

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 14, 2025

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order January 14, 2025 in the High School Board 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: Patrick Hould, Superintendent; Connie Walker, Assistant Business Manager; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Aaron Jones and Emily Wicks.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright, to approve payment of warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97816-97863

Claims: 62728-62782

Communications to and from the Board - Thank you note from Wade & Arianne Clark & family for the monetary donation due to loss of their house in a fire.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. Aaron Jones had questions regarding cancelling route buses and activity buses. He also asked why there was no eating or drinking on activity trips when the coaches make sure the bus is spotless.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- None

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that it has been a busy month with the Christmas Programs, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band concert, and Julie Robertson came and did Ornament Decorating with the students. The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade had a great time skiing, and the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> are scheduled for later this month. DIBELS and Winter Benchmark testing has started and should be finished up by January 17<sup>th</sup>. The elementary has a new curriculum called "Social Emotional", that will be taught K-6 in the classrooms.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – We have many activity buses going in all directions. FFA, Robotics, Wrestling and Basketball pose a challenge to Paul Benhart, to find drivers for all the trips. Shalayna Clark has resigned from coaching 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Girls BB, and coaches are needed for Boys 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Ball also went over the proposals from MHSA that she will have an opportunity to vote on at the annual meeting. The proposals are attached.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Absent (medical)

MAINTENANCE

Connie Walker, Assistant Business Manager – Reported for Cali in her absence, her report is attached. New Federal mileage rate of \$0.70 for calendar year 2025. The W-2's and 1099 tax forms have all been mailed. Ballots have been certified and will be mailed out January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The report will also be attached to the minutes in the Board Book.

BUSINESS MANAGER

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott to approve the Federal mile reimbursement to \$0.70. The motion passed unanimously.

FEDERAL MILEAGE

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Emergency Handbook, first reading and the second to be at the February Board Meeting. One of the most important items of interest is that it will not be posted on the school website. Members of the Board and administration have been attending various meetings in the community to promote the school levy. His report will also be attached.

SUPERINTENDENT

Committee Reports –  
Scheule a Transportation Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resignations – Nicole Winkler

RESIGNATION

Hires- Dani Lehman, pending background check.

HIRES

Future Agenda Items-  
Day Care Update – Nicole Winkler  
Transportation Committee – 6:00 PM, February 11, 2025  
Second Reading of Emergency Handbook

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURN

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

ATTEST

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_