

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
August 12, 2025

Jenni Starman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order August 12, 2025, at 7:05 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

Members present: Joellyn Clark via phone, Jenni Starman, Brant Hasbrouck, Dusty Schuler, Will Scott, Kayle Axtman and Darin Arganbright. 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 Supervisor; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal.

Jenni Starman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Will Scott, seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 98288-98334

Claims: 63159-63232

Jenni Starman asked for public comment. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Communications to and from the Board- Board received a thank you from the Vielleux family.

COMMUNICATIONS TO
AND FROM THE BOARD

Paul Benhart, Transportation- Reported that the new Route bus with AC has been delivered. The new activity bus is 5 weeks from completion. There have been some new applications for activity drivers, they will be hired later in the meeting.

TRANSPORTATION

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to donate the old route bus to Chouteau County Search and Rescue for training purposes. The motion passes unanimously.

DONATION OF OLD
ROUTE BUS

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Thank you to Larry for all his years of service, he is retiring on the 29th. All the new projects are nearly completed. Middle School girl's locker room has just a few small things left to finish and will be cleaned. Thank you to Northwestern Energy, Josh Anderson, getting things completed quickly. Thank you to Brooke,

MAINTENANCE

Dani, Corey and Katie for all their work this summer. Elementary plumbing project is nearly complete. The Primary wing and kitchen are completed and will have the rest of the building completed soon. Heaters in the high school have been removed and will be reinstalled in September. Gym floors have been refinished. New water softeners have been ordered for the kitchen and Longhorn Café. Tree removal will begin when Broc is available. Raptor Roof Repair was here and gave a quote for the primary roof repairs of \$53,600. Will look into that project as time and funds allow. Blansett Plumbing submitted a proposal for the grease trap for the Longhorn Café of \$19,200, this would connect to the sewer line on Chouteau Street.

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Thank you to Russ and Corey for all the help this summer getting things cleaned up and ready for sports seasons. Corey for all the painting in the locker rooms and cleaning the trophy cases. Practices start this Friday; middle school practices will start on Monday. MHSA has a new program called Arbiter that we will be utilizing for sports this year for schedules, refs, training and student rosters. Jenna Botts resigned as middle school robotics coach, so we will need to fill that position.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Miranda Lynch and Deanna Farwick as Middle School Tennis Coaches and Marta Ferguson as Volunteer Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TENNIS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Tyler Starman as Assistant High School Wrestling Coach. The motion passed unanimously. Jenni Starman abstained

ASSISTANT WRESTLING

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Damon Gilbreth as Assistant High School Track Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT TRACK

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that the theme for this year is “Saddle Up for Success”. Working on getting dates planned for the year ahead. 8-10 new students signed up for a summer registration. Emily Anderson has started a new parent group called Lil’ Horn Helpers, they will help support teachers and students. They will assist with the back-to-school BBQ, and they have a playground cleanup project planned. Kindergarten Round-up will be the 21st. See attached report.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

Cali O’Hara, Clerk- Reported that the TFS is now complete and looks good. The budget is ready for board approval. We have items for obsolete property, it is a small kiln and the old white maintenance pick up.

CLERK

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to Approve the Elementary School Budget for FY 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY BUDGET

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to Approve the High School Budget for FY 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to approve a small kiln and old white maintenance pick up both items are as is. The motion passes unanimously

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Reported that school registration this week has gone well. There have been a few changes to the calendar, with the switch to class B we needed to make a few small adjustments. The bell schedule for the year has changed as well so that we are meeting the required number of instructional minutes. New teacher orientation will be on the 25th, and all staff will return in the afternoon of the 25th. See attached report.

SUPERINTENDENT

Committee Reports-

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy – First reading of policies and 2nd reading of handbooks

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to approve MS/HS Handbook. The motion passes unanimously

APPROVAL ON
HANDBOOKS

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Darin Arganbright to approve Faculty Handbook. The motion passes unanimously.

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Will Scott to approve Revised Gym Use Policy. The motion passes. Brant Hasbrouck opposed.

APPROVAL OF REVISED
GYM USE POLICY

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman to approve retroactive refunds for gym use. For: Joellyn Clark, Will Scott, Kayle Axtman and Jenni Starman. Against: Darin Arganbright, Dusty Schuler and Brant Hasbrouck. Motion Passed

GYM USE
REIMBERSMENT

Buildings and Grounds – Russ Reported that all projects are on track and that we will look into the purchase of water softeners for the Longhorn Café and the Kitchen. Roofs on the primary wing and kitchen will need to be looked at later this fall/spring.

Resignations –
Jenna Botts- Elementary Paraprofessional
Jacquelyn Aragon- Middle School Paraprofessional

RESIGNATIONS

Hires-

HIRES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Samantha Dennison as middle school paraprofessional. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARA

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Jordan Dennison as MS/HS Custodian. The motion passed unanimously.

CUSTODIAN

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott to hire Chad Hartsell as Activity/Sub driver and sub teacher, and Kellen Kirby as Activity/Sub Driver. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVITY/SUB DRIVERS

Future Agenda Items-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Policy Meeting – September 4 @6:00pm
Personnel Meeting- September 9 @6:15pm
2nd Reading of Policy

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

CLERK _____

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST