

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 13, 2024

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order August 13, 2024 at 7:02 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Will Scott, Jenni Starman, Kayle Axtman, Dusty Schuler, and Brant Hasbrouck. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

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

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 July 16, 2024 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: 97587-97612

Claims: 62426-62481

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. There was no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- The board received a Thank You from Zoe Donner and Kailyn Rominger for sponsoring their trip to HOBY.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Paul Benhart, Transportation – Reported that the voting for the bus graphics will close September 5<sup>th</sup>. They are still looking for additional bus drivers, Thank you to Larry and the county crew for the millings in front of the bus barn. The 1<sup>st</sup> semester bus inspections have been completed. All drivers have completed their 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and CPR. They will have a drivers meeting before school starts to assign the extracurricular events that are on the calendar.

TRANSPORTATION

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – The building at the fairgrounds has been cleaned out, all items have been brought to the new building. Thank you to the fair board and JC for allowing us to use the space. Thank you to the city crew for all the help this summer, they will move the bleachers over to the football field soon. Thank you to Larry, Brooke and Corey for all their work this summer, the buildings look great. Thank you to the Elementary school teachers for assisting with moving their classrooms, this was much appreciated. The gym floor is done and will open with the

MAINTENANCE

start of fall sports practices. Kitchen repairs are completed, the kitchen has been cleaned and is ready to go. They still need to add a grease trap to the kitchen plumbing to be in compliance with the state inspector. The state boiler inspector was here and working on solutions so that the boiler can be certified. The boiler can't be fired without being certified. The vent source needs more square inches that it currently has, it needs to be increased to 60 inches or have a different fan system installed. The other issue is the 2 water heaters vent near the boiler. There are 2 options to correct the issue - either line the stack with flex tube to the top or change from gas to electric water heaters. Electric 150-gallon water boilers are \$6500. The current main water heater is 24 years old. The tech update is almost complete the new phones are installed and the fob system will be completed 8/26. Plumbing fixtures have been ordered and work has begun in the high school. The elementary school plumbing project will be started later next week. Sidewalks in the bus zone at the elementary school have been repaired. We need to discuss what the patrols for our school zones will look like now that we no longer have city police to assist with morning and after school traffic concerns at the elementary school bus zone.

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported that fall sports practices will start Friday. Most of the sports events have been added to the school calendar on the school web site. There will be some changes as the seasons get underway but they are working hard to make sure that the calendar on the web site stays current. We had several coaches attend the coaching clinic at CMR hosted by MHSA. CPR classes for all coaches has been completed. Busy getting all of our student athletes ready for practices, as they have to complete their information in the Dragonfly system. The concessions lottery will be Thursday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fall sports photos have been scheduled. Jenna Botts has decided to step down as the assistant cross country coach, at this current time we still have 2 volunteer coaches so there is still lots of support for our team. Pat and Jamie had an interview for a potential cheer coach, but at this time don't have a recommendation to bring to the board. Thank you to Russ and Carley for helping get everything ready to go for the fall season. The Red/White scrimmage will be the 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Shannon Grossman as Volunteer Sports Wellness coach. The motion passed unanimously.

WELLNESS VOLUNTEER  
COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to hire Deanna Farwick as Volunteer middle school/ high school Tennis coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH  
SCHOOL VOLUNTEER  
TENNIS COACH

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Hardy O'Hara head coach and Megan Lords assistant coach for high school BoysBasketball. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS  
BASKETBALL COACHES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Eddie Fultz, head coach, Erich Wellman, assistant coach, and Rheanna Fultz, volunteer coach for high school Girls Basketball. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS  
BASKETBALL COACHES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to hire Connie Walker, Cali O'Hara and Roxie Allen as concession managers. The motion passed unanimously.

CONCESSIONS  
MANAGERS

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that the new teacher orientation will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The elementary school is fully staffed and ready to roll. Back to school night will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> for students to come meet their teachers. Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the back to school carnival in the afternoon. Thank you to Corey, the school looks amazing, he has worked hard all summer, and has done a great job. Thank you to the teachers for helping get their classrooms moved, this is a huge job. Their help was greatly appreciated. All the classrooms are back on the main floor of the building. New elementary school secretary Katie James has been working hard to learn the ropes. All of the teacher schedules have been finalized. They plan to focus more on playground duties and providing more support during recess times. Anna Arganbright is going to help lead a TIPS support group for students and teachers. See attached.

ELEMANTRY PRINCIPAL

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/ Clerk – Reported that the Intercap loan application has been sent for approval and credit review. Will have more information for the board at the next board meeting. The TFS and Budget reports have been completed and are ready for the board to review. Will begin work on the state and federal grants in the coming weeks. Thank you to the board for allowing me some flexibility with traveling to chemotherapy.

BUSINESS MANAGER

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to approve the FY 2025 Elementary school budget. The motion passed unanimously

ELEMETARY SCHOOL  
BUDGET

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman to approve the FY 2025 High School budget. The motion passed unanimously

HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Reported thank you to Russ and Carley on working hard to get all the technology updates completed before the start of the school year, the new phone system is in place. The new fob and cameras are ready to be installed and will be completed on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The current system is still active until the new system can be installed. We need to take a look again at our gym policy now that we know more about how the new fob system will function. Also need to discuss some changes to the early graduation policy's now that MTSBA and OPI have provided more information on how funding works with early graduates. In order to collect ANB for early graduates they must complete 7 semesters, so they must be enrolled and attending school the fall semester. There will be a staff picnic on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the golf course. School registration was last week and went smoothly. If anyone would like to attend MCEL please let

SUPERINTENDENT

Connie know and she will get you registered. Will share new school year goals with the board next meeting. Looking forward to being back in school full time. Will invite new teachers to attend the September board meeting. Working on the crisis management plan and what the next steps look like. See attached report.

**BOARD MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION FOR EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST**

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve the request for 7<sup>th</sup> semester early graduate. The motion passed unanimously.

**EARLY GRADUATE REQUEST**

Committees –  
Buildings and Grounds Committee Report  
August 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.

**COMMITTEES**

Future Agenda Items-  
Buildings & Grounds

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Jenni Starman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

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

**ATTEST**

**CLERK** \_\_\_\_\_