

**COOKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 9**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Trustees of Cooke City School District 9 met in regular session on **March 12, 2025** at the school.

Trustees present: Tim Short, Marie Carpenter, Alix House

Trustees absent:

Visitors present: Lara Belice

The Clerk and Superintendent were present via video call throughout the entire proceedings.

Trustee Marie Carpenter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

No public comments.

**Business**

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to approve the minutes of the 2/26/24 board meeting. No comments. Motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to approve the claims and ACH payments as presented. No comments. Motion passed with all in favor.

Clerk, Laura Carroccia gave an overview of available funding for FY26. The preliminary budget is \$99,483.55. If the school had no students on 6/30/25, which is unlikely, the Board would transfer the 6/30/25 balances of all funds, with the exception of Fund 115 into the non-operating fund. The grants in Fund 115 would remain in Fund 115, to be spent according to the requirements of each grant. Laura is unable to give the Board details of available funding for FY26 in the event that the remaining students unenroll part way through the school year, as OPI has not confirmed that the school will continue to receive funding in this case. Laura has given the Board information from MTSBA and Lisa is expecting to get further information from Bea Kaleva. Laura said she has investigated this topic as far as possible with her resources but the Board should use the legal information given to make a decision regarding contracts for next year. The Board decided to hold off making a decision on a retaining contract until Bea Kaleva's opinion has been received in writing.

The Board discussed regular contracts for the 2025-2026 school year. A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to offer Lara Belice a regular teaching contract salary of \$48,500 plus a health insurance stipend of \$6,000 to be paid from REAP. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to offer Laura Carroccia a clerk contract with a salary of \$13,250. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

The Board discussed an amendment to the Notice of Intent to Increase Non-Voted Levies. A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to add the Non-Operating Fund to the notice. Further

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discussion was held; the Board thinks it is unlikely the school will be non-operating by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. Motion failed with all against.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to approve expenses up to \$800 for the field trip to Bozeman for Natural History Day. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to approve expenses for Lara to attend the IEFA Conference for professional development. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

**Teacher Report**

Lara thanked everyone for the work done on investigating funding and contracts for next year and questioned next steps for the potential retaining contract. Alix said that a special meeting would be called when the Board hears from Bea Kaleva.

**Clerk Comments**

Laura commented that the County requires a change to the checks and will pay for new checks to be printed.

**Board Comments**

The Resort Tax funding application has been approved for the full amount. Tim thanked Marie for her work in preparing the application and attending the meeting. Laura will discuss with the Treasurer the process for obtaining the funds.

**Superintendent's Report**

Lisa informed the Board of a measles outbreak in the U.S. there are currently no cases confirmed in Montana.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.