

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 13, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order June 13, 2023 at 7:02 p.m. in the High School Board Room, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Mandy Wright, Will Scott, Kyla Wright, Darin Arganbright, Dusty Schuler and Brant Hasbrouck. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Jory Thompson, Superintendent; Roxanne Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Jamie Ball, Bethany DeBorde, reporter for the River Press; Paul Benhart, Transportation; Weston Birkland, Shanna Diekhans, Robin Pearson, Will Hucke, Shaylana Clark, Trampus Corder, Staci Corder, Pat Hould, Dawn Nelson, Dave Crowder, Tegan Mortinson, Emily Wicks, Cynthia Lennington, and Nancy LaChapelle.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, seconded by Dusty Schuler to approve the minutes of May 09, 2023 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 96627-96864
Claims: 61472-61557

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. No Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Joellyn ask for discussion around the potential for a co-op with Highwood for girls basketball, this was discussed and voted on at the last board meeting, but board felt that there was more public comment needed, this is why the item is back on the agenda. Dave Bahnmler, Highwood athletic director spoke about the need for a co-op for girls basketball as they currently only have 3 girls interesting in playing next year. Highwood schools has also reached out the Belt school board as well. They are looking at only have 3 to 4 girls to play basketball for the next 3 years. Nathan Dunham, Fort Benton athletic director stated that this co-op would move the girls basketball program to class B, but Fort Benton can petition to stay in class C. Eddie Fultz Girls

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

HIGHWOOD CO-OP

Basketball coach felt that it would only elevate the level of play for our girls to have additional players. Trampus Corder also expressed the same, he felt this would be a positive for our girls players. Brant Hasbrouck expressed concern that it could take away playing time from Fort Benton students who are doing everything to be a Longhorn, they attend our school and are involved in all of our programs, he didn't want the co-op to be taking away opportunities for our students.

It was moved by Darin Arganbright, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to switch the order of agenda items, to allow the Carter board member to be sworn in prior to a vote on the co-op item. The motion passed unanimously.

Joellyn Clark, Board Chair Reported that Jenni Starman has expressed interest in taking the Carter Board member seat. This position did not have any candidates run for election during the regular school election.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Kyla Wright, to appoint Jenni Starman as the new Carter Board member. The motion passed unanimously.

New Carter board member Jenni Starman was sworn in by Clerk Cali O'Hara.

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Will Scott, to approve a co-op with Highwood Schools for girls basketball, pending approval from MHSA, with the contingency that Fort Benton will remain Class C for girls basketball. The motion passed. For – Will Scott, Dusty Schuler, Jenni Starman, Mandy Wright, Kyla Wright, Joellyn Clark, Brant Hasbrouck. Against- Darin Arganbright.

Paul Benhart, Transportation – Paul reported that the new bus has finally arrived, we have been waiting for 2 years to receive this new bus. The school year went well with just a few minor hiccups. There has been some interest in new drivers, with one new hire which Jory will speak to later in the meeting. See attached report with list of drivers, and bus information.

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director – Reported that all spring sports have been wrapped up. State Tennis and State Golf were in Great Falls, there were a few weather delays but all events went well. State Track in Laurel was great as well. Summer gym hours are starting as well as the summer football camp. CPR classes will be taught by Breanna Reichelt, reach out to Connie in the business office if you are interested in attending. Would like to thank everyone for the last 6 years, has enjoyed working at Fort Benton Schools

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Mandy Wright to hire Jace Thompson as the summer weight room supervisor. The motion passed unanimously

CHANGE OF ADGENA
ITEMS

CARTER BOARD
MEMBER

HIGHWOOD CO-OP

TRANSPORTATION

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
REPORT

SUMMER WEIGHT ROOM
SUPERVISOR

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Kyla Wright, to hire Miranda Woodhouse and Emily Engen as Middle School Tennis. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Darin Arganbright, to hire Jamie Ball and Peggy Gannon as Middle School Volleyball. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACHES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott to hire Dan Wirth as Middle School Football Coach. The motion passes unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Will Scott, to hire Kevin Shaw, Jamie Ball and Conner McKillop as High School Track Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK COACHES

It was moved Mandy Wright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Miranda Woodhouse and Emily Engen as High School Tennis coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES

Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor- Reported that he would like to thank you to the cleaning staff for the hard that they have started with the deep clean of the school this summer. Thank you to the city crew for blading the road behind the school before graduation. One of the boilers have been removed the install of the new boilers is scheduled for Aug.1. The kitchen improvements should be completed at the end of July. All of the flooring projects are now complete.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that it was a great end to a busy year. It was ad to see so many of the staff leaving, but they are on the look out for new paras. May is always a super busy month at the elementary. High Trust training will be completed this week. The theme for the elementary this year is Sky is the Limit. See attached report

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Jory Thompson, Superintendent – Reported that the booster banquet went well and was well attended. Graduation also went well, but was very hot. Currently working on hiring staff for next year. A thank you to Roxie for all her connections and assistance in hiring teachers. This is the last meeting with Jory as the superintendent. There was also a CCJS meeting today, Pat Hould and Corey Clark will be the new directors. All of the current providers have returned.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to approve the 2nd reading of handbooks, with recommended changes. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS

Cali O’Hara, Business Manager/Clerk- Reported that the high school budget is currently in the red and that they will have to borrow from the inter local fund to complete the rest of the year. They will really have to watch the budget next year with the cost of everything increasing, where the budgets did not receive much of an increase, as well as that we are headed into the next year with no reserves in the high school general fund.

CLERK REPORT

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Darin Arganbright to void year old warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

VOID YEAR OLD
WARRENTS

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Mandy Wright to void year old warrants, from FBAS. The motion passed unanimously.

VOID YEAROLD
WARENTS FROM FBAS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright to accept the bid from Twin Hill Colony for \$20,105 for the small buss. The motion passed unanimously.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to approve individual transportation contracts. The motion passed unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL
TRANSPORATION
CONTRACTS

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Mandy Wright to approve the transfer of up to \$100k to the inter local fund. The motion passed unanimously.

INTERLOCAL TRANