

BOARD MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEETING
April 28, 2020

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom, by Joellyn Clark, Chairman.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Ray Allen (zoom), Darin Arganbright (zoom), Dean Schuler(via phone), Brant Hasbrouck(zoom), Adam Olson(zoom), Greg McGinnis(via phone) and Mandy Wright (zoom).
Members absent: none. A quorum was present.

Also present: Jory Thompson, Superintendent; Roxanne Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Cali O’Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Brian Miller, 7 - 12 Principal: Jamie Ball(zoom), Tyler Starman (zoom), Amy Hansen(zoom), Brent Hanford(zoom), Mindy Evans(zoom), Abby Clark(zoom), Deb Clark(zoom), Aspen Giese(zoom), Marvin Brodock(zoom), Jen Starman(zoom), Mariah Ball(zoom), Marta Ferguson(zoom), Susan Brodock(zoom) and Bethany DeBorde, reporter for the River Press(zoom).

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Thompson discussed the Chouteau County Health Departments recommendation on school closure, as County Health Nurse Angel Johnson was unable to attend the meeting. The recommendation from Angel was that the school stay closed and to continue distance learning. That there is a possibility to increase spread with the state opening.

Mr. Brian Miller, reported that he had visited with the High School teachers and they feel that with 3 weeks left of instruction, they feel the students have established a routine with distance learning and they would like to continue with the distance learning. They would like to finish the year strong, but would like to have some sort of closure with the students.

Mrs. Roxie Benjamin, reported that she had visited with the Elementary teachers, they also feel that the students would best benefit from continuing to distance learn. The students have an established routine.

Mr. Jory Thompson, showed the results of a Facebook Survey that was sent to parents, 170 responded. With 73% saying No-they would not send their child back to school should it reopen. 26.5% Yes- they would send

their child back to school should it reopen. The survey stated that if the school were to reopen that they would be following all social distancing guidelines established by the Governor’s office.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE

CHOUTEAU COUNTY
HEALTH REPORT

HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL REPORT

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORT

REOPENING FACEBOOK SURVEY

Joellyn Clark- Board Chairman, opened the meeting up for board comment. Joellyn expressed that she was in favor of continuing distance learning. But would like to see us consider allowing some teachers to provide some tutoring if the student and teacher are both willing to practice social distancing. Mandy Wright, was supportive of the administrations discussion to stay closed and stay the course. Darin Arganbright, agreed that to say closed was in the best interest. He wanted to say that he feels the teachers have done a good job of staying up to speed and supporting students. Greg McGinnis, also agreed with others to stay closed for the safety of our students. Brant Hasbrouck, agreed to with the closure as well, and to give teachers the flexibility to get their jobs done. Dean Schuler, agreed as well that the he agreed with everyone's comments.

Jamie Ball, Second Grade Teacher and Teachers Union Representative, commented on behalf of the union that they recommended to stay closed and to continue distance learning that this was in the best interest of all.

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Mandy Wright that the school remain closed for the remaining school year. That teachers and staff continue with distance learning. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jory Thompson and Mr. Brian Miller, reported what Graduation would look like for the 2020 Seniors. Brian expressed that it was important to let them have that moment. They will be meeting with seniors and sponsors on Thursday. They are thinking that graduation will be on the football field, so graduates and families can maintain social distance. If people want to watch they can park their cars on the hill. They are also seeing if a local radio station will broadcast the ceremony so that people sitting in their cars will be able to hear.

It was moved by Dean Schuler and seconded by Mandy wright to hire half time Spanish Teacher Melissa Efta. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jory Thompson reported on the results of the school calendar vote. The calendar that was chosen by the staff has a start date of August 25th and end date of May 28th.

It was moved by Adam Olson and seconded by Greg McGinnis to approve the 202-2021 school calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jory Thompson reported that MTSBA had more policy updates in regards to COVID-19. They had the 1st reading and will meet on May 7th to review.

BOARD COMMENTS- REOPENING SCHOOL

PUBLIC COMMENT- REOPENING SCHOOL

MOTION TO REMAIN CLOSED

GRADUATION

SPANISH HIRE RECOMMENDATION

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

COVID-19 POLICY UPDATES

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Greg McGinnis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

CLERK _____