

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2024

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order December 12, 2024 at 11:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Multi-Purpose room.

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

ROLL CALL

Also present: Cali O’Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Paul Benhart, Transportation Supervisor; Hanna Bach, Seeli Jameson.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024 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: 97663-97815
Claims: 62670-62727

Communications to and from the Board - Thank you note from Carlotta McGarvey for the flowers.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Joellyn would like to thank Dean Schuler for over 20 years of service to the board, and to extend our condolences to the Schuler family, Dean will be greatly missed. The senior class would like to seek approval from the board for their overnight senior trip, see attached itinerary. The superintendent evaluation will be sent to Pat to complete and once he has completed his portion responses will be sent to the board. Board members will need to complete and return to Joellyn.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Dusty Schuler to allow the Senior overnight trip. The motion passed unanimously

OVERNIGHT SENIOR TRIP

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that it has been a busy month with the food drive. The Cats winning over the Griz. Parent-

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Teacher conferences were well attended. Thank you to Mandy Wright for putting on the book fair during conferences. Thank you to Karyn Giles for hosting the cooking classes, the students love this after school activity. The spirit rally was line dancing this month and all seemed to enjoy this activity. We had some very talented students showcase their talents at the assembly. See attached report.

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Thank you to the city crew for the snow removal in our bus zones. Thank you to Corey, Larry and Aiden for all their work during these busy months. We hosted the district FFA - Mrs. Brooke Cunningham was so organized, this was a nice event to host. The new water heaters are installed, the kitchen now has an on-demand heater which is working great, the other water heaters are in and working as well. Brennen Heating and Cooling will be working on the air supply for the boiler system that will be here Monday. The strainers are in on the boiler system. The new heaters in the high school are being installed. The boiler at the high school has been down for a few days as a part is being shipped to fix the problem. The flue project is being delayed until June. Insurance inspection was yesterday, was good to see what we can work on to improve our building.

MAINTENANCE

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/ Clerk – Reported the most current financials. The trustee election is now open, individuals can apply for the open school board positions December 12-March 27. The open positions are for district #1 - Joellyn Clark and Kyla Wright, Knees district – Dusty Schuler.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Reported that he, Roxie Benjamin and Tanara Martin are close to having the emergency handbook completed for the policy committee to review. Brenda Koch from MSGIA has also reviewed the handbook to ensure that we are including all necessary items. Brenda was also here to complete building reviews for our insurance. Looking to purchase the App Emergent 3, this would allow the school district to communicate better with staff and emergency personnel better. Have completed some talking points about the upcoming levy elections, will send that to board members to review. There have been lots of activities this month in our district. Super proud of our student fundraiser for the Clark family, they were former students that had a house fire and we were able to raise over \$800. The art club is going to the elementary the week before Christmas to paint ornaments with the students. The honor band competed in Shelby and represented our school well. Middle school basketball has wrapped up, the FFA districts went well with us hosting over 100 students. PIR day will be a team building activity called Figure It Out, this is a program from OPI - the students participated in this last fall, and now our staff has the opportunity to participate. See attached report.

SUPERINTENDENT

Committee Reports –
Policy meeting January 14 @ 5:30

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resignations – Nalin Dana

RESIGNATION

Hires-

HIRES:

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Ryan Klimas as a Substitute. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBSTITUTE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Karie Thomas as bus driver. The motion passed unanimously.

BUS DRIVER

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Bailey Bahnmilller as Middle School Basketball Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS
BASKETBALL COACH

Future Agenda Items-
Policy Committee Meeting
Superintendent Evaluation

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Will Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____