

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order January 9, 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 Hasbrouch was absent. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Pat Hould, Superintendent; Connie Walker, Assistant 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.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Jenni Starman to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97098-97152
Claims: 61926-62009

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- This is the time of year for the Superintendents evaluation. He has filled out his part and she will forward the evaluation to all the Board members for their evaluation. She asked that they all return it to her by February 6, 2024.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Mrs. Benjamin read a letter from Tracey DeBrucker thanking the District for 40 great teaching years. She said that it is time to now cuddle her grandbabies and move onto another chapter of her life. Roxie reported that the Christmas Program was amazing and that Mrs. Gannon and Miss England did such a great job. Three students got to experience shopping with the Sheriff, thanks to CCSD. Little Dribblers started today, January 9th and there was a great turn out. The elementary will be putting together a fund raiser for new playground equipment. When the Parent Team disbanded, they asked that those monies be spent on the elementary playground. Ms. Benjamin also discussed Project Stand and the importance of internet safety. Please her attached report for more information.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Mrs. Ball reported that she will be attending the annual MHS A meeting next week, and went over the proposed changes that she can vote on. Please see attached for more information. Mrs. Ball would like to rehire Colby Cline and Damon Gilbreath as MS Wrestling Coaches. Kim Kotthoff and Shalayna Clark as 5th & 6th Grade GBB. The previous Boys 5th & 6th Grade coaches are not interested in coaching again this year so we will advertise In-House 3 days and then put it in the River Press. There has been interest in HS boys playing tennis. Jamie called MHS A and we would be in compliance if we did allow boys to play tennis. Kayle thanked Jamie for looking into this matter.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Colby Cline and Damon Gilbreath as MS wrestling coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MS WRESTLING
COACHES

It was moved by Jenni Starman and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Kim Kotthoff and Shalayna Clark as 5th & 6th Grade GBB Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

5th & 6th GRADE
GBB COACHES

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Mr. Axtman thanked crew for the amazing job they did cleaning both buildings during the Christmas break. He was very appreciative of the city crew for helping move the building. It is not set down 100% but close. He also had engineers in both buildings to look at the lights, plumbing and electrical to give the trustees in order to determine if they should run a levy or seek a bond for maintenance improvements.

MAINTENANCE

Connie Walker, Assistant Business Clerk - took minutes for Cali O'Hara- We have to call for the trustee election in January, and there is only one trustee that the term expires this year, and that is Kayle Axtman. Mrs. O'Hara will have the Petitions for potential candidates in the Business Office for anyone having a desire to serve the district. It was discussed if we would have a mail ballot election or an in person election. The Federal Mileage rate has increased to \$0.67.

CLERK

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright , to approve the Federal Mileage rate of \$0.67. The motion passed unanimously.

FEDERAL MILEAGE
RATE

It was moved by Kyla Write and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to call for the trustee election. The motion passed unanimously.

CALL FOR ELECTION

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Mr. Hould reported that there are three students requesting early graduation. Because it was on the agenda for January it will be added to the February agenda. The Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) is in need of volunteers and Mr. Hould asked if there would be two trustees that would volunteer, along with staff members. Update on the Daycare – Mr. Hould and Mrs. Benjamin plan a meeting with Nicole Winkler to discuss further where the best place would be to have the facility.

SUPERINTENDET

Committees -

Policy –

The committee discussed the Policy Notes that were sent out at the end of November with many updates in response to legislation approved during the 2023 Legislative Session. The second reading will be prior to the February Board Meeting. Mr. Hould said that the Strategic Plan needed to be reviewed and updated every three years, as does the Accreditation Plan.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Transportation –

Paul Benhart, Bus Mechanic/Transportation Supervisor - Updated the committee regarding the new bus that has been ordered and when the possible delivery date will be. Paul has been researching what to do with the old buses. They discussed trade in vs. scrapping them. It was mentioned by numerous committee members that the motor and transmission is worth more than what we can get for a trade in.

Mr. Benhart updated the committee that he has ten drivers but there were some over 70 years old and two route drivers that would like to retire. He has had no response the ad in the paper and he asked that he would like to add a sign on bonus and the possibility of added bonus for activity hours driven. He said that there are school districts doing this and it has had a positive result.

Hires-

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve Betty Beady as MS Custodian. The motion passed unanimously

CUSTODIAN STAFF

Future Agenda items:

Policy Committee, to be determined

Building & Grounds - January 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Foundation Committee – January 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Transportation – February 13th at 6:30 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Kyla Wright, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

CLERK _____