

COOKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 9
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of Cooke City School District 9 met in regular session on **April 16, 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 5:03 p.m.

No public comments.

Business

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve the minutes of the 3/12/25 and 4/3/25 board meetings. 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.

The Clerk gave an update on the FY25 budget, we will most likely have funds remaining and should get the propane tank filled before June 30.

The Clerk updated the Board that the bill for inflation has passed and the updated preliminary budget for next year is \$101,964.53.

The Clerk and Superintendent updated the Board on the STARS Act. If the District wants to access this funding, the Board will need to adopt policy 5505 regarding teacher base pay, which will raise teacher base pay to 11 times the Quality Educator payment, and approve the updated job description for the Clerk. The current teacher's salary already meets the minimum requirement. A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to adopt policy 5505. No further discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to direct the Clerk to update the Clerk job description as per the guidance from MTSBA. No comment, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to approve renewing the membership to MSSA for the 2025-2026 school year. Laura commented that we have funds in General Fund to pay the membership fee rather than using up Title IIA funding. The Board would like to pay out of General Funds. No further comment, motion passed with all in favor.

The Clerk and Superintendent gave an update on the Department of Education Certification Letter for Title VI. We are awaiting further guidance from OPI on whether each individual district will need to submit the certification or whether OPI can submit one for all schools. A

COOKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 9

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to sign the form and submit it if necessary. No comments, motion passed with all in favor.

Legal advice expenses - no action is needed as legal fees have not been incurred at this point and it is not expected that MTSBA will charge for guidance given on the teaching contract.

Marie gave an update on the teaching contract and suggested that the Board offer Lara a guarantee of a minimum of two month's salary next year, regardless of whether the school is operational. A discussion was held about the health insurance stipend; it is normally paid out in full in September when Lara provides proof of health insurance. The Board discussed and agreed that it could be paid in August once proof of health insurance has been received. The Board also discussed reimbursing Lara for her tuition expenses for professional development; the costs incurred so far this school year are \$3,980.89 with the possibility of further expenses next school year. The Board would like this to be on the agenda for the May meeting. Marie has sent a draft of the contract to MSTBA for review, when Marie receives the final contract from MTSBA the Board agreed to hold a special meeting to approve it.

Teacher Report

Lara gave an update on the National History Day field trip which was a success. The 7th grader won the competition but cannot compete in the national competition because she did not compete in regionals.

Lara attended the IEFA Best Practices conference and it was beneficial. She has made some more connections with the Northern Cheyenne.

Clerk Comments

Laura asked whether the school would be willing to pay 1/3 of the costs for her to attend the three-day MASBO Summer Conference in Great Falls in June. The costs would be for hotel, fuel and food and split between the three schools. A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to approve the conference expenses for the Clerk. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

Laura updated the Board that the election was cancelled due to the same number of candidates filing as open positions. Marie and Tim are therefore elected by acclamation and will be sworn in at the May meeting.

Board Comments

None

COOKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 9
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Superintendent's Report

Lisa said she is looking forward to seeing the work the students have done on the 7th and to seeing the documentary created by the 7th grader.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (AH) to adjourn the meeting. No comment, motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.