

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 10, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order October 11, 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; Paul Benhart, Transportation; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal, Katie Vielleux, Trevor Vielleux, Kelton Vielleux, Nicole Winkler, Shana Diekhans, and Hardy O’Hara.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Will Scott, seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to approve the minutes of the September 12, 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: 96951-96986
Claims: 61750-61802

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. No Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Joellyn let the board know that the school Foundation met before the board meeting and they would like to recommend running a bond to fund teacher housing. Darin reported that the housing units would be approx. 800 sq. feet, they are looking to be 2 bedroom, 1 bath units. Joellyn stated that if the housing unit bids come in lower than they expect the board may want to consider other building maintenance projects. The reason for running a bond would be so that the teacher housing project is not funded in any way by our general funds. The fire department would like to move forward with completing some of the ground work on the lots that the school has transferred to them. The current building would need to be cleaned out. Russ stated that until the fire department gets them a new place to store the current items they are unable to tear down the current building. That building houses all of our extra desks and tables for the district. So there isn’t anything in that storage facility that could be sold for obsolete property.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to move forward with a school bond on the school election for \$500,000 in the high school district and \$400,000 in the elementary district. The motion passed unanimously.

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Jamie reported that homecoming week was a success. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the water main break. The City worked hard to ensure that the water was back on and ready for the games that night. MS/HS volleyball tournaments have gone well, thank you to all the volunteers that help make hosting these events possible. MS basketball starts this week. The MS boys will start a week later due to the football overlap. 7C District tournaments will be held here Oct. 26-28. Football will host the 1st playoff game. We hosted a game for CJI vs Grass Range on our field this week. We need to add an additional assistant coach for wrestling as the addition of girls wrestling has brought bigger numbers than expected, as well as the girls wrestling will have several tournaments that will be held at a different location than the boy's tournaments. High School Basketball programs have held an interest meeting, there were only 12 boys, so the possibility of moving the 8th graders up. The girls program had 16 show interest, with the addition of the Highwood girls.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve an additional assistant wrestling coach. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT WRESTLING COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Nimue Jennings-King as Cheer Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

CHEER COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Shannon Grossman Volunteer Sports Psychology. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER COACH

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Russ reported that he wanted to thank staff for helping out after games, and having students stay to assist Larry with clean up after games. Thank you to the city crew for getting the water main fixed in such a timely manner, as well as Jens. Thank you to the fire department for their assistance with the fire drills at both schools. The fire marshal has completed the inspections. Sprinkler blowout is scheduled for next week. The 1st boiler is now in place and pressure checked. Just waiting for the fireboxes to be shipped.

MAINTANCE

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Roxie reported that there has been lots of student illness going around. Thank you to the Lions Club for the vision screening. Thank you to Woman's Club for Heritage Day. See attached report.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk- Reported that it is the start of the 2nd quarter, will have 1st quarter budget spreadsheets at the next meeting. The official child count was October 3rd, see attached report. OPI is currently conducting a school foods audit which Cali has been assisting Kistia.

CLERK

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Pat wanted to thank Russ, Amy and Jamie for all the help and to the city crew for all the assistance in dealing with the water main break. Thanks to everyone's quick actions it was able to be repaired quickly and to get the students back to school and their homecoming activities. He has been in contact with OPI and got his superintendent certification class scheduled and there will be no dockage to our accreditation. The PIR day activities for teachers were well received and went well, they had a great day of learning and fellowship. They are working to develop professional relationships across the district. The flu shot clinic was this week, so thank you to the Chouteau County Health. They are working to develop an emergency handbook, they are looking at policy's along with the Chouteau County EMS team, as well as crisis intervention and lockdown policy's. Pat would like to have the policy committee meet and review adding Saturday School back into policy as a possible disciplinary action. He feels this allows the student to have consequences without missing class time, he would oversee any student that had to attend Saturday School. He has visited with a safety and security company about a free assessment of our building, they will provide feedback on how we can improve. The Grand Union is hosting a staff appreciation tomorrow night. Child care options- see attached draft proposal. He would like to propose the head of site get paid like a coach with a stipend for hours worked to get site up and running, then going forward that person would be a member of the district classified staff. See attached report.

SUPERINTENDET

Committees -

Policy – 1st reading of MS/HS Student Handbook with the addition of Saturday School and the student athletic attendance policy.

POLICY

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the Classified Handbook. The motion passed unanimously.

CLASSIFIED HANDBOOK

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

SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Hire-

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Mary Kynett as a substitute teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

HIRES
SUBSTITUTES

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Nimue Jennings-King as a substitute teacher. The motion passed unanimously

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Mackinze Barta as a HS/MS Para Professional. The motion passed unanimously

MS/HS PARA
PROFESSIONAL

It was moved by Kayle Axman and seconded by Darin Arganbright, to approve Ray Allen as a volunteer shop teacher. The motion passed unanimously

VOLUNTEER

Future Agenda items:
School Foundation –
2nd Reading of Handbooks

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Jenni Starman, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____