

BPS Facilities Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

Administration Conference Room

Present: James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Rebecca Rappold, Jennifer LaFromboise Wagner, Tim Peterson, Les Munro, Reid Reagan, Sandra Rivas, Melanie Heavy Runner.

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: None

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

High School Planning: Tim presented drawings for the proposed high school remodel and addition. He explained that the current design recommends locating the cafetorium between the main entrance and the gymnasium. The plans also repurpose the existing health room into five offices with direct access to the counseling center. In addition, the drawings include a covered patio area between the main entrance and the gymnasium.

Superintendent Rappold reported that Tim presented two proposed locations for the auxiliary gym: one adjacent to the outdoor basketball courts and the other on the lower level of the student parking area. Tim explained that the proposed facility would be a two-story addition, with the wrestling room located on the upper level to provide additional wrestling space. The auxiliary gym would seat 300-400.

Tim also shared that Mr. Hall recommended locating the locker rooms adjacent to the east side of the existing gym. The Board discussed concerns that the proposed gym location would be too close to the outdoor basketball courts and noted that the building may need to be shifted farther down and around the courts. Tim added that the design would also include a large storage room for the gym and an additional office.

Tim then reviewed plans for additional classroom space, which include four classrooms at the end of each academic wing. He also presented a preliminary layout for the alternative school. Based on his research, the design features an open concept with flexible classroom spaces, a small counseling area, a nurse's office, and a secure entrance with a waiting area.

Superintendent Rappold stated that the alternative school should also include a dedicated area where students can be served meals within the building. She noted that the proposed design is intended to accommodate approximately 150 students but expressed a preference for increasing the capacity to a maximum of 200 students. Mr. Evans stated that he would like to see the alternative school connected to the high school. There was more discussion on the alternative school.

The current estimated cost for the Browning High School renovation project is \$35,817,342.00. As well as the current estimated cost for the Alternative School is \$15,048,000.00 for 150 students.

Browning Elementary Planning: Superintendent Rappold stated that the current building was not designed to serve elementary students effectively. The Board discussed the options of remodeling the existing school or constructing a new elementary school. Superintendent Rappold noted that regardless of whether a new school is built, significant work would still be required on the existing building due to its major deficiencies. Following a walkthrough of the facility, several critical needs were identified, including roof replacement, heating and cooling system upgrades, and asbestos issues. She also shared her experience while substituting at the school, explaining that she had to escort students from one end of the building to the other three times a day, with each round trip taking approximately 20 minutes, resulting in a significant loss of instructional time.

Tim presented drawings outlining several levels of renovation for the building and explained each option. He stated that every area of the building, including the locker rooms, would be renovated. The proposed remodel includes constructing a connector, relocating the playground, and creating a new main entrance. Restrooms would be renovated to better accommodate elementary-aged students. The overall goal is to modernize the facility and make it function as closely as possible to a new building.

Tim also reported that the existing kitchen is adequate to serve the student population; however, the cafeteria will require additional seating capacity. Various options for expanding the cafeteria were discussed.

During the facility walkthrough, there was considerable discussion regarding maximizing classroom space. Superintendent Rappold identified the proposed second-grade wing and explained the renovation plan, which would provide eight classrooms. She also reviewed the proposed third-grade classroom area and described plans to renovate those classrooms to improve functionality. Additional discussion included the construction of restrooms on the upper level near the gymnasium and the installation of an elevator at "Malfunction Junction." The current estimated cost for the Browning Elementary renovation project, including roof replacement, is \$23,285,503.

The Board also discussed the district's outstanding bond obligations. Superintendent Rappold stated that the bonds for both the elementary school and the high school are scheduled to be paid off next year. She explained that the district is considering pursuing a bond this fall that would continue the current bond levy once the existing bonds are retired. She noted that one smaller elementary bond will remain outstanding for several additional years. Superintendent Rappold also reported that the district is working with DA Davidson to prepare the necessary financial information and that completing the district's audits remains a priority. She expects the audits to be current by this fall.

Middle School Playground: Tim stated that during his previous visit, the Board reviewed playground renderings and requested that a volleyball area be incorporated into the design. He presented updated drawings that included the addition. Tim explained that the most expensive component of the playground project would be the artificial turf; however, he believes it is the

best option for the site. He also revised the fencing plan to match the steel fencing currently installed at the elementary school, noting that the cost to install the fence is approximately \$65 per linear foot.

Superintendent Rappold explained that students from BMS presented their playground requests to the Facilities Committee. The students were asked to research their wants and needs for the playground and return with recommendations, which formed the basis of the proposed design. Superintendent Rappold also discussed the challenges associated with transporting middle school students to Napi for late practices. As a result, the district is exploring improvements to the middle school field and walking track area to ensure it is suitable for practices. Ms. Yellow Owl added that middle school softball has also struggled with a lack of practice space and asked whether improvements could be made to make the softball field usable for practice.

