

BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2026 | 5:00 PM  
Administration Conference Room

## **Attendance**

Rebecca Rappold, Jennifer Wagner, James Evans, Brian Gallup, TJ Lafromboise, Sandy Rivas, Mel Heavyrunner, Tim Peterson, Les Munro, Abigail Klauk

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

## **Public Comment**

No public comments were received.

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# **Middle School Playground & Football Field**

## **Football Field**

Tim Peterson reported that the Board has decided to move forward with the middle school playground project. The football field will be addressed as a separate project.

Tim and Les Munro met with contractor Martin Marceau at Browning Middle School to review the field. Martin provided recommendations, and Tim also obtained input from Land Design, a landscape company.

Discussion included:

- Field reconditioning specifications and bid documents have been prepared.
- Goal posts would cost approximately \$35,000–\$40,000.
- Committee members agreed that painting the field could be completed by district maintenance staff.
- Rebecca Rappold noted that the district primarily needs a usable practice field and that goal posts could be added later.
- Tim proposed removing goal posts and field painting from the project scope to reduce costs.
- Proposed improvements include aeration, leveling low areas, top dressing with a sand/soil mix, reseeding, and fence repairs.
- Estimated project cost remains approximately \$50,000.

- Tim will seek verbal bids from contractors and include fence repair as a separate bid item.

## **Middle School Playground**

The committee reaffirmed its support for moving forward with the new playground project.

Key features include:

- Artificial turf safety surface with an estimated lifespan of 10–15 years.
- New steel fencing.
- Benches and picnic tables.
- Three basketball hoops.
- Additional fencing near the back parking lot to help contain basketballs.

Discussion focused on:

- Neighborhood traffic and security concerns around the existing playground.
- Benefits of artificial turf for students and staff.
- Privacy fencing options and maintenance considerations.

Tim reported that survey work is expected within the next few weeks.

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## **Babb Playground**

Tim reported that:

- The Babb PTO selected playground colors.
- Swings were added to the design at the request of parents.
- A grant application is being pursued to help offset costs.
- Installation is tentatively scheduled for late July or early August.

Discussion included:

- Concerns about wind affecting traditional swings.
- Consideration of alternative swing designs.
- Seasonal removal of swings during winter months.

Jennifer Wagner reported:

- Sanford has donated two weeping willow trees and has volunteers available to water them.
- Additional light poles are being installed.
- Trees are planned for planting behind Head Start.

Rebecca Rappold noted that:

- The trailer must be moved by its owner.
- Tree planting should wait until major district projects are completed.

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## **Browning High School Expansion**

Tim reviewed conceptual plans for the proposed BHS expansion, including:

- Relocation of the Alternative School to the high school campus.
- Separate entrance for Alternative School students.
- Interior connection to gymnasium and restroom facilities.
- New bus drop-off area on the east side.
- Six additional classrooms.
- Auxiliary practice gym.
- Expanded locker rooms.

Brian Gallup noted:

- BHS was originally designed for approximately 700 students and is currently over capacity.
- Recent state legislation allows districts to borrow against Impact Aid through a bond process.

Discussion included:

- Parking and traffic flow.
- Counseling and program space needs.
- New concession stand possibilities.
- Cost estimates.

Estimated costs:

- Main expansion project: approximately \$38 million.
- Alternative School addition: approximately \$15 million.
- Total project estimate: approximately \$53 million before contingency.

Tim will share plans and estimates with contractors for feedback and cost validation.

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## **Browning Elementary School (BES)**

Tim presented conceptual plans for BES improvements, including:

- New secure entrance.
- Elevator installation.
- Playground improvements.
- Heating and cooling upgrades.
- New cabinets and sinks.
- Roof and window replacement.
- Traffic circulation improvements.

Estimated project cost: approximately \$25 million.

Discussion included:

- Traffic studies.
- Potential speed bumps.
- Long-term roof replacement planning.
- Community engagement efforts to present project concepts.

Committee members reviewed district reserve funding history and previous facility planning discussions.

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## **BPS Housing Rentals**

Rebecca Rappold reported:

- A tenant requested reconsideration of current rental rates.
- Current rent is \$600 per month with utilities included.
- All apartments and the trailer are expected to be occupied beginning July 1.

Committee discussion:

- Brian Gallup and James Evans recommended keeping rental rates unchanged.
- Requests for reduced summer rent were discussed and not supported.
- Certified staff receive year-round salaries, reducing concerns about summer income fluctuations.
- County taxes continue to contribute to increasing rental costs in the area.

The committee agreed to maintain current rental rates and postpone consideration of purchasing an additional trailer.

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# **Tree Management Plan Presentation**

Presenters:

- Kelly Franklin, Urban & Forestry Organization (Kalispell)
- Dustin Gage, Certified Arborist (Flathead Valley)

The presenters reviewed ongoing district tree initiatives and the development of a Tree Management Plan.

Benefits discussed:

- Student engagement and hands-on learning.
- Mental health and social-emotional development.
- Language revitalization opportunities.
- Environmental stewardship.
- Wind protection through shelter belts.

Highlights included:

- Native tree and shrub plantings.
- Berry orchard development.
- Student participation in tree planting and seed collection.
- Arbor Day activities involving over 1,000 students.
- Consultation with Lea Whitford regarding cultural integration.

## **Proposed Tree Management Plan Components**

1. Clear staff standards.
2. Grant-ready documentation.
3. Measurable annual goals and timelines.
4. Maintenance schedules and budgeting.
5. Professional development opportunities.
6. Integration of Browning's cultural and ecological values.

Additional discussion focused on:

- Tree signage with QR codes.
- Memorial tree relocation related to future construction.
- Future shelter belt projects.
- Grant opportunities for trees and educational signage.

The committee expressed support for continued development of the plan and future grant applications.