

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 14, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order March 14, 2023 at 7:02 p.m. in the High School/Middle School Board Room, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Mandy Wright, Kyla Wright, Angel Johnson, Will Scott, Brant Hasbrouck, Tyler Starman, and Dusty Schuler. A quorum was present.

Also present: Jory Thompson, Superintendent; Connie Walker, Assistant Admin.; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Russ Axtman, Maintenance, Paul Benhart, Transportation Supervisor; Emily Wicks, Bethany DeBorde - Reporter for River Press, Jamie Ball, and Darin Arganbright.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- No Report.

It was moved by Tyler Starman, and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Tyler Starman, and seconded by Will Scott, to approve payment of warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: 96435-96492

Claims: 61272-61336

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal – Reported that the Culture Day (Immersion Day) was a great success and that Fuse Vaughn contributed so much to the experience. Ms. Benjamin thanked Dawn Dunham for the amazing work she has done in the organization of all the ski trips.

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Russ gave the Building & Grounds Committee report at this time. Russ explained that there are two boilers at the elementary. Red, being the oldest and blue newest. The red boiler has cracks in the firebox and the blue also has cracks, which were the cause of all the Glycol that has leaked out. FICO tried to seal the cracks in the Blue boiler, failed. Pumps have gone out on both boilers so there is no heat in the elementary building. Russ has put small electric heaters in the classrooms and using propane heaters in the hallways in the evening

hours. Tyler Starman asked if any of the new pipes have leaked and Russ assured the board that only the boilers are leaking. Joellyn Clark asked if two boilers are needed to heat the elementary or could we get by with one.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD CHAIR

MINUTES

CLAIMS

ELEM. PRINCIPAL  
REPORT

## MAINTENANCE REPORT

Russ assured the trustees that two boilers are needed. It was discussed in length if parts for the old boilers could be found and the price to repair both of them. Russ said that FICO will have a more definite dollar amount for us this next week, so a Special Board Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 23 at 6:00 P.M.

The Playground/Learning Area has not been removed from the plans as Kyle Axtman has drawn some very good designs.

The Fire Department needs to vote to exchange the building. MTSBA will write up a contract.

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director – Super proud of the BB Girls, they did great and made it to Divisional in Great Falls. MS Wrestling will have their tournament in Cascade this Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The numbers are down for HS Track, but are staying consistent in Tennis and Golf as they were in the previous years. We are looking at postponing the HS play due to no heat in the elementary and the auditorium being extremely cold. The Snow Buster track meet scheduled for March 30, at 1:00 p.m., has eleven (11) schools have registered. MS track, 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> grade will start March 27<sup>th</sup> with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to begin the following week, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Angel Johnson to hire Dawn Dunham, Cassidy Guinnane and Damon Gilbreth for MS Track Coaches. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Tyler Starman, and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Jacob VanEvery as the +40 MS-Track Coach. Motion passed unanimously.

Connie Walker, taking minutes for Cali O'Hara, Business Manager-

Read a report written by Cali O'Hara stating that the budgets are setting about where they were last year.

The only change for the Resolution for non-voted levies was to the Building Reserve Fund. This is due to the matching funds from the state. The state will match the funds raised by the levy to give us a total of \$67,730. I feel this will this option will maximize the funding we a will receive from the State.

2023-2024 - Preliminary general fund budgets for the HS & Elementary have areas of importance highlighted. The Elementarys highest budget without a vote is \$1,954,377.51. Due to the fact that we ran a levy last year to increase the budget, and running a Building Reserve levy this year with matching funds from the State, will generate more dollars with the smallest impact on our taxpayers. The high schools highest budget with a vote is the same as without, giving the high school budget of

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

Second reading of Policy 5120P Federal Background Check Fingerprint and Information of Handling Procedure was adopted as requested by the Department of Justice in order to stay in compliance.

MS - TRACK COACHES

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Tyler Starman to adopt Policy 5120P with the starred options. Motion passed unanimously.

+40 - MS TRACK COACH

Jory Thompson, HS/MS report – Please see attached HS/MS Report. Mr. Thompson presented the final calendar for 2023-2024. He explained the new bell schedule and explained the hour difference between the high school and the elementary school.

CLERK REPORT

It was moved by Will Scott, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to adopt the 2023-2024 School Calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-VOTED LEVIES

Due to not having heat in the elementary building, we are looking at when to reschedule the Longhorns in Theater play.

23-24 PRELIMINARY  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETS

ACT tests are scheduled for March 29, 2023.

\$1,417,665.08. On the last page of the budget report Cali highlighted the Building Reserve information to show the Building Reserve information to clearly see the impact it will have on our budget without a large increase to our mills.

Mr. Thompson reported on bills that going through our Legislature and the possible impact it would have on school districts. The Tuition

Bill makes open enrollment state wide and how that will effect small districts and the possibility of forcing consolidation.

MUST Insurance is trying to force a school wide insurance pool to lower cost of insurance premiums.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mrs. O'Hara for her hard work on the projected budget due to the constraints the boiler repair/replacement will cause the district.

Mr. Thompson thanked the board for their support through the time here in Fort Benton and that he has accepted a job in Basin WY.

SECOND READING OF POLICY 5120P

HS/MS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

ADOPT 2023-2024 CALENDAR

Committee Reports –

Future Agenda Items-  
Special Board Meeting  
regarding repairing/replacing  
boilers in the elementary  
school.

Land transfer with Fire  
Department.

It was moved by Tyler  
Starman, and seconded by  
Angel Johnson, to adjourn at  
8:26 p.m. Motion passed  
unanimously.

BOARD  
CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN