

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 12, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order September 12, 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, 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, Kayle Axtman, and Kelly Rominger.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Will Scott, seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 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: 96892-96950  
Claims: 61668-61749

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. No Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Joellyn let the board know that if they are interested in attending MCEL in Billings to please reach out to Cali or Connie so they can get you registered. Joellyn asked for any public comment of policy 2132 as this is the 1<sup>st</sup> reading and if there are no comments this policy will be adopted at the October meeting. There are three applicants for consideration for the open board position, Kayle Axtman, Kelly Rominger and James Carlson. Joellyn asked that both present applicants tell the board a little about themselves.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Kelly, let the board know that she is interested in making sure that all of the Fort Benton schools student needs are being met, and she would love the opportunity to serve her community.

Kayle is a life long resident of Fort Benton as well as a graduate of Fort Benton Schools, he has 3 young children so he has a vested interest in ensuring that the school continues to offer the best possible education.

It was moved by a unanimous vote to appoint Kayle Axtman to the open board set for Fort Benton School district #1.

APPOINT NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Jamie reported that again she wanted thank everyone for all the support as she continues to learn her new role. There have been several schedule changes. Thank you to Taryn Reid, from the FFA club, for the neat flag presentation at the last home football game, this might become a new tradition. All fall sports are under way along with Robotics. Dusty Sprinklers would like to place a sign on the back of the football score board, they would make a donation to the school as well as maintain their own sign, they would like to keep the sign up for at least 5 years. Still looking for a cheer coach, there has been some interest and will meet with an interested person next week. Participation in falls sports has been good. Tyler Pasha has resigned as the head boys’ basketball coach. She has received an in-house application.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve Hardy O’Hara as Head Boys Basketball Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

BOYS BASKETBALL  
COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Erich Wellman and Megan Lords as Assistant Boys Basketball Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

JV BOYS BASKETBALL  
COACHES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright, to approve Erich Wellman as Volunteer Football coach. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL  
COACH

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Brady Farwick as Assistant Robotics coach. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT ROBOTICS  
COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Mandy Wright and Jenna Botts as Middle School Robotics coaches. The motion passed unanimously. Kyla Wright abstained.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ROBOTICS COACHES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Rehanna Fultz and Shannon Grossman as Middle School Girls Basketball coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS  
BASKETBALL COACHES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Megan Lords and Cali O’Hara as Middle School Boys basketball coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS  
BASKETBALL COACHES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright, to approve Kim Hibl as middle school basketball volunteer coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
VOLUNTEER COACH

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

FFA COACH

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Russ reported that they are down to one custodian in the high school building, and they are currently looking for a replacement for Amanda Wolfe, her last day was Friday. Thank you to the city for blading the road behind the school, cuts down on the dust from the traffic to the football games. Thank you to Dusty’s Sprinklers for donating time to help clean up the weeds and grass along the highway by the football field. They have replaced a freezer unit at the elementary, it was caught before there were major food loss, so it is back up and running. A quick update on the boilers- he received a message from FICO stating that the boilers are being held up at the factory due to some DOE testing. So they are looking of a ship date in mid-October. The sprinkler system is scheduled to be blown out next week.

MAINTANCE

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Roxie reported that they are in full flight at the elementary. They have completed all of the diagnostic testing for student placement into RTI groups. There have been a few minor technology glitches this year but they are getting them ironed out. They will have the first UIIP meeting next week. Thank you to Karen Wellman and Margie Schuler for coming in and assisting with the testing, they are a huge help with this process, as well as Mark Smith. They are currently working on student council interviews. So they will have a new council ready to present at the next board meeting.

ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL

Cali O’Hara, Business Manager/Clerk- Reported that the TFS report and budget have been submitted to OPI. We had a Workers Comp audit and it was completed with no findings. This will be our year for a school foods audit as well.

CLERK

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Will Scott, to approve the disposal of miscellaneous outdated band items. The motion passed unanimously.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Reported that that there has been a lot going on since the start of school, and he is so appreciative of the super great people who work in our district. It has been an incredible start to the school year. There will be a PIR day on Friday where the teachers will start with a team building exercise, then Roxie and Pat will review with the teachers the new observation tool they intend to utilize this year for the classroom observations. The middle school students have been on the annual fall float trips, due to the increase in costs we are brainstorming different ways to ensure that this is an activity that the students can continue to enjoy. Pat would like to address one of his big picture ideas, which is the day care. Day care is much needed for our staff, he has reached out to a company called Family Connections and they help people and businesses establish child care centers, They have been very helpful in answering some questions and concerns, They will also assist in securing funding to help with the cost of operating a child care center. See attached board report and childcare draft proposal.

SUPERINTENDET

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve Pat to move forward with a committee to negotiate stipend for childcare head of site stipend. The motion passed unanimously.

CHILDCARE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve Adam Jacques to have a presence at the school during the school day. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY POLICE CHEIF

Committees -

COMMITTEES

Transportation – Darin would like to recommend the purchase of a new Thomas bus.

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the purchase of new Thomas bus. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the purchase of a new maintenance pick up. The motion passed unanimously

Policy – Meeting September 18 @ 6

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the following policies – Policy 1650, 1005FE, 1006FE, 1007FE, 1009FE, 1010FE with option b #9 only- unless current policy indicates otherwise, 1110, 1400 add Post Office to option C, 1700, 2050, 2132, 2140, 2158, 2168, 2332, 2450, 2600, 3100 option b #9, 3110, 3120, 3121, 3121P, 3141 with revisions to #8 (The district will not admit any student who is expelled from another school district, without approval by the board of trustees), keep #9, exclude #11, 3150, 3226, 3233, 3235, 3310, 3413, 3510 with #3.C, 3550, 4410, 8301. Removal of 1900-1912. The motion passed unanimously

School Foundation – Darin reported information that was presented to the committee from DA Davidson about running a bond to build teacher housing. See attached information. The bond would be voted on in the May election, if the board chooses to go that route.

Future Agenda items:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- School Foundation –
- Personnel meeting September 18 @ 7
- Policy meeting September 18 @ 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Handbooks
- Daycare findings
- Policy Revisions

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Jenni Starman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

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

ATTEST

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_