

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**BARNES COUNTY NORTH DISTRICT #007**  
**WIMBLEDON ND 58492**  
**SCHOOL BOARD of EDUCATION MEETING**  
**April 15, 2020**

The meeting of the Barnes County North School Board of Education was called to order by President Mike Schwehr at 7:03 pm. A quorum of the Board was acknowledged. Board members present were Mike Schwehr, Brent Bruner, Rob Harstad, Bret Fehr, Michele Elston, Cindy Christianson, Lee Guscette, Chad Bakken, and Lori Carlson. Also present were Superintendent Mike Severson, Principal JR Wilson, Principal Danielle Bosse, Technology Director Melissa Bitz, teacher representatives Jodi Miller, Mindy Tvedt, Tracy Heinze, Tina Bryn, Beth Udem, James Hanse, Nate Purcell, Mckenzie Schweitzer, and Stacy Schaffer, Paraprofessional Tori Enstad, Maintenance and Transportation Director Bud Cruff, Administrative Assistant Deb Earles, Business Manager Lindsay Polk, and guest Derrick Bopp from Sheyenne Valley Career and Technology Center.

Mr. Severson thanked the staff, leadership, Board of Education, parents, and student body for their hard work and support during this difficult time. He also congratulated Tina Bryn for being the Region 5 Speech Coach of the year.

The agenda was changed to add Pledgee Certification of Deposit made with Pledgor to Financial Report and School Meals to New Business. Motion to approve the amended agenda. Chad Bakken, Rob Harstad. Unanimous approval.

Motion to approve the consent agenda. (Inclusive of minutes from the March 11, 2020 and March 23, 2020 meetings, bills, financial reports.) General Fund bills \$37,687.60 Building Fund bills \$3,934.60. Total of bills \$41,622.20. Rob Harstad, Lee Guscette. Unanimous yes roll call vote.

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report:** None

**Career & Tech Center Report:** Mr. Bopp from the Career & Tech center was present to discuss their plan during the COVID-19 school shutdown. They are using a variety of platforms for learning. They brought students in for them to get resources and issued laptops to students with special software. They have been holding weekly staff meetings. He shared videos that instructors have made on YouTube. He noted that hourly staff had been assisting wherever needed and are now primarily working from home.

**Activities Director Report:** Mr. Severson reported that NDHSAA has postpone activities indefinitely and will reevaluate on May 1.

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**Technology Report:** Mrs. Bitz thanked the teachers for their hard work and noted that she has closed 33 helpdesk tickets since the school shutdown. She has sent out 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade laptop applications that are due back in May. The district has provided internet to 6 families via Verizon Jetpacks. She has been doing EdChat meetings once per week. Bud & Dan have installed all Activ Panels.

**Building/Grounds/Transportation:** Bud gave an update on fuel and gas gallons. He also gave an update on classroom and bus cleaning. The Board discussed the idea of having one way in and one way out of the school, flip cards on doors so cleaning staff knows where to clean, and daily cleaning rotations. Leadership will set up a cleaning schedule.

**Budget/Finance:** Mr. Severson noted that we are waiting for information on transportation funding.

**PK-6 Principal Report:** Mrs. Bosse noted that teachers are doing awesome with online learning. They have been meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom. She gave an update that we did not get the grant funding. She has typically been at the building Mondays and every other Friday. Teachers check in with her when coming and going at the school. Discussion was also held regarding the meals being prepared for students, what staff is being utilized to prepare the meals, and meal reimbursements.

**7-12 Principal Report:** Mr. Wilson stated that online is going well for staff and students. He said he's been taking part in weekly meetings and we're doing better than many other districts. Discussion was held on how we will be finishing the year. Teachers' meetings were discussed and they're working hard to manage students' stress levels. Assignment dues dates and online attendance tracking were discussed, and some flexibility is allowed to accommodate students' needs.

**Superintendent Report:** Mr. Severson has been attending NDCEL Zoom meetings at noon, going forward they will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He has been attending daily Zoom meetings with Superintendent Baesler and watching Governor Burgum's daily press conference. He discussed funding available through the CARES Act. Attendance for teachers, staff, and students was discussed as was the availability of counseling sessions for students.

**Old Business:** The 2020-2021 calendar was discussed. Mr. Severson provided the Administration's recommendation of listing January 28, 2021, February 15, 2021, and March 19, 2021 as storm days. Motion was made to approve the 2020-2021 calendar listing these storm days. Lori Carlson, Rob Harstad. The motion failed with 3 votes in favor and 6 against.

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Further discussion was held regarding the 2020-2021 calendar with primary discussion around the number of days we wanted to excuse. Excusing 5 days and excusing 3 days was discussed. A motion was made to make up storm days after 3 days missed. Chad Bakken, Lori Carlson. The motion failed with 3 votes in favor and 6 against.

Discussion was then held regarding use of flex time and days versus hours. A motion was made to make up storm days after 5 days missed. Chad Bakken, Rob Harstad. The motion failed with 3 votes in favor and 6 against.

Additional discussion was held regarding the option to make up no storm days and whether we would adjust our flex time in the school day if we decide to make up storm days. A motion was made to make up no storm days. Lee Guscette, Brent Bruner. The motion failed with 3 votes in favor and 6 against.

Motion to table 2020-2021 calendar discussion to next meeting. Lori Carlson, Michelle Elston. The motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 3 against.

Mr. Severson discussed staffing and said there will be no changes for 2020-2021 and it will be discussed further next month.

Discussion was held on whether to cancel or postpone prom. Mr. Purcell provided information on surveys that he has sent out to students. The majority of responses received want prom postponed, even if it's rescheduled for summer. Prom is postponed indefinitely and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Severson discussed options for the graduation ceremony. He noted that if we keep the date scheduled, graduation would likely have to be held virtually. Our other option would be to postpone indefinitely. Mr. Purcell stated that students he's talked to want graduation in person. Chad Bakken suggested we look into outdoor options. It was decided to table until next meeting.

**New Business:** Mrs. Polk provided information on the elections. She conducted the drawing for position on the ballot with the results being: 1. Michele Elston, 2. Cynthia Christianson, and 3. Bret Fehr. She also discussed options for holding the election via absentee ballot only. Motion to approve absentee only voting and to have a dropbox location at the school. Lori Carlson, Michele Elston. Unanimous yes roll call vote. Mrs. Polk also discussed the Election Board. Motion to approve Election Board of Roleen Richards, Mary Plumb, Karen Lueck, and Donna Harstad plus two alternates – Alyssa Albrecht and Bud Cruff. Chad Bakken, Lori Carlson. Unanimous yes roll call vote.

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Spring Sports Pay was discussed for Track, Elementary Basketball, and Speech coaches. The board agreed to pay them in full at the end of the year.

Mrs. Polk discussed options for sending out teacher contracts electronically and the teachers signing using Preview. Motion made to turn out teacher contracts before May 1, 2020. Lori Carlson, Michele Elston. Unanimous yes roll call vote.

Motion was made to advertise to fill the career counselor position as a 5 day per week position. Lori Carlson, Rob Harstad. Unanimous yes roll call vote.

Mr. Severson suggested to the board to come up with a way to meet with ancillary staff to discuss wages and to work on Administration Contracts. Mike Schwehr asked Mrs. Polk to send the board wage information. Discussion was held on paying ancillary staff during school shutdown and that staff would be paid based on the approved plan that was submitted to DPI. Discussion was held on paying substitutes as well as their ability to file unemployment. Principals will reach out to substitutes to inform them of their ability to file for unemployment.

Motion to approved open enrollment application. Brent Bruner, Michele Elston, Unanimous yes roll call vote.

Mr. Severson discussed school meals and noted that the state suggested we send out another notice to parents that meals are available.

Correspondence was shared that we are on the front of the Wimbledon Newsletter and that Amy Darby wanted to tell everyone hi and complimented the school's hard work. Bud thanked the Board for the email sent to him and Dan and thanked his staff for their hard work and commitment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 pm.

Next regular board meeting Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the BCN Media Center or via Zoom pending school closure update.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindsay Polk  
Business Manager

Mike Schwehr  
President