

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 14, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order November 14, 2023 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, Brant Hasbrouck, Kayle Axtman and Dusty Schuler. 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 via phone; Paul Benhart, Transportation; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Emily Wicks, Amy Hanson, Aaron Jones, Von Donner, Owen Starman, Colter Benjamin.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, seconded by Will Scott to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 96987-97055

Claims: 61803-61887

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. Amy Hanson would like to invite the board as well as the community to assist with the Speech and Drama meet that will be held in Fort Benton December 9th. She is looking for judges for several different contests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Joellyn let the board know they have received a thank you from the Cook family for the flowers sent to their son’s funeral. She also informed the new board members that traditionally the December meeting has been held at the Elementary school in conjunction with the afternoon Christmas program. If it is okay with everyone, we will hold the December meeting on December 7th at 10:30 am in the multipurpose room. A quick update from the Foundation, Darin stated that he has reached out to an architect in Helena. Due to timing of other activities the foundation hasn’t started with their community outreach.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Roxie reported that they are super excited that the boilers are near completion, and that one boiler is up and running. All of the staff and students at the Elementary are super excited to have heat, it has been great. Thank you to Russ for doing all he could to keep the building warm and to get the boilers back up and running. Thank you to the Lions Club and Farm Bureau Insurance for setting up the window painting. Thank you to Marvin Brodock for all the assistance with the Veterans Day Parade, the classes made manners and walked in the parade. See attached report

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Jamie reported that fall sports have concluded. Cross County sent 11 students to the state meet in Kalispell. Fort Benton hosted the District volleyball meet, thank you to all that helped with making the meet run smoothly. The girl’s volleyball had a great season. This year the first Senior Classic for volleyball was held in Chester. The football season went smoothly as well. With the boys playing far into the post season. Thank you to Russ for all the help with the football games. Winter sports will begin this Thursday. FFA leaves for Bozeman on Wednesday after school. The FFA team is selling Pioneer meats and Flamingo Flocking for winter fundraisers. Speech and Drama had their first meet this last weekend, in Chester they as a team were 2nd overall. Middle School Basketball is midway through their season; they will complete their season the first week of December with tournaments in Rudyard. Thank you to Ky Nack for all of her help during the middle school basketball jamboree. We now have a completed EMT bag for medical emergencies, this bag will be located in the AD’s office. We received a letter from the Superior football team thanking us for our hospitality. Robotics coach Aaron Vaughn has had to step down from coaching.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Conlee Gray as assistant FFA coach. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT FFA COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright, to approve Ethan Cunningham as Volunteer FFA Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Riley DeBruycker as Assistant Wrestling Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT WRESTLING
COACH

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Russ wanted to Thank staff for all their hard work, it hasn’t been easy with people being out sick. Thank you to Jamie Ball for being so organized with the activity schedules, it really helps the janitorial staff to know what is happening in the buildings. Thank you to Dusty’s Sprinklers for the snow removal on the football field, they did a great job. The field looked great for the playoff games. Winter sports are starting and they are all busy getting the gym ready. Winterization projects are going on at both buildings. Thank you to all the staff and students for being so patient and understanding with the boilers at the Elementary.

MAINTENANCE

Both of the boilers should be up and operational next week. The boiler inspector was here and things look good. The state inspector will be here the following week. The fire department is ready to get the new cement poured and get the building moved. The ground has been prepped for the building and they are looking to pour the cement on Friday.

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk- Reported that the Title 4 audit and Lunch audit are wrapping up. The 1st quarter budget sheets are available. We are sitting in good shape for this time of the year. The first quarter is the lightest financial quarter as school has just started at the end of the fiscal quarter, the next 2 quarters tend to be where we really have to watch our spending. See attached report

CLERK

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to offer WEN 3 speed air filter system, Grizzly shop air filter, sand blast cabinet as obsolete property, at used market price. The motion passed unanimously

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Pat reported that he attended a dinner at the senior citizen center and spoke to the community about all of the exciting things that are happening in our school district. In the future, the Middle School /High school is looking for a way to have a more active role in the Veterans Day celebration. Parent-Teacher Conferences are right around the corner. He has conducted most of his teacher observations and has enjoyed seeing all of the staff at work. Moving forward with the daycare head of site, and exploring what is still needed to provide this service. He and Roxie have been putting together a list of all the items that they would like to see the head of site complete for them, and bring this back to the board for more consideration. He is taking the training for Title 9 coordinator. Pat feels that he should be the main coordinator but that we need to have more people in our district trained. It is also the recommendation of MTSBA for members of the board to attend the training as well. There will be a staff Christmas party December 16th at the Wake Cup. He will be sending out invitations to all staff members after the Thanksgiving break. See attached report

SUPERINTENDET

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Pat Hould as District Title 9 Coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.

TITLE 9 COORDINATOR

Committees -

POLICY

Policy – 1ST reading of policy 3413F2

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott, to approve the addition of Saturday School to the school policy. The motion passed unanimously.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the change to the athletic student attendance policy. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

School Foundation – Darin reported foundation housing information during the board chair report.

Building and Grounds-

Meeting November 28th @ 6:00 pm in the board room

Hires-

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Nicole Winkler as Head of Site. The motion passed unanimously

HEAD OF SITE

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Cody Evans as part time maintenance. The motion passed unanimously.

MAINTENANCE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve Connie Walker, Roxie Allen and Cali O’Hara as Concessions Managers. The motion passed unanimously.

CONCESSIONS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Honesty Podvin as Kitchen Staff. The motion passed unanimously.

KITCHEN STAFF

It was moved by Jenni Starman and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Michael Schneider as Substitute Teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBSTITUTE

Future Agenda items:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

2nd reading of policy # 3413F2

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Darin Arganbright, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON_____

ATTEST

CLERK_____