

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 18, 2025

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Jenni Starman, Dusty Schuler, 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; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Paul Benhart; Transportation Supervisor, Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Mark Ayers, Jackie Aragon, Hunter Aragon, Charlie Bogart, Aubree Vischer,

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman seconded by Dusty Schuler, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025 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: 97864-97936

Claims: 62783-62851

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Joellyn would like to invite everyone to attend the Main Street program at the Grand Union next Monday at 6:30 pm. This is a program that the city is trying to apply for, the program supports the rejuvenation of small town main streets. A link to school board trainings are now on the school website, please if you can take the time to attend some of the trainings they are very valuable to board members. We have some 7th grade science guests that would like to plan an overnight trip after school gets out to attend a fossil dig site. See attachment.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Axtman to allow the 7th grade science overnight trip. The motion passed unanimously

OVERNIGHT 7th GRADE TRIP

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal Absent - See attached report.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Reported that if anyone is interested we are looking for help in both schools, for Substitutes and Custodians. Thank you to Larry for coming back to help clean the school, Aiden has submitted his resignation. Dani is doing a great job at the elementary school. Thank you to the City Crew for all the snow removal in our bus zones this is a great help. Thank you to Cody and Craig Blansett and Bob with Liberty Electric for all the help with projects. Thank you to Kayle for the help while Russ was out for surgery. MSGIA insurance inspection has been completed, will work on getting items corrected. Many of them are long term items that we need to develop a plan to correct. For example, a vent hood and fire suppression for the ovens in the FACS room. Boiler inspector here working to get items corrected. OSHA was also here working to get small items correct, no major findings. Thank you to the voters for passing the Levy. The building projects are getting closer to the bid stage. Thank you to Bethany for her great articles showcasing our need for the levy funds.

MAINTENANCE

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported Speech and Drama season has come to an end with Hanna Bach placing 2nd at state in Memorized Public Address. Kailyn Rominger 3rd at state in Informative Speaking. Robotics team competed at State in Bozeman. Band and Cheer have been supporting all the teams this season. Unique moment during the Fort Benton CJI basketball game Mikell O’Hara and CJI student Kingley Horel sang the national anthem together. Boys basketball finished their season 12-5 will be the 3rd seed at the district tournament this weekend. Girls basketball 13-4, they are the district champs. Wrestling Divisional Brinley Ried 8th, Taryn Ried 6th, Mia Campbell, Cooper Farris, Wyatt Cline, Layne Wallace, Zoe Donner all with a 5th place finish, Mae 4th, Mel Starman, Dilynn Layne, Etta Wicks Jojo Manning 1st place finish. Girls were the Class C champs. Those moving on to the state tournament were Wyatt, Cooper, Layne, Etta, Taryn, Mel, Jojo. Layne 5th place and Etta 6th place finish. Girls came home with the Class C 3rd place trophy. FFA district was this month as well and they are getting ready for their state competition. Review of new MHSA rules.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Tyler Starman as Middle School Wrestling Volunteer Coach. The motion passed unanimously. Jenni Starman abstained.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
WRESTLING VOLUNTEER
COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Casey Kottoff as 5/6 Girls Basketball Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

5/6 GIRLS BASKETBALL
COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Megan Lords and Cali O’Hara 5/6 Boys Basketball Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

5/6 BOYS BASKETBALL
COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Damon Gilbreth as Middle School Track Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK
COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Ray Allen as Middle School Track Volunteer Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK
VOLUNTEER COACH

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Thank you to the community for supporting the Levy. We have incredible community support of our school. The emergency handbook is completed. The community task force has completed a Profile of a Graduate. This is part of the new accreditation process. FFA week activities this week, Brooke is doing a great job. See attached.

SUPERINTENDENT

Cali O’Hara, Clerk- Thank you to the board for all the support while I was at radiation. Budget looks good as we are in the middle of the 3rd quarter. Canvas of the Levy election. The levy passed in all districts.

CLERK

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Joellyn Clark to call for the trustee election. The motion passed unanimously.

CALL FOR ELECTION

Committee Reports –
Transportation

COMMITTEE REPORTS
TRANSPORTATION NEW
ROUTE BUS

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Axtman to purchase a new route bus. The motion passed unanimously

BUILDINGS AND
GROUNDS

Buildings and Grounds - 2/25 @ 4:00

Resignations – Aiden Manning and Amy Hanson

RESIGNATIONS

Hires-

HIRES

It was moved by Kayle Axman and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Lin Dana and Nicole Winkler as a Substitutes. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future Agenda Items-
Buildings and Grounds

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Jenni Starman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____