PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SD #58   YELLOWSTONE COUNTY
BILLINGS, MT   59106

May 21, 2025

Chair Michael Chandler called a regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:102p.m. on May 21st, 2025.   The meeting was held in the Board conference room.

PRESENT: Skyler Carroll, Lacey Jones and Michael Chandler were present at call to order. Superintendent Keith Tresch, Dwight Von Schriltz, Cass Cole and Business Manager/Clerk Laurie Hickethier were present.

GUESTS: Guests present were Lorelei Rosales and Jon Boeder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS/ CORRESPONDENCE None

APPROVE ADDITION None

NEW BUSINESS **Items for Action**

Appointment of Trustees

Chair Michael Chandler motioned to approve the appointment of trustee Skyler Carroll by acclamation to a one-year term on the board of Yellowstone Academy. Second to the motion was Lacey Jones. Motion passed unanimously. Business Manager Hickethier gave the Oath of Office.

Chair Michael Chandler motioned to approve the appointment of Trustee Lacey Jones by acclamation to a three-year term on the board of Yellowstone Academy. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed Unanimously. Business Manager Hickethier gave the Oath of Office.

Reorganization of the Board

Supt. Tresch asked for nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair. Lacey Jones nominated Michael Chandler as the Boad Chair, no other nominations were made. Second from Skyler Carroll, all members voting yes, Michael Chandler appointed to Board Chair. Skyler Carroll nominated Lacey Jones to serve as

Vice Chair, no other nominations were made. Second from Michael Chandler, all members voting yes, Lacey Jones will serve as Vice Chair of the Board.

Appoint Clerk for 2025-2026

Michael Chandler motioned to appoint Laurie Hickethier as the Clerk of the Board for 2025-2026. Second from Lacey Jones, all members voting yes, motion passed unanimously.

Approve Clerk Job Description

Supt. Tresch presented the Clerk job description from the MTSBA website. Lacey Jones motioned to approve the Clerk job description. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. All members voting yes, motion passed unanimously.

Approve Yellowstone County Elections Administrator to run Yellowstone Academy Elections for 2026

Lacey Jones motioned to approve Yellowstone County Elections Administrator to run the Yellowstone Academy elections for 2026. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. All members voting yes, motion passed unanimously.

Approve ITBR Solutions IT contract for 2025-2026 School Year

Lacey Jones motioned to approve ITBR Solutions contract for 2025-2026 School Year. The contract is to pay a yearly maintenance fee of $8,257.00 to maintain the system and pay for upgrades and for account/software support. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. All members voting yes, motion passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes for April 2025

A motion was made by Lacey Jones, seconded by Skyler Carroll to approve the minutes of March 26, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Bills for April 2025

Chair Michael Chandler stated the Education Rates for YBGR will be raised to around $98 beginning July 1, 2025.

A motion was made by Lacey Jones, seconded by Skyler Carroll to approve the bills for payment. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Resignations

Supt. Tresch presented the following resignations:

1. Camrron Miller – moving to YBGR may stay on YA as relief staff.
2. Brooke Philbrick – moving to Riverstone Health
3. Lori Giesick
4. Mary Montgomery
5. Hannah Roache
6. Anna Moody
7. Remove Samantha O'dell from Relief list.

Lacey Jones motioned to approve the resignations. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Summer Teaching Staff

Supt. Tresch presented the following summer teaching staff to the board:

1. Samual Sheets
2. Lisa Vandersloot
3. Kamee Hasler
4. Mary Noel
5. Kate Gannon
6. Dan Porisch
7. Carly Haskel

Lacey Jones motioned to approve the summer teaching staff. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve New Hires

Supt. Tresch presented the following new hire to the board:

1. Mariah Webb - Para

Lacey Jones motioned to approve Mariah Webb as Para. The motion also included removing Brian Cullen from the New Hire list at this time. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve JM going to 4-day work week

Supt. Tresch stated due to some medical issues, Jessica Martinez is looking to move to a 4 day work week. Lacey Jones motioned to approve Jessica Martinez for a 4 day work week. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Hiring of Current Certified Staff

Supt. Tresch presented the following certified staff to the board:

1. Sam Beall
2. Val Clause
3. Able Baker
4. Janelle Lulf
5. Jevon Lulf
6. Dave Eckroth
7. Richard Feeley
8. Carrie Smith .85 FTE
9. Ryan Frick
10. Jennica Hammond
11. Jon Hicks
12. Michelle Jutila
13. Kylier Ler
14. Jim Klempel
15. Nicole Kostelecky .4 FTE
16. Lisa Thacker
17. Jami Lynn Palchus
18. Melissa Garcia
19. Lorelei Rosales
20. Robert Sipes
21. Lisa McDaniel
22. Louis Larson
23. Dennis Pierce
24. Jason Thomas
25. Susanna Lemmel
26. Sharon Voller

Lacey Jones motioned to approve the current certified staff. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously

Approve Hiring of Mental Health Staff

Supt. Tresch presented the following Mental Health staff to the board:

1. Tara Kirkegard
2. Pauline Hammer
3. Dakota Sipes
4. Alexia Reyes – Becoming Relief
5. Alissa Brady
6. Derek Budge
7. Jesse Kennedy
8. Karynn Campbell
9. Mackenzie Trudeau
10. Jose Reyes
11. Kacee Mikula
12. Mitch burns
13. Kylie Merriman
14. Catie Kolczak
15. Tammy Rea

Lacey Jones motioned to approve the current mental health staff. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve additional year for Superintendent

Lacey Jones motioned to approve an additional year on Supt. Tresch contract – extending the contract out to a 3 year contract. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Hiring Current Administrative Leadership

Lacey Jones motioned to approve the contracts for Dwight VonSchriltz, Director of Special Services, and Cass Cole, Principal. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Michael Chandler asked each of the Administrative staff about a 5 year plan or succession plan. Supt. Tresch stated he has no visions of anything else at this time and would like to give Yellowstone Academy a two year notice if possible to allow for a successor. Mr. VonSchriltz and Mr. Cole stated they have no plans as of now as well.

At this point, Chair Michael Chandler decided to move the termination hearing to the end of the meeting.

Superintendent Report

Supt. Tresch reported on the following:

1) Audit information – The final 2023-2024 audit has been finalized and will be added to the website
2) YPHP Update – The contract between YPHP and YA has been terminated as of July 1, 2025. The YPHP became a staffing burden for YA. YA is working with Billings Schools and YPHP to get it set up for Billings to take over the education of the students at YPHP.
3) Summer School Outings and Day School Attendance Incentive – Teachers are planning of being off campus weekly on outings during the summer. Each staff has a budget and are doing things like the zoo, Cooney Reservoir and the alpaca ranch. The Day School incentive agreement was discussed at the last board meeting.

Termination Hearing - Closed Session

Board Chair Michael Chandler stated with regard to the termination hearing on the agenda, pursuant to Montana law, he has determined that the individual rights of privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. At 12:34 PM, he is convening the board in an executive, closed, session and will ask that all individuals, with the exception of the individual involved in this matter, and their representative, and the administration, and the administration's representative, leave the room.

At 12:40 PM, Board Chair Michael Chandler re-opened the Board Meeting with no motions being made in closed session.

Approve Termination DH

Lacey Jones motioned to approve the termination of DH. Second to the motion was Skyler Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Chair Michael Chandler called to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m. Next meeting is the scheduled for Wednesday, June 25th, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. per the request of Chair Michael Chandler requesting quarterly meetings after hours.

Michael Chandler, Board Chair

Laurie Hickethier, Clerk