COOKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 9
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of Cooke City School District 9 met in regular session on **February 11, 2026** at the school.

Trustees present: Tim Short (via Zoom), Marie Carpenter (via phone call)

Trustees absent: Alix House

Visitors present: Lara Belice

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

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

No public comments.

Business

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve the minutes of the 12/10/25 board meeting. No comments. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve donating $250 to the Raptor Experience at the museum in Cody. A discussion was held, the school has been given free admission to the museum and the children have really enjoyed seeing and learning about the raptors. Tim would like to double this through his business. It was decided that Tim would make the donation of $500 and the school would reimburse him for $250. No further discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

Lisa discussed the special education policy; we can either upload the additional narrative as part of the special education policy or keep it on file for reference. A motion was made (TS) and seconded (MC) to keep the file on hand for reference and not add it to the policy. Motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to request resort tax funding of $2,000. A discussion was held regarding what the funds would be used for. Motion passed with all in favor. Marie will ensure the application is submitted by the deadline.

A discussion was held regarding the Building Reserve Levy and whether to increase or decrease the levy. The SMMA match is unknown at this time but will be available on March 3rd. This information will need to be posted in the newsletter for a week before March 31st.
A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to keep the levy the same as last year. Motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to post the Notice of Intent to Increase/Decrease Non-Voted Levies as presented in the newsletter. Motion passed with all in favor.

The Clerk gave an update on the FY26 budget. It is projected that we will be within budget and expect to have some funds remaining outside of current, planned expenses.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve the second reading of policy 7320: Purchasing, with the changes made as discussed at the last meeting. Motion passed with all in favor.

Teacher Comments

Lara said that she would like to do a cultural exchange with a Native American school which would involve that school visiting Cooke City School for a few days to share the local area and participate in joint lessons. If it is not possible to find a school that is willing and able to do the exchange, the second option would be to invite some elders to visit. The Board indicated that they would be in support of this field trip and so Lara will look into getting a budget and reach out to some contacts. Lara questioned how school funding could be used and what expenses would be allowable. The Clerk was not certain and will find out. It was discussed that REAP could be used to fund this exchange since it will be designed to improve engagement and cross-cultural understanding for students.

Things are otherwise going well at school; the students have been doing a science course on winter ecology and have been collecting data and developing their critical thinking skills to compare their findings to previous findings.

Clerk Comments

Laura is looking into switching to a school specific accounting software. She asked if the Board would be open to switching the school's accounting software from QuickBooks which is not designed for fund accounting and does not have a payroll program. Laura has been quoted a price for all three schools she is Clerk for, the cost to Cooke City would be $2,333 for the first year which would include set up and training, and $2,000 per year thereafter. The software would include payroll software, which the school currently does not have.

Board Comments

Marie said she will work on the resort tax application and get it submitted.

Superintendent's Report

Lisa said she enjoyed visiting the school during the ceramics project and plans to visit again in the spring.

There being no further business, a motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 11, 2026.