

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Mandy Wright, Dean Schuler, Brent Hanford, Tyler Starman, and Brant Hasbrouck. Adam Olson and Angel Johnson, absent. A quorum was present.

Also present: Jory Thompson, Superintendent; Roxanne Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Brian Miller, 7 - 12 Principal; Jamie Ball and Ava Nelson, reporter for the River Press.

PLEDGE

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Reported that the superintendent evaluation was mailed to all the trustees. Return to her by January 26th.

BOARD CHAIR

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to approve payment of warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

Payroll: 94536-94606
Claims: 59511- 59570

Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor – Reported that the Elementary project will be completed next week. The power has been switched over to the new system. The schools were deep cleaned over the Christmas break. The Traine boiler supplier and FICO have been working to get all the kinks worked out of the control and monitoring system.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director – Reported that winter sports are underway and things have been going smoothly. The Basketball schedule has been set and they have added a few more dates to the wrestling schedule. The online signup sheet for games / matches has been going well. There have been discussions with other schools about the upcoming middle school wrestling season, it would normally start the last part of

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
REPORT

February, but they are going to push it back a little and see how many schools are interested. Dunham asked the board what their thoughts were about the Little Guy Wrestling and Little Dribbler programs. They are looking into options to see how they can make this work, but he wanted to see what the boards feelings were about offering these programs.

It was moved by Brent Hanford, and seconded by Tyler Starman, to hire Darci Chylik as Winter Cheer coach. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Tyler Starman to hire Shawn Ball as Middle School Wrestling coach. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Kevin Shaw as Head Track coach and Connor McKillop as Assistant Track coach. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Tyler Starman, and seconded by Brent Hanford to hire Skip Ross and Marta Ferguson as High School Golf coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Brent Hanford to hire Susie Woodburn and Miranda Woodhouse as High School Tennis coaches.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Brent Hanford to hire Tom Clark as Middle School Robotics coach. The motion passed unanimously. Joellyn Clark abstained.

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that their enrollment is about the same as it was last year. The Christmas programs went well; it was nice to see the kids get to perform for their families even if it was a little different than normal. They had 3 students that participated in the Shop With the Sheriff program. There is a 2nd grade student teacher this semester, they have just moved to the area from Nebraska. She also stated how nice it was to have some former students, who are pursuing college degrees in education, come and sub during the college break.

Brian Miller, 7-12 Principal – Teacher shout outs; Mrs Meyers is doing a great job in her first year here as the English teacher. She has taken on extra duties as the National Honor Society leader. She has been a great addition to the staff. Mr. Truax has also been a great addition to our teaching staff. He has been a great mentor to Mrs. Wolstad. He started teaching 7th grade science so that Mrs. Wolstad was able to observe another teacher to complete her student teaching. They have had 100% attendance for finals week. Miller presented the ACT data (see attached) he did comment that things have fluctuated in the last few years. Due to several factors, high turnover in principals, an inconsistency in curriculum. They have implemented title classes, dual enrollment classes, and are working with the English teachers to align the program.

HIRES:
WINTER CHEER COACH

MIDDLE SCHOOL
WRESTLING

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

MIDDLE SCHOOL
ROBOTICS

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL REPORT

7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk – Reported that, to date, expenditures are on track with last year's numbers. The state minimum wage was increased to \$8.75 an hour. MTSBA is offering a training on IDEA funding and legal procedures, if anyone is interested in participating to let her know, she found the training was very informational. The school audit was conducted on January 4th, they haven't gotten back to us with the final report but they should be wrapped up this week.

CLERKS REPORT

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Mandy Wright to void state dated checks. The motion passed unanimously

VOID CHECKS

It was move by Brent Hanford, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to adopt the federal mileage rate of \$0.56 for the calendar year 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

FEDERAL MILEAGE CHANGE

Policy committee will schedule a meeting for February 8th at 7:00 pm to review new policies, online class policy, and the superintendent evaluation.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Personnel committee will schedule a meeting for February 1st at 7:00 pm to review new MOE from the teacher's union. There is currently legislation that would remove the CBA from teacher negotiations.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

It was moved by Brent Hanford, seconded by Tyler Starman to hire Nalin Dana and Noelia Little as Substitutes. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW SUBSTITUTE HIRES

Jory Thompson, Superintendent – Reported that coming back to school after the Christmas break has been good. We have been able to avoid many of the COVID-19 attendance issues that other schools are seeing. As of today K-12 there were only 4 students out on quarantine. There is lots going on with the legislature in session and there have been emails from MTSBA on the actions that affect schools. Chouteau County Health Department was at the school today to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to staff, he didn't have an exact count but thinks about 38 employees were vaccinated. Jory feels that we need to keep discussions on the Stay-in-School Plan, as mandates are changing with new governmental leadership. There was lots of discussion to just keep doing what we are doing as we have had only one big wave of students out, so we must be doing something right. And that we should keep our plan in place until after the school year, then re-evaluate, both Mandy Wright and Joellyn Clark expressed feeling the same way. Brent Hanford also thinks that we need to change as allowed, that we need to work towards normal. Jory wants to make sure that our staff and students feel safe at school and that, as much as we want to return to normal, we need to do so in a safe way. We need to make sure that we are keeping the lines of communication open and keep having positive conversations around the ever-changing mandates.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Future Agenda Items – Stay in School Plan and Superintendent Evaluation.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

ATTEST

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

CLERK _____

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS