per square foot; large lots were increased from \$25,000 per acre to \$30,000 per acre. Lots on the north side were increased from \$4.00 per square foot to \$8.00 per square foot. Residential property in Billings County is 88.2%, this is slightly out of tol-

City of Medora
Draft Minutes of Board of
Equalization Meeting
April 1, 2025
(Subject of Council review
and approval)

Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Mayor Derwin Zuroff. Present were Council members Tracy Sexton, Jodi Johnson, Clarence Sitter, Douglas Ellison, and Administrator Ivy Maus.

One person was present from the public.

Billings County Tax Director and City Assessor, Stacey Swanson, presented the Board with a packet of information on how the 2025 city tax assess-



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New Adult Books
If He Had Been With Me by Laura Nowlin
The Last Letter by Rebecca Yarros
The Maid's Diary by Loreth Anne White
New Kids' Books
Who was Babe Ruth? by John Holub
Peanuts - The Gang's All Here by Charles Schulz
The Story of the Easter Bunny by Katherine Tegen

Join Us!
Calling all kids from Kindergarten to 6th Grade! Come to the library Tuesday, April 29th for a Pollinator Pizza Party from 3:30 to 5 p.m.!
Learn about pollinator plants, do a craft and have a piece of pizza.
Please RSVP to 701-872-4551 so we have enough pizza for everyone.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION 2025-1
BILLINGS COUNTY, ND, APRIL 9, 2025

WHEREAS, Billings County has been experiencing an active 2025 Fire Season; and

WHEREAS, low amounts of snowfall and minimal rain fall have contributed to Severe to Extreme Drought Conditions, which have contributed to very erratic fire behavior; and

WHEREAS, weather forecasts continue to predict above average temperatures with below normal precipitation; and

WHEREAS, local and mutual aid fire resource capabilities have been stressed by continual response to multiple area fires created by a combination of weather conditions and abundance of dry natural vegetative materials; and

WHEREAS, the costs of firefighting activities, fire apparatus, including overtime and fuel expenditures as well as use of Billings County equipment and personnel may be far in excess of available County resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Billings County Commission declares a state of emergency in Billings County, North Dakota.

Dated at Medora, North Dakota, this 9th day of April, 2025.

APPROVED:

Dean Rodne, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marcia Kessel, County Auditor

RESOLUTION 2025-14
TOTAL BURN BAN
BILLINGS COUNTY, ND
APRIL 9, 2025

WHEREAS, the Billings County Board of Commissioners recognize that abnormally dry or drought conditions combined with high winds and almost daily fire responses within Billings County; and

WHEREAS, all available resources remain committed to protecting life and property; and

WHEREAS, the impact of fires threatens the health, well-being, and safety of Billings County citizens; and

WHEREAS, the cost of response and the inordinate equipment wear may be far in excess of available County resources; and;

WHEREAS, the Daily Fire Index does not realistically reflect the propensity for wild-land fires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Billings County Board of Commissioners declares a Total Burn Ban on open burning in Billings County (regardless of fire danger categories assigned per the North Dakota Fire Danger Rating Map) effective immediately until further notice. The only allowed exceptions are the responsible use of gas grills used at a safe distance from combustible materials. This ban will be reviewed periodically as conditions improve.

THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS BURN BAN IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC § 37-17.0- 10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND \$1,500.00 FINE, AND RESTITUTION OF FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS MAY BE SOUGHT FROM THE COURT)

What is banned?
• Garbage burning, campfires, burning of farm or crop land, unnecessary off-road motorized travel, ignition of fireworks, and outdoor smoking.

• No travel is to be allowed off of surfaced roadways normally used for vehicle traffic except as necessary for normal farmer/rancher or industry operations. Industrial operating crews and farmer/rancher operations shall have fire extinguishers and normal fire-fighting equipment at hand, and industrial personnel shall remain at the job site one-half hour after daily operations are completed.

APPROVED:

Dean Rodne, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marcia Kessel, County Auditor

Published April 17, 2025