

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 12, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order March 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Will Scott, Kyla Wright, Darin Arganbright, Jenni Starman, Kayle Axtman and Dusty Schuler, Brant Hasbrouck. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Pat Hould, Superintendent; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for the River Press; Paul Benhart, Transportation; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director, Emily Wicks, Russ Miner.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97225-97287  
Claims: 62090-62137

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- No report

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Roxie reported that they are in the middle of parent teacher conferences. Eden Miller was the winner of the County Spelling Bee. Thank you to Rick Cook for facilitating the County Spelling Bee. Karyn Giles will be holding student cooking classes again this month. The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade ski trip was a great success with all the students having a great time. Thank you to Beth Jones for putting these trips together for our students. Would like to recommend the board to hire Katie James as the new Elementary School Secretary. Katie has been a para this past year in the school and is familiar with some of the school routines. See attached report

ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Would like to thank Larry and Corey for all their hard work. Corey is now working at the elementary school and is doing well, very thankful to have him on the janitorial staff. Thanks again

MAINTENANCE

to the students for all the help with keeping our school clean. Thank you to Travis and Mel Donner for all their years of service to the school. Working on some small boiler issues, the high school boiler is waiting for a new pump which is about 7 weeks from being installed. The elementary school boiler has some pipes that are requiring them to be re-soldered. Working on getting the track set up for spring sports. Also getting ready to start spring work. The prom grand march is at 7 this Saturday.

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported that winter sports are now completed. Both the girls and boys basketball teams made it to the divisional tournament, both teams played well. Spring sports will start next week. There are 32 students out for track, 13 for tennis, 14 for golf. Working on finalizing the spring sports schedules. 5/6 basketball jamboree had a large turn out this last weekend. This weekend there will be a 5/6 game at the elementary school. 6<sup>th</sup> grade participation in track - they are looking at letting the 6<sup>th</sup> graders practice and they will only attend the home meet. In the past they have been allowed to travel with the middle school team, but due to such large numbers and the bus driver shortage we just won't be able to accommodate them to travel this year. The planning for next falls sports is already in progress. Will need to hire Cross Country Coaches and Middle School Volleyball, also looking for one more Middle School Track coach. Thank you to everyone for the support this year, super appreciative of everyone's help. Also working on getting the Hall of Fame in the Longhorn Café up to date, with the help of the booster club.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Skip Ross as a Golf coach volunteer. The motion passed unanimously. Jenni Starman abstained.

VOLUNTEER GOLF  
COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Kyla Wright, to approve Damon Gilbreth and Jacob Van Every as Middle School track coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK  
COACHES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve Monte Giese, Head Football Coach and Adam Olson and Damon Gilbreth, Assistant Football Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL COACHES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Shana Diekhans, Head Volleyball Coach and Megan Lords, Assistant Volleyball Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL  
VOLLEYBALL COACHES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Dan Wirth and Joe Manning as Middle School Football Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL COACHES

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/ Clerk - Reported that the preliminary budgets have come out from OPI and will have a budget prepared for the next board meeting. The annual school audit was completed last week and there were a few small findings that are correctable, but overall things are in good shape. Non-voted levies will remain about the same number of mills as last year, a slight decrease in the building reserve. The state

CLERK

sets the limit of what the school can levy in that fund, so it will change by a small amount every year.

Pat Hould, Superintendent- reported that the school participated in the 'Figure It Out' leadership program from OPI. The kids all seemed to really enjoy the program, displayed tonight in the board room are some of the collaborative paintings created by students during the program, they will soon be displayed in the hallways. We were selected as one of 5 schools in the state to participate in the program. The high school ski trip was a success; the middle school trip is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The East Coast trip will be leaving March 19<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Van Every. Currently in the process of completing the district accreditation report. They have led the first community engagement meeting, as a part of creating the graduate profile. The staff has voted on the new school calendar. Choosing the option that will have school starting Aug 21 and finishing May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

SUPERINTENDENT

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL CALENDER

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright to approve the membership to the Golden Triangle Co-op. The motion passed unanimously.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE  
MEMBERSHIP

Committees -

Policy –

Early Graduation policy draft and 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

Buildings and Grounds –

Getting a better understanding of what needs to take place to potentially run a bond. Will schedule another meeting with McKinstry to see how they can assist us in the bond process.

COMMITTEES

Resignations –

Travis Donner – Elementary Custodian

Mel Donner – Elementary Custodian

Mackenzie Barta – MS/HS Para

RESIGNATIONS

Hires-

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve Kim Singer, James Childs and Justin Cartwright as bus drivers. The motion passed unanimously

HIRES  
BUS DRIVERS

It was moved by Will Scott, and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Katie James as Elementary School Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
SECRETARY

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Amanda Brown as History Teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY  
TEACHER

Future Agenda items:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee meetings –

Extracurricular meeting March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

Transportation April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

2<sup>nd</sup> reading of policy

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck,  
to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

ADJOURN

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

ATTEST

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_

