

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
MARCH 3, 2015**

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees, Roberts School District No. 5, was called to order by Chair Sarah DeVries at 6:30 p.m. on March 3, 2015, in the cafeteria at the Roberts School.

ATTENDANCE

Sarah DeVries, Chair
Rusty Niemi, Vice Chair
Joel Bertolino
Tami Hoinés
Luke Holdbrook

Alex Ator, Superintendent
JaLayne Obert, Business Manager/District Clerk

GUESTS: Donald Johnson, Joyce Kober, Ward Braten, Courtney Halvorsen, Jackie Ronning, Crystal Wright, Chris Lewis, Barbara Bush, Jody Brunton, Mike Baer, Roly DeVries, Misty Pitts, Nancy Langager, Sanford Langager, Bill Hogan, Charlotte DeVries, Randy DeVries, Mary Allen, James Binando, Marco LaRowe, Ron Prinkki, Chris White, Hubert Hoinés, Hunter Bell, Patti Keebler, Alan Schuyler, Mariah Holdbrook, Rich Sederberg, Jessie Dines, Albert Dines, Dick Sederberg, Jené Reinhardt, Stacie Nardinger, Jeff Krook

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

FOUR DAY SCHOOL WEEK DISCUSSION

Mr. Ator stated we had 77 responses to the four-day week survey, and of those surveyed, 64% were in favor of a four-day week, 27% in favor of a five-day week, and 9% undecided.

Mr. Ator stated rationale for moving to the four-day week includes providing an alternative to surrounding schools, opportunity to close the achievement gap, provide more family time, help with staff retention for certified and classified staff.

Mr. Ator stated one question asked is if there is sufficient time to cover the curriculum. He added in his experience with a four-day week, classes were ahead of pace because the longer class period allows for lectures to conclude and there is one less day for setting up labs.

Mr. Ator stated Victor Schools has had a four-day week for a few years and they found there was a reduction in transportation costs, enrollment increased by 7%, discipline referrals were down by 40%, absences due to school related activities were down by 80%, and GPA was not affected. He stated test scores improved and staff morale was boosted.

Mr. Ator reported Gardiner went to a four-day school week this year and four staff members from the school are in attendance. He introduced Chris Lewis- high school English teacher, Mike Baer - Principal, Barbara Bush – first grade teacher and Jody Brunton – fourth grade teacher and parent of high school boys. He stated Dale Dominick, trustee from Shields Valley and Connie McQuire, a teacher from Custer are also on speaker phone to answer questions.

Mike Baer stated this is Gardiner's first year of a two year trial period with the four-day week. He stated he is collecting data from students, teachers, and parents and most feel there hasn't been much change. He added the comments received are more positive than negative and there have been 31 fewer missed days.

Mr. Baer stated Gardiner received a grant for a Friday program. He stated there are various activities for student grades K-5 and those in 6-12 have Friday school if they have an F in a subject. He stated there was a big concern expressed about daycare on Friday but there are only two younger students who attend.

Dale Dominick stated Shields Valley also has a Friday program but parents have not taken advantage of it. Connie McQuire stated Custer has no Friday program but has before and after school tutoring.

Dick Sederberg asked about changes for classified staff.

Mike Baer of Gardiner stated the four-day week was very helpful for bus drivers as they didn't have to be pulled off routes for activities. He stated there was no change for custodial staff and the kitchen staff runs a snack program in the afternoon so their hours haven't been affected.

Crystal Wright asked if there was an increase in behavior problems in the younger children because of the longer day.

Mr. Baer stated the last hour of the day is planned to be less structured.

Charlotte DeVries asked if there is less homework.

Mr. Baer stated in Gardiner a change had to be made so class time is used for homework and there is less to be done at home.

Dale Dominick stated in Shields Valley, extra-curricular practices are limited to a maximum of two hours and there is a limit on homework.

Ron Prinkki asked if there has been any change in test scores or grade point averages.

Mr. Baer stated in Gardiner the MAP testing results show the students to already be almost at the year-end goal.

Jeff Krook asked how long Gardiner's trial period is.

Mr. Baer stated the trial period is two years. He stated he thinks the key to making the transition successful is finding what needs to be done to make it work and then doing it. He encouraged the district to give it a try.

Jackie Ronning asked how the calendar was determined.

Mr. Baer stated he threw a couple choices out there and let the teachers and Board make the decision. He added the decrease in days missed is a big benefit to the educational process.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeVries adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Board Chair

District Clerk