School Board Meeting
Lavina Public School Music Room
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 7:00p.m.

Minutes

On Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Dan Peters called the regular School Board meeting to order. Trustees KJ Fauth, Superintendent Nicole Hanson and Clerk Charly Tatom were in attendance. Guests present were Cedar Martin, Croix Martin, Francine Jansen, Lillie Jansen, Kim Sorkness, Abby Hansen, and Justin Kirkland.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

KJ made a motion to approve the minutes for the Board Meeting on December 16, 2025. Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Public Participation/Comments: None

Communications:

1. **Trustee's report:** None
2. **Student Council:** Lillie Jansen reported that the Pep Rally will be on February 11 and Spirit Week is scheduled for February 9-12.
3. **Teacher's organization:** Cedar Martin reported that Aimsweb testing began today and MAST testing began on January 12. Quarter Academic Awards will be held on January 29. The elementary school is participating in the Keep Montana Green art contest. Little Bearcats games will be this Friday at 2:30pm with grades K-5 participating.
4. **AD's Report:** Francine reported that the SCAD meeting will be held tomorrow and that she will be attending the MHSA meeting on January 19-20. Official Appreciation Week is this week and the referees will be recognized at games on Friday. District Basketball will be held in Lewistown.
5. **Maintenance Report:** Classrooms and hallways in the high school and elementary building were shampooed over Christmas break with the help of Mrs. Bruner. Purple floors were waxed with the assistance of Nate from Hillyard. Classrooms of the high school and elementary were cleaned and doorways repainted as needed. A tree was removed near the basketball court after discovering it had elm disease.

Superintendent's Report:

Bridged Alliance Health: The organization has acquired 150 schools and 12,000 members meeting its stated goal. The plan is currently at the State Insurance Commissioner and a decision to move forward will be made in February.

Grants Update: (not awarded yet)

Valley Credit Union $800
Community Collaboration Challenge Grant: $8000 (for after school funding)
Advanced Opportunities Grant: $24,000 (College visit hotels and gas).

School Cement Foundation Repairs: Discussion was held regarding funds from the MT Historic Grant and the need to get started this summer.
Explorer Update: Should be here within the next month
AASA National Conference in Nashville: Attending from February 12-15th
Title Reduction in Funding: Possible 15% reduction next year.
Innovative Tax Credit: $49,000 collected to date; funds will be entered on January 21st.
FFA Alumni Event: Held on January 3rd; raised $2200.
Background Check Update: State law has changed to accommodate CTE. The owners and contractors are the only ones that need to be fingerprinted.

Agenda Adjustment:
The Board agreed to move Action Item #3, Driver's Education, earlier in the meeting to accommodate Kim Sorkness's schedule.

Driver's Education:
Cedar Martin and Kim Sorkness presented a proposal to begin a Driver's Education course. The Board discussed that the State reimburses the District per enrolled student and that instructor pay would begin at $25.00 per hour.
KJ made a motion to approve beginning a Driver's Education class in Lavina. Dan 2nd,all in favor; motion passed.

The Board resumed discussion under Old Business.

Kim Sorkness left at 7:49p.m.

Old Business:

1. MTSBA Policy Updates:
   - Policy 1401_ Records Available to Public (1).pdf Dan made a motion to approve policy 1401 as is, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
   - Procedure 2158-P(1)_ Parent and Family Engagement and Educational Involvemen… Dan made a motion to approve policy 2158-P(1) as recommended, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
   - Policy 2161_ Special Education.pdf KJ made a motion to approve policy 2161, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
   - Procedure 2161-P(1)_ Special Education - Procedure.pdf Dan made a motion to approve policy 2161-P(1), KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
   - Policy 2335_ Health Enhancement Curriculum and Related Issues.pdf Dan made a motion to approve policy 2335 with choice of Option 2, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Abby Hansen and Justin Kirkland left at 7:54p.m.

- Policy 3110_ Entrance_ Placement_ and Transfer.pdf KJ made a motion to approve policy 3110, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Board trustee Ben Lehfeldt called in at 7:56p.m.

- Policy 3150_ Part-Time Enrollment.pdf Dan made a motion to approve policy 3150, Ben 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
- Policy 3600_ Student Records.pdf KJ made a motion to approve policy 3600, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
- Notice Form 3600-NF(1)_ Student Records - Notification to Parents and Students of… Dan made a motion to approve form 3600-NF(1), KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
- Policy 4550_ Registered Sex Offenders.pdf KJ made a motion to approve policy 4550, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
- Policy 5015_ Bullying_Harassment_Intimidation.pdf Dan made a motion to approve policy 5015, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
- Policy 5321_ Leaves of Absence.pdf
- Procedure 5321-P(1)_ Leaves of Absence - Conditions for Use of Leave.pdf
- Procedure 5334-P(1)_ Vacations.pdf KJ made a motion to table policy 5321, procedure 5321-P(1) and procedure 5334-P(1) until the summer due to the impact of these policies on the Masters Agreement, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

New Business:

1. **Audit Findings:** Dan made a motion to accept the 2024-2025 audit by Olness and Associates as presented, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
2. **MTSBA Policy Updates:**
   - Policy 2600_ Work Based Learning.pdf
   - Policy 3665_ Student Safety.pdf
   - Policy 5122_ Fingerprints and Criminal Background Investigations.pdf

   Dan made a motion for final reading and to approve these policies, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Francine Jansen, Cedar and Croix Martin left the meeting at 8:14pm.

3. **Close Outdoor Sign Account in Student Activities:** KJ made a motion to close the Outdoor Activities fund in Student Activities, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
4. **Evaluation - Executive Session:** Dan moved the meeting to Executive Session at 8:20pm. The Superintendent evaluation was discussed. No action was taken. The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:55pm.

Dan made a motion to approve the bills and approve Payroll as presented. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00pm.

KJ made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

_____	_____
Chairman of the Board	District Clerk
_____	_____
Date	Date