Tim reported that he met with Martin Marceau and reviewed the current condition of the field. He has developed specifications that will be shared with the landscape architect for review. Proposed improvements include filling low spots, adding topsoil and sand as needed, leveling the field, aerating the entire area, and overseeding. Tim asked whether goalposts would be needed, and Mr. Evans confirmed that a basic set of goalposts should be included. Tim stated that he hopes the landscape architect will provide a budget estimate for the work so that the project can be bid out to two or three contractors and then brought back to the Board for consideration.

Superintendent Rappold stated that the fitness equipment currently shown within the walking path area would be relocated to the playground area. The current estimated cost of the playground project is \$851,889, which does not include the volleyball court or any repairs to the softball field. Larry Grondale provided an estimate of \$125,000 for the fitness course installation. He indicated that his company would install only the fitness course, and that a general contractor would be needed to complete the remainder of the project. When Tim asked about the project timeline, Superintendent Rappold stated that the district would like the work to begin as soon as possible.

Tim noted that contingency funds are expected to be returned from the Sportsplex and Food Service Building projects. He estimated that approximately \$300,000 could be available. He further explained that LPW has four or five outstanding projects that are billed on an hourly, not-to-exceed basis. Once those projects are completed, LPW ceases billing. Tim estimated that between \$500,000 and \$600,000 in LPW fees remain unbilled.

Babb Elementary Playground: Tim reported that he met with Sanford Stone and they are now wanting a walking path and fitness course. He will prepare a plan for the district, but funding is not currently available for the project.

Superintendent Rappold stated that the original proposal anticipated grant funding; however, additional requests are now being directed to the district. She noted that the district has already purchased the new playground equipment.

Superintendent Rappold reported that the existing playground equipment will be removed and relocated, with the new equipment to be installed in the same location. She also approved the addition of swings, including one toddler swing, at an estimated additional cost of \$9,000 to \$10,000.

Superintendent Rappold stated that the walking path could be completed by the requesting group and noted that the district's responsibility would be limited to ongoing maintenance of the grounds and playground equipment.

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of installing a fence to deter bears. Superintendent Rappold noted that while a fence may discourage bears, it would not prevent them from entering the area.

Wells at Sportsplex: Tim reported that the wells are complete and operational. Each well has a yard hydrant on the top, on/off switch at the wellhead, and the wells are producing more than enough water for irrigation.

Superintendent Rappold reported that flash flooding at the Sportsplex caused the timing shed to fill with water. Tim suggested installing a retaining wall to help prevent future flooding.

New Food Service Building: There was discussion regarding building leaks and warranty items. Superintendent Rappold noted that the sheetrock around a cover in the copy center had been cut too large. Mr. Reagan stated the area will be patched. Mr. Reagan also provided a list of remaining warranty items. The Board emphasized that the items should be completed, and Ms. YellowOwl suggested establishing a timeline for completion. The final warranty walkthrough is scheduled for August.

High School Roof: Superintendent Rappold reported that the recent flash flooding resulted in continued roof leaks around the high school rooftop units. She noted this is the second repair attempt and that district maintenance staff have spent considerable time addressing water intrusion and potential damage. Tim recommended withholding the final food service project payment until the repairs are completed.

Mr. Reagan stated the leaks appear to be originating from the mechanical room and will determine whether they are the responsibility of Sletten. If so, the district will withhold the final payment.

Mr. Reagan also reported that the materials for the gym roof have been located in Clinton, Montana. He has been in contact with the contractor's wife, who indicated the contractor is completing another project, and with MSGIA, which agreed to allow the contractor until the end of June to complete the work.

OTHER ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Blackfeet Tribe: Assistant Superintendent LaFromboise Wagner reported on a tribal proposal for a new road connecting Starr School Road to Highway 89 near Sleeping Wolf Road. The district requested that the proposed road not connect to existing school roads. Current project plans do not reflect recent district developments, including the new building. Discussion included a potential roundabout to improve traffic flow during events, a new access road to assist bus circulation, and a walking path from the casino to the skate park. Additional meetings will be held, and a district representative will continue to participate and provide updates.

Mr. Evans asked why the new road is still blocked off. Assistant Superintendent LaFromboise Wagner stated that right now we are just allowing our busses to go through there. Superintendent Rappold stated that we need to get some permanent gate with a lock so we can lock it at night and during the weekend.

Matthew Johnson Property: Superintendent Rappold reported on the appraisals for two properties owned by Matthew Johnson: the trailer in the teacher trailer court and the lot located between Bullshoe Elementary and Subway. The district's appraisal of the lot was higher than the owners' appraisal, which valued the property between \$30,000 and \$60,000. Superintendent Rappold noted that Mr. Johnson had previously indicated he would sell the lot for the cadastral value of \$35,000, but following the appraisal, the owners requested \$60,000. The committee determined not to pursue the purchase, noting the existing house did not provide value to the district. The trailer was appraised between \$38,000 and \$54,000. The district offered the lower appraised value, but the owners requested the higher amount. Superintendent Rappold stated that the current lease terminates on June 30, 2026.