

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order December 7, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at the Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, by Darin Arganbright, Vice-Chairman.

Members present: Will Scott, Darin Arganbright, Jenni Starman, Brant Hasbrouck, Kayle Axtman 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 via phone; Paul Benhart, Transportation; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Charlie Bogart, Aubree Vischer, Lily Miller, John Hibl, Ellie Guderjahn.

Darin Arganbright opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, seconded by Dusty Schuler to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97056-97097
Claims: 61888-61925

Darin Arganbright asked for public comment. No public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darin Arganbright, Vice Board Chairman- Let the board know that Joellyn was out of town today, she has asked if he would run the meeting in her absence.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Roxie reported that they are super excited for the programs this evening, December is a busy time at the elementary school. A special thank you to Miss England and Mrs. Gannon for all their hard work with the programs. See attached report.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

Pat Hould, Athletic Director –Pat reported for Jamie in her absence. Middle School Basketball ended last week. The girls finished in 1st place and the boy finished in 2nd. High School winter sports have started. The basketball team will play their first games today. Wrestling had their first meet in Cascade last week. There will be a home Speech and Drama meet this weekend at the High School.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve Damon Gilbreth as Winter Host. The motion passed unanimously.

WINTER HOST

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve Rheanna Fultz as Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER COACH

It was moved by Jenni Starman and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Deanna Farwick as Volunteer Robotics Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Russ wanted to Thank staff for all their hard work. Thank you to Mayor Lanny Walker for getting the city crew over to assist with the old shed clean out. Their assistance was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the fair board for allowing us to use one of their buildings as storage until our building has been moved. They are looking to get the correct permits to have the building moved this week or next. The new milk coolers have arrived and are installed, they are greatly appreciated. The #2 boiler will be ready to fire tomorrow. This will complete the install of both of the new boilers and they will both be up and running.

MAINTENANCE

Cali O’Hara, Business Manager/Clerk- Reported that we are on track with our spending at near the end of the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year. Due to the board meeting being a little earlier in the month than usual many of our claims have not been processed yet.

CLERK

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to allow the clerk to pay claims through December. The motion passed unanimously

PAY CLAIMS THROUGH
DECEMBER

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Jenni Starman, to allow the clerk to make a \$295,000 payment on the Intercap loan. The motion passed unanimously

INTERCAP LOAN
PAYMENT

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott, to accept the offer on Grizzly shop air filter \$227.00, sand blast cabinet \$77.00 from Greg McGinnis. The motion passed unanimously

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Pat reported that we are still in need for bus drivers, both route drivers and extracurricular drivers. He is working through the school accreditation process this is a new process so it is a bit challenging this year learning the new process. He will be sending out a survey that OPI has instructed schools that they need to complete. There is one survey that will be sent to staff, one to parents as well as one that will be sent to students. Pat will visit with the students in class about how to complete the survey. Pat and Roxie will be sending a messenger, as well as a letter, asking parents for their help in completing this survey. The Christmas programs are today and the band concerts will be held December 12th. See attached report

SUPERINTENDENT

Committees -

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Building and Grounds –

Brant reported that they met with some of the members from the Fort Benton Foundation committee. They reviewed, along with Russ, some of the major maintenance projects that need to be completed in our buildings. The plumbing/sewer in both buildings needs to be replaced. The lighting in both buildings also needs to be replaced as the current florescent lights are becoming hard to find. Brant and Russ have reached out to engineers to see what the cost of an engineer study would be so that the district can gauge the cost of these projects. The electrical power switches also need to be looked at, they will visit with Northwestern Energy more about what needs to happen.

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the hiring of an engineer study on the plumbing \$16,820 approx. cost of study, and electrical \$9,355 approx cost of study. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy –

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the change to the athletic student attendance policy. The motion passed unanimously.

School Foundation –

Darin reported that the foundation would like to meet again with the buildings and grounds once the engineering studies are complete.

Resignations –

Michelle Erickson – Route Driver/ Custodian

RESIGNATIONS

Future Agenda items:

- 2nd reading of policy # 3413F2
- Transportation Meeting - January 9 @ 6:00 pm
- Policy Meeting - January 9 @ 5:00pm

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

ADJOURN

ATTEST

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

CLERK _____