

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 11, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order July 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

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

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; Cynthia Lenington.

ROLL CALL

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Darin Arganbright, seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 96865-96878
Claims: 61567-61629

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. No Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Joellyn let the board know that the annual audit report is now available if they would like to view it. She has done more research on the Fort Benton Foundation, the foundation board is to be made up of board members. She is looking for board members that would like to be a part of the foundation. Jenni Starman, Will Scott, and Darin Arganbright.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director – Pat Hould Reported for Nathan. There has been some interest in the AD position and will recommend Mark Gunkel for hire. Received a letter back from MHSA regarding the co-op with Highwood. MHSA has approved the co-op.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
REPORT

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Russ reported that summer work is going well. They have several projects completed - the flooring in both schools is completed, painting of the band room, and deep cleaning of the high school classrooms. The kitchen facility improvement project has begun

MAINTENANCE

and will be completed August 1, the new hood will now meet all fire codes. The Facility improvement boiler plan has also been underway and is scheduled to be completed, by mid-September. Boilers are set to be installed August 1. The gym will be closed starting at the end of July for resurfacing.

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Reported that he is very happy to be here, everyone has been super welcoming and helpful. He is really looking forward to the upcoming school year. He has been interviewing several people for the open teaching positions, and is excited to report that they have candidates to hire. He is going to drive all of the bus routes with Paul this week to get acclimated to the area that our schools serve, as well as to get a better idea of the conditions our drivers deal with. Thursday he has planned to go on a tour of the school grounds with Russ. He will be creating a newsletter to send to all parents in the district to introduce himself prior to the beginning of the school year. He will send this letter out to the board for review before sending out to student families.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve out-of-district students. The motion passed unanimously.

OUT OF DISTRICT
STUDENTS

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Kyla Wright, to approve the Early-Kindergarten students. The motion passed unanimously.

EARLY KINDERGARTEN

Cali O’Hara, Business Manager/Clerk- Reported that the books have been closed for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The TFS and budget reporting will be on next month’s agenda as we start the new year.

CLERK REPORT

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to approve the increase in lunch prices. The motion passed unanimously.

LUNCH PRICE INCREASE

Committees -

Policy- Mandy Wright reported that they have reviewed all of the policy’s and most of them were required. There will need to be a notice about the change to the Student and Family Privacy Rights, there is to be allowed time for public comment before the policy can be adopted.

COMMITTEES

School Foundation – Meeting Monday, July 17th @ 7:00pm

Resignations- Jordan Sulsky

RESIGNATIONS

Mandy Wright is resigning from the School board effective immediately. If anyone is interested filling her position please reach out to Board Chairman Joellyn Clark with a letter if interest.

BOARD RESIGNATION

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Brooke Johnson as FFA teacher, pending background check. The motion passed unanimously

HIRES:
FFA TEACHER

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Mark Gunkle as part time math/AD, pending background check. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL MATH/AD

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Michelle Sudan, HS/MS Para Professional. The motion passed unanimously.

HS/MS
PARAPROFESSIONAL

It was moved by Darin Arginbright and seconded by Will Scott to hire Mandy Wright as part time Elementary Librarian and Assistant Technology, pending background check. The motion passed unanimously. Kyla Wright – abstained.

ELEMENTARY
LIBRARIAN

Future Agenda items:
School Foundation
2nd Reading of Policy

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Jenni Starman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____