

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 8, 2025

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order April 8, 2025 at 7:05 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Jenni Starman, Dusty Schuler(phone), Kyla Wright, Kayle Axtman, Will Scott, Brant Hasbrouck and Darin Arganbright. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Paul Benhart; Transportation Supervisor, Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Emily Wicks.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, seconded by Will Scott, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97991-98023

Claims: 62889-62941

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Communications to and from the Board- Resignations from Kelley Bushong and Honesty Podvin. Amy Hanson would like to rescind/amend her resignation, she would like to stay on as the high school secretary until her home sells.

COMMUNICATIONS TO  
AND FROM THE BOARD

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Reported meeting time is changed to 4:00pm, May 13. Meeting will still take place in the board room.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that this is an exciting time of year for academic achievement and growth, and the staff and I are focusing on supporting students to finish the year strong. There are lots of events happening the end of April and May. The Senior Citizen Luncheon is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm. Please call the elementary office and RSVP. The Fort Benton Parent team is back up; they will have another meeting on April 3rd at 6pm in the multi-purpose room. End of the year Assembly will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:12pm to say goodbye to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders and acknowledge our volunteers. Track and Field Day will be May 22<sup>nd</sup> with the class picnics to follow. Early Childhood screening

ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL

will be May 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00-3:00pm. Call the elementary school office to schedule an appointment.

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Thank you to Larry and Dani for all their hard work. Larry's final day will be August 29<sup>th</sup>. Getting summer projects lined up. Will start working on the track next week. They will start pouring the cement for the discus ring this week. Getting ready for the Jr High Track meet on April 25<sup>th</sup>. CCPA concert next week. Graduation will be held in the gym on May 18<sup>th</sup>. They are working on spring work. Longhorn Day is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

MAINTENANCE

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director- Reported thanks to Russ for all the work on discus area and track. The new discus area is from the fundraiser that the track team held, so thank you to all who donated. State FFA just got back, congratulations to Brooke for all her hard work. District Music Festival will be next week. Track, Tennis and Golf have all had some weather challenges, but seasons are going well. Middle school track will start this week; their home meet will be April 25<sup>th</sup>. The schedules for next year have been set for Football, Volleyball, Basketball and Wrestling. Still looking for a Fall host, middle school cross country and speech/drama coaches.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Roxie Benjamin and Jenna Botts Middle School Track. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

It was moved by Jenni Starman and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Monte Giese(head), Damon Gilbreth, Adam Olson, Erich Wellman(assistants) High School Football Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL COACHES

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Dan Wirth and Joe Manning Middle School Football Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL COACHES

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Shanna Diekhans(head), Megan Lords(assistant) and Shannon Grossman (volunteer) High School Volleyball Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL  
VOLLEYBALL COACHES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Amanda Brown and Shannon Grossman Middle School Volleyball Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
VOLLEYBALL COACHES

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Atman to hire Roxie Benjamin Cross Country Coach, Sally Scott Volunteer Coach. The motion passed unanimously. Will Scott abstained.

CROSS COUNTRY  
COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Kyla Wright to hire Katie Guderjahn Cheer Coach and Roxie Benjamin Volunteer Cheer Coach. The motion passed unanimously. Jenni Starman abstained.

FALL CHEERLEADING

Cali O’Hara, Clerk- Report that only three people filed for the open board positions, Kyla Wright, Joellyn Clark and Dusty Schuler. As a result, the trustee election can be cancelled. It came to my attention that we will need to have a vote for the non-voted levies, this will be a correction to the March minutes.

CLERK

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Kayle Axtman to correct the minutes of the March meeting to include the non-voted levies. The motion passed unanimously.

NON-VOTED LEVY

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Jenni Starman to list small trailer as obsolete property. The motion passed unanimously.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Reported the first meeting of the Crisis Intervention Team(CIT) will be held April 9<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting is to outline the responsibilities of the group in the unfortunate instance of a crisis. The team includes Roxie Benjamin, Tanara Martin, Rheanna Fultz, Pat Hould, Kit Miller, Connie Walker, Erich Wellman and Kyla Wright. FBHS leadership team will host a Career Expo on April 23 for students grades 7-12 with local companies to learn more about possible job opportunities and future career pathways. The MS/HS student art show will be April 11 from 3-7 at the Parire Rose Gallery. MSGIA gave the school a \$1000 rebate on the Emergent 3 app. There has been a slight change to the school calendar due to moving to class B, the basketball tournament dates are different. See attached revised calendar. New practice of having a year end check in with all non-tenured teachers, these meetings included Jamie Ball as the union representative. We want to make sure our newer teachers feel supported. The east coast trip was a success, thank you Amy Hanson for leading the group.

SUPERINTENDENT

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Jenni Starman to re-hire the following tenured High School teachers:

REHIRE TENURED HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Jamie Ball                      Colby Cline                      Rheanna Fultz  
Damon Gilbreth              Megan Lords                      Miranda Lynch  
Tanara Martin                Carley Vielleux

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Jenni Starman to re-hire the following non-tenured High School teachers:

REHIRE NON-TENURED HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Mark Ayers                      Amanda Brown                      Brooke Cunningham  
Amber Disney                Erik Lenington                      Patrice MacDonald  
Wendy Truax

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Kayle Axtman to re-hire the following tenured Elementary/Middle School teachers:

Justin Cartwright      Mindy Evans      Deanna Farwick  
Rheanna Fultz      Peggy Gannon      Damon Gilbreth  
Jessica Hanford      Beth Jones      Mylo Lane  
Megan Lords      Tanara Martin      Mandy Rominger  
Elizabeth Southard      Carley Vielleux

The motion passed unanimously.

REHIRE TENURED  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE  
SCHOOL TEACHERS

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Kayle Axtman to re-hire the following non-tenured Elementary/Middle School teachers:

Brooke Cunningham      Erik Lenington      Esme Teeters  
Mandy Wright

The motion passed unanimously.

REHIRE NON TENURED  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE  
SCHOOL TEACHERS

### Committee Reports-

Personnel – Will Scott reported that after visiting with Pat, Cali and Roxie they would like to see what happens with the budget since the legislature is still in session, before the committee makes a recommendation to the board. No one from the classified union has made a request to negotiate so the committee has decided to make a recommendation and write the union a letter stating they would like to review the classified CBA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Jenni Starman to offer the classified union a 2% pay increase for years 25-26, and a 2% pay increase for years 26-27. The motion passed unanimously.

CLASSIFIED UNION  
NEGOTIATIONS

It was moved by Jenni Starman and seconded by Darin Arganbright to comply with the STARS act. The motion passed unanimously.

STARS ACT

Buildings and Grounds – Brant Hasbrouck reported that the bid process is complete there was one bid for the elementary plumbing project and there were 4 bids for the high school electrical project. The bid for the elementary plumbing project has some options for different additions to the project.

BUILDINGS AND  
GROUND

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kyla Wright to accept the bid from Milk River Plumbing base and option 1. The motion passed unanimously.

BID FOR ELEMENTARY  
PLUMBING

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Jenni Starman to accept the bid from Liberty Electric. The motion passed unanimously.

BID FOR HIGH SCHOOL  
ELECTRICAL

Resignations – Kelley Bushong and Honesty Podvin

RESIGNATIONS

Hires-

HIRES

It was moved by Kayle Axman and seconded by Will Scott to hire Anna Arganbright as 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE TEACHER

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Honesty Podvin as Substitute Kitchen Help.

SUBSTITUTE KITCHEN  
HELP

Future Agenda Items-  
May meeting moved to 4:00pm in the Board room

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck , and seconded by Jenni Starman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

ADJOURN

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

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