

DRAFT supporting documents will be uploaded at a later time when accessible- statements, reports, etc

Trego School Board minutes May 13, 2026

Board member present: Kris Glover, Clara Mae Crawford, Mark Spehar, Stephanie LeDuc-Vanderyacht

Others present: Travis & Cristina Leib, Sarah Hamelman, Jennifer George, Jesse Volkmar, Judy Russell, Kristie Eggebroten, Michelle Lynam, Leilani Swan, Megan Drake, Diane Hackett Carlton, Nancy Wilkins, James Carlton, Sally Warren, Shawn Drake, Heather Brannan, Cindy Carrell, Bone A Gold, Diane Watson

Kris Glover (KG) called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

General Public Comment- Diane Hackett Carlton (DHC) read a statement to the board. She stated the perception needs to be clear from the school, where the teacherage had very high levels of contamination, there are no visible locks on the outside where as the school has locks and cameras in place and now have chained locks across the doors. The board is a collective and not an autocracy. She talked about board meetings, the roles of the chair and the rest of the board. She was cut off after more than 2 minutes and left her statement. Jim Carlton (JC) also read a statement to the board. He wanted to talk about reading and the reading grant. He talked about board meetings, emergency meetings, and alleged secret meetings, meth testing and what was required and what law states. He stated the school did not follow

Nancy Wilkins (NW)- do we have the report that Cristina read at the last meeting? CL the report is locked in the school, what she read was taken from minutes. NW questioned the report – that was something from Suzy Rios(SR) – that she had given to the board at that time. NW said SR would not have had a background report.

CL- we have one less teacher now because Diane, Nancy & Jim- I don't know what your goals at school are- there's too much fighting, we need to come together. We need to get past the negligence. The kids are doing amazing. Thankfully she has Judy otherwise she'd be by herself. The kids are grazing from 3 different schools. She wants the negativity and the attacks to stop. Do you want my job, do you want Suzy's job. Yesterday was very hard because she lost a good friend and a good teacher.

NW she cares and loves the kids too. After putting in 4 years she is trying to help- that's why she brings this stuff up. This accusation was harshly made concerning the report.

CL lets just get past this. The teacher that was here before me- that's where the rumor was said, the teacher who also knew it. It came to Cristina from that teacher, so she brought it up. She didn't say anything at the time but she assumed something had to have been done to follow the accusations. Kris has been following the law- to do the testing.

DH there is no law that says you have to test it, you just have to let people know it might have happened. Jim and she have worked hours working for the school. She wants the truth said.

Megan Drake (MD) there's such a timeline between ethics and legal- assumption who had high ethics, moral standards that brought this to light. As a parent I'm so grateful they did, nothing to be ashamed for. Ethics are far more important than what the legal aspect is about it.

Shawn Drake (SD) everyone has worked hard, not just one person should be banging on their chest, it doesn't matter who worked the hardest but that we work together. We need to move forward, it's not the kid's fault.

Travis Leib (TL) this is all very simple, there are 3 people on face-book who are trying to place blame. If the board had done their job, they would know that a background checks were done, none of this would happen. You shouldn't blame the teachers. It was asked who brought it up. It doesn't matter who brought it up. If you let people move into that teacherage , you are continuing the negligence. They got lucky in the fact that the school library was the only thing that tested positive.

NW if you want answers Clara Mae was the only person on the board at that time.

Arguments- about who knew what- the board being negligent, not being caused by teachers and staff

MS we did follow the law, the background check was done.

TL Which person on the board said to hire that person

JC I did

More arguing

Sally Warren (SW) has been to this board meeting twice, they are the most toxic things she has ever seen. Stop.

More arguing about who is going to pay for it,

Casey Fuson (CF) If you had to do it differently now, what would you do differently, what have we learned

MS would not do anything differently, we did everything we were supposed to do. We did everything we could. They had multiple contacts with the sheriff's dept.

NW has been going through minutes from 2022 and making a list, if anyone wants copies of her notes, they will be available.

Diane Watson (DW) who has privy to the information- background checks- NW responds there is more than one person, they can only recommend to the board an applicant is hire-able or not hire-able

MD- hate the vive of our hands are tied and we can do nothing

MS tonight is

his last night on the board, they did their very best with what we had, sure we made some mistakes, appreciate the help they received, nice that people are getting involved even though it has been under some bad circumstances. He's glad it was tested, hopes we can keep the school, and hopes that some people come back. It was no ones' intention that this happened. As soon as the information came forward, they did what they could. Law enforcement can't drag people out either. They did the best they could. Hates to leave with these problems.

CMC made a motion to approve April 8th minutes.

DHC comment made for minutes was not to be hostile but to point out something that was illegal. She read another written comment on her rights to speak at board meetings.

More arguing, about the DHC email that was read at another meeting-

DHC wanted to finish her statement. She provided her statement to be included in the minutes.

Jesse Volkmar (JV) spoke about the contention and fighting and that these people need to stop, the public and parents are affected as well.

HD- spoke about being at a crossroads even if the school is open, does our decision to continue attending the school be made based on this fighting- if they decide not to continue, it is not the fault of the teachers. Everything is tainted now, Trego is a loveable community, she's sorry the kids are not there. The fights are crazy.

NW the recent comments being made about going through the minutes were not to be hostile but pointing out something that is illegal-

LS hope you give the new board a chance. Hopefully we can pull together.

KG seconded the motion to approve the minutes -passed unanimously.

Canvas of votes was reviewed by the board- verifying the number of votes in the election. This was approved and signed.

Suzy swore in Lailani Swan and Heather Brannan as new board trustees.

KG made a motion to pass the resolution to have the county run the election in 2027. CMC seconded, passed unanimously.

