COOKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 9
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of Cooke City School District 9 met in regular session on **April 15, 2026** at the school.

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

Trustees absent: Alix House

Visitors present: Lara Belice

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

Chairman Marie Carpenter called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

No public comments.

Business

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve the minutes of the 2/11/26 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.

The Clerk gave an update on the FY27 Preliminary Budget, the highest budget without a vote next year is $107,518.34. No action is needed at this time.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve reimbursing the cost of ski passes and gear rentals for the parents of the students attending the ski trip to support family engagement and promote healthy and active lifestyles for students using REAP funds. The cost is $464 total. No further discussion, motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve offering the following contracts to current staff for the 2026-2027 school year:
Lara Belice (Teacher) $50,350 and leave the health insurance stipend the same ($6,000)
Laura Carroccia (Clerk) $13,750
These figures were discussed; they include a percentage increase for inflation. No further discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve renewing the membership to Montana Small Schools' Alliance (MSSA) for 2026-2027. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve switching the accounting software from QuickBooks to C&C Accounting this summer at a cost of $2,333. The Clerk recommends the switch due to needing a payroll system and the fact that QuickBooks is not designed for fund accounting. C & C is designed specifically for school accounting in Montana and includes payroll. No further discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve out of district enrollment application 2601 for the 2026-2027 school year. No discussion. Motion passed with all in favor. Paperwork will be sent to Marie to sign and the Clerk will send a letter to the parents to inform them the application was approved.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve funds for the Clerk to attend the Montana Association of School Business Officials Summer Conference in Billings in June for 1/3 of the cost of $325, plus mileage and accommodation. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve the field trip to the Crow Fair on August 13-15, 2026 at an estimated cost of $2,700 including lodging, fuel, food, water park entrance fee, Crow Fair entrance fee, for two families and the teacher using REAP funds. Some discussion was held, motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to adopt the 2026 – 2027 school calendar as presented. The Board reviewed the calendar; Lara will send Lisa the number of hours/minutes for Infinite Campus. Motion passed with all in favor.

A motion was made (MC) and seconded (TS) to approve the funds for Lara to attend the Lodge Approach Educators Conference on July 7-9 in Lame Deer, MT. The cost is a $400 conference fee, $231 lodging and approximately $120 fuel. No further discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

Teacher Comments

The school purchased binoculars at a discounted rate from Silvergate Partners.

Lara mentioned that she offered the Leadership 49 group to hold their meeting at the school when the power was out in the planned meeting location.

Lara is continuing to put feelers out regarding the cultural exchange; she has not had any success yet. Lisa said she would reach out to her contact.

Lara said she did not set up the heater in the greenhouse this year and confirmed that it is not needed.

Some items are needed before the end of the year, including repairs to the teacherage roof, an upgrade of the Chromebooks, and a new printer. Lara will bring costs for these items to the May meeting and Laura will have an updated projection of remaining funds.

The Beaver research is going well, as is the stop/start animation video project.

Clerk Comments

The Clerk commented that the State Major Maintenance Fund match for next year is $4 for every $1 levied.

The Clerk informed the Board that the election has been cancelled due to only one candidate running for the one open position.

Board Comments

Marie asked how the resort tax meeting went. Tim and Lisa said that it went well and the grant was approved.

Superintendent's Report

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 5:47 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 20th, 2026.