

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order February, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the 7-12 Library by Darin Arganbright, Board Vice-Chairperson.

Members present: Joellyn Clark (by phone), Ray Allen, Darin Arganbright, Dean Schuler, Brant Hasbrouck, Greg McGinnis, Mandy Wright, and Adam Olson. Members absent: None. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Jory Thompson, Superintendent; Roxanne Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Steve Hamel, Business Manager/Clerk; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Brian Wood, Transportation Supervisor; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Brian Miller, 7 - 12 Principal: Jamie Ball, Brent Hanford, Tyler Sharman, Harry Buckingham, Wendy Bird, Shanna Diekhans, Karen Wellman, Margie Schuler, Tracy DeBruycker, Mara Ferguson, Sue Brodock, Marvin Brodock, Ross Hanson, Amy Hanson, Penny Goldhahn, Tasha Hull, Tyler Starman, Sammy Vielleux, Chloe Kalanick, Ashley Wang, and Bethany DeBorde, reporter for the River Press.

Darin Arganbright opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 regular meeting.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Adam Olson, to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2020 special work meeting.

MINUTES

It was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Dean Schuler, to approve payment of warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

Payroll: 93609 - 93680

Claims: 58701– 58765

Darin Arganbright shared a letter from Penny Goldhahn expressing her opposition to a 4-day school week.

LETTERS FOR THE BOARD

Darin Arganbright asked for public comment on non-agenda items, there was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marjoie Schuler, Karen Wellman, and Tracy DeBruycker reported on their trip to Washington D.C. to accept the national Blue Ribbon School award on behalf of Fort Benton Schools. They spoke about the conference meetings, the speakers, and ideas for future education projects.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON REPORT

It was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Dean Schuler, to stay with a 5-day school week. Darin Arganbright opened the discussion to public comment: most discussion centered on why the 4-day week was being considered, the Board reported that it was at the request of the staff. Other topics mentioned were: academic achievement, activities scheduling, classified staff hours, and bus hours. In favor: Darin Arganbright, Mandy Wright, Ray Allen, Joellyn Clark Greg McGinnis, Dean Schuler, and Brant Hasbrouck. Against: Adam Olson. The motion passed 7-1.

FIVE-DAY WEEK
RETAINED
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR:

Roxanne Benjamin discussed the ESEA award and conference in Atlanta that she, Jamie Ball, Jessica Hanford, and Mr. Thompson attended. Increasing winter test scores, and behavioral statistics.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL REPORT

Mr. Dunham reported on the winter activities winding down and congratulated Coach Hanson on the Longhorns 3rd place finish at the state Speech and Drama competition and her being voted as Coach of the Year.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

As per Mr. Dunham's recommendation, it was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to hire Connor McKillop as assistant track coach for the 2020 season. The motion passed unanimously

MCKILLOP HIRED,
ASSISTANT TRACK

Russ Axtman reviewed the elementary boiler pipe situation. With the deterioration of the pipes the project has moved from a 2-year project to needing to be done this summer/fall. The estimated costs are: Engineering fee, \$16,000, asbestos abatement \$16,000, and pipe/boiler work \$325,000. The Board discussed funding options and referred the situation to the building committee.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Brian Miller, 7-12 Principal reported: that the 7-12 staff is brainstorming ideas for next year, on the Lords fundraiser, a maker-space project, and shared various great-student stories.

7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Steve Hamel presented the monthly financial reports, reported that anyone may now apply to run for the Board of Trustees, and shared that the 2018-19 audit had been completed and there were no findings.

FINANCIALS

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to call for a school election to be held via mail. The ballots will be accepted until, and counted on May 5th, 2020. The election will be for Fort Benton School District #1 trustee positions and levies, School District #1 Building Reserve election, Carter Elementary School District #56 high school trustee representative, and Benton Lake School District #99 high school trustee representative. The motion passed unanimously.

2020 ELECTION CALLED

It was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Adam Olson, to renew membership with the Montana School Boards Association for the 2020-21 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

MTSBA MEMBERSHIP
RENEWED

Mr. Thompson reviewed the ESEA Distinguished Schools Award, the boiler pipe situation, next year's scheduling, and the upcoming superintendent conference.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Dean Schuler reviewed the Policy Committee's recommendations for updated MTSBA policies.

POLICY CHANGES FIRST
READING

The Building and Grounds Committee scheduled a meeting for Tuesday February 18th at noon.

BUILDING COMMITTEE
MEETING

Mr. Thompson reported that Victoria Withrow had resigned her Psychologist position with the Chouteau County Joint Services Special Education Co-op.

WITHROW RESIGNATION

The Board went into closed session at 9:30 for the superintendent evaluation.

SUPERINTENDENT
EVALUATION CLOSED
SESSION

The Board came out of closed session at 10:59.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Dean Schuler, to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____