Organization of the Board

Heather Brannan (HB) nominated Kris Glover to remain chairman of the board. CMC seconded, passed unanimously (Heather Brannan and Leilani Swan voting as new board members). HB made a motion to appoint Clara Mae Crawford act as Vice Chair. LS seconded, passed unanimously. CMC made a motion to appoint Karmen McKinney as District Clerk, LS seconded, passed unanimously. KM made a statement, that the year has been really rough, if you want someone that is honest and ethical I'm here, but if you want to continue to beat up, I don't need to be here. I don't even have access to all of my stuff. There are people who call out every little thing, and I don't want to work under that kind of pressure. I am doing the best I can do. If you want the school to survive, you have to support the business of the school as well, this job is the business of the school. If you can give me some grace, I'm here, but if not I don't need to be here. SR we need to move forward and just let the board do their job and go through the resources available to them. Judy Russell (JR) Karmen just needs to work with the board and not have to answer to all the noise. KM I make mistakes and I'm trying. Michelle Lynam (ML) Karmen works her ass off. LW these are extraordinary times right now and there is a lot of pressure, if there is pressure from the public it can be passed on. KM I haven't been a clerk that long. LS if they can help out in any way, it's a chain, and the board is there to help. NW knows its here that KM is upset with, has said all along the staff is not doing a bad job, she has sent emails if there are errors, not doing it to be vindictive, all she's trying to do is help. When she worked with Cindy and Sam that's how they learned to work

together. As a public member she's doing it to help, she knows what it's like to be on the board and a person in public. KG –Karmen how are you feeling? KM I'll give it a go for a while.

Certified contracts renewal/nonrenewal

SR recommended to rehire Cristian Leib and Elizabeth Sutton. The board can then decide, and the decision can be made later. The deadline of June 1st – if the board does not renew/non-renew then they are automatically renewed. The teacher has the option to accept a contract at a later date. Does not need to be voted on tonight. A contract can be negotiated later.

Classified staff, Judy- testing coordinator/librarian, Sarah & Jennifer- paras, Jesse- maintenance/custodian, Bonnie- bus driver, Robin- Cook

CF- asked about Timothy Helmore's position. Tim probably needs to know. KG – last she knew he had left and didn't let anyone know. JV- did talk to him, he (Jesse) was asked to mow because he was available and Tim was not. CF should probably inform him. KG – didn't know he was back, had asked Jesse to mow.

Pay the classified employees for the remainder of the school year- some are working and some are not. Contracts expire the end of June. Contracts do not need to be renewed or non-renewal. The para's are not needed at the school in Eureka. LS made a motion to pay classified for the remainder of the school year, KG seconded, passed unanimously. Cincy Carrell (CC) asked if that included her. KG said yes, the entire staff that is currently employed.

LS is there a field trip or something that can be done – the kids need closure to have at the end of the year.

Jennifer George (JG) also her son is graduating this year- and there is usually a get together at the end of the year. It could be done at the school grounds. LS said it could be done at the hall as well. CL there is no date set, but has been discussed. KG they already have approval for expenses to cover an end of the year celebration. LS said she would be supportive of it. KM said the extra-curricular account should be able to be used.

Attorney Retainer Fees for MTSBA

We do need to retain them to continue to get assistance. KG summarized the agreement with MTSBA. LS how are we billed when questions are asked. All the hours included in our membership have already been used up- between the testing and the MT Reads Grant. We would be remiss if we do not follow our legal advice. KM we cannot get through this without legal help. We need legal. CF have we sent new recommendation questions to MTSBA? KG the answers haven't changed from the beginning, it was clear from that time. They did have all the information from the beginning. Was asked if it was the same attorney or a variety- KG said it can be a variety. They all still get the details and information. The attorneys are all in the same building.

LS made a motion to retain MTSBA, HB seconded, passed unanimously.

Results of Testing in the school

The rest of the school was tested, more was added, everything was tested, included buses, the teepee, greenhouse, bathrooms. Everywhere was either non-detect or below the levels. The only thing that

needs remediated in the school is the library. There was discussion on how the library was going to be cleaned and what needed cleaned. The remediation company is scheduled to be here May 14th to give a quote. LS is that the only company to get a quote from. KG there were two companies listed at DEQ that are certified. KG reached out to both. The one that did reach out does work closely with Jen who did the initial testing. LS will look into getting a second quote. HB made a motion to have LS get a second quote, KG seconded, passed unanimously. KG the one that she has had contact with is Extreme Restoration.

Student Make up Instruction Time

CL has communicated with Craig Barringer- grades K-3 have enough instructional hours for the year. They are still looking into grades 4-8 and will need to let him know what the plans are- location etc. If we follow Eureka's calendar they are done on June 4th. Homeschool- remote learning may be an option. Sarah Hamelman (SH) suggested adding time to the end of the school day by taking home work home- sending packets home with kids. CL the parents of the 4-8 are pretty good at getting the work done.

Policy 1240 – keeper of the keys by the board, the current policy lists Mark Spehar. It needs to be changed to a position of the board, not a name. HB made a motion to name the chairman of the board to be the keeper of the keys, LS seconded, passed unanimously.

LS – discussion on training board members. It was stated Noel Duram arranges trainings with MSU and would be a good resource.

Budget-

CMC made a motion to approve the budget provided. HB seconded, passed unanimously.

CMC made a motion to approve payroll. KG seconded, passed unanimously.

CMC made a motion to approve bills to pay, LS seconded, passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report- SR everyone is doing phenomenal, it's tough times but we're getting there.

Head Teacher's Report- CL –no more information

The next meeting is Mat 27th, at 5:30 PM at the Trego Community Hall

MS- made the statement Jim and Diane Hackett have both put in a lot of hours, we need to keep it on the positive and have appreciated everything they did.

CMC made a motion to adjourn, LS seconded, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM