

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 10, 2026

Jenni Starman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order February 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Pat Hould, Superintendent; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Mark Ayers.

Jenni Starman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026, regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 98607-98638

Claims: 63555-63606

Jenni Starman asked for public comment. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Communications to and from the Board. None.

COMMUNICATIONS TO  
AND FROM THE BOARD

Jenni Starman, Board Chair- Mark Ayers presented information about the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science trip to Fossil Lake.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Will Scott, to allow the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to take an overnight trip at the end of the school year to Fossil Lake in Wyoming. The motion passed unanimously.

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE TRIP

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that Cooking with Kids will happen again this month. The ski trips were a great success, there was only one minor injury. They had a Spirit Rally - the elementary kids stated that their goal is to get more sleep. Winter benchmark testing has been completed. The elementary students are selling candy to raise money for the playground. The spelling bee will be next week.

ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL

Russ Axtman, Maintenance -reported by Kayle Axtman- Thank you to Jordan, Jamie Ball, Erich Wellman for the extra help cleaning up the gym. Thank you to Larry McGarvey for cleaning the gym floor. Thank you to the elementary school students and staff for helping to clean the school. They will conduct an interview for new custodian this afternoon. The state boiler inspection has been completed as well as the inspection from Hartford. With the weather being so nice, have been doing some outside clean-up work. Will start work on the track in the next few weeks. Dusty's Sprinklers will be here, weather depending, to sand and plug the football field.

MAINTENANCE

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Thank you for all the help at the games, it takes lots of support from volunteers to run all of our games. FFA Spring District in Havre today. The band participated with the CCPA performers today. Speech and Drama season has concluded, 5 placed at divisional at CJI. Emmy Carrier placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Dramatic Oral Int. at the state meet in Townsend. Robotics has concluded at the Helena qualifier, Middle School team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and attended the state meet in Bozeman last week. Wrestling has had numerous placers and personal bests. Etta Wicks and Wyatt Cline are both at 100 plus career wins. Girls placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the meet in Manhattan. Divisionals will be this week in Malta, state is next week in Billings. Basketball- boys are 10-2 and girls are 9-3, final regular season games are this week. The District tournament is in Cut Bank and Divisional is in Shelby. We had two football players sign on National Signing Day - Truman Giese to Rose-Hulman and David Olson to Rocky. Upcoming events: Middle School Wrestling will start Feb. 16. Elementary Basketball will start Feb. 23.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott, to hire Erich Wellman as Head Football Coach for 26-27 SY. The motion passed unanimously.

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to hire Wendell Clewien as Assistant High School Track Coach for 25-26 SY. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to hire Keegan Syvrud and Kinsey Claassen as Boys Elementary Basketball Coaches for 25-26 SY. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY BOYS BASKETBALL COACH

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to hire Rheanna Fultz and Beth Jones as Girls Elementary Basketball Coaches for 25-26 SY. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to hire Roxie Benjamin High School Cross Country Coach, Wendy Bird as Middle School Cross Country Coach and Sally Scott as Volunteer Cross Country Coach, all for 26-27 SY. The motion passed unanimously. Will Scott abstained.

CROSS COUNTRY COACHES

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to hire Cade Ball as Middle School Wrestling Coach for 25-26 SY. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
WRESTLING

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to hire Amber Disney as Volunteer Golf Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER GOLF  
COACH

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Will Scott, to hire Hailee Wang as Volunteer Tennis Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER TENNIS  
COACH

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Reported that the Maximizing Life Program for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade is going well. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter honor roll assembly was on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to school community for making the superintendent candidates feel welcome. It was a positive process. Working on building the 2026-2027 school calendar. Plan to work with Mr. Iverson to see if there is a time that he can come visit again before school is out.

SUPERINTENDENT

Cali O'Hara, District Clerk- Reported the Trustee Elections are now closed. ANB count will be available at the next meeting, the process has changed and has been a little tricky. We will have the annual school audit on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

CLERK

#### Committee Reports-

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation- Will Scott reported that we are still dealing with driver shortages. We have 2 drivers that are looking to retire at the end of the school year. We will need to find more route drivers or will need to look into eliminating the route with the least amount of riders.

TRANSPORTATION

#### Policy –

POLICY

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, approve Notice form 3600-NF(1), Policy 1401, Policy 2161, Policy 2335, Policy 2700, Policy 3110, Policy 3150, Policy 3600, Policy 4550, Policy 5015, Policy 5321, no on option, Procedure 2158-P(1), Procedure 2161-P(1), Procedure 3600-P(1), Policy2600, Policy 3665, Policy 5122. The motion passed unanimously,

#### Resignations- None

RESIGNATIONS

#### Hires-

HIRES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to hire Greg Iverson as Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott, to approve Brian Benjamin and Margart Hawk at Volunteers. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEERS

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to hire Anna Villalobos Dana as Bus Driver. The motion passed unanimously.

BUS DRIVER

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Will Scott, to hire Cameron Zall as Custodian. The motion passed unanimously.

CUSTODIAN

Future Agenda Items-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Policy meeting March 2 @ 7:00pm  
Personnel meeting February 24 @5:30pm  
Extra Curricular meeting March 10 @ 6:..pm  
Superintendent Evaluation

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

ADJOURN

CLERK\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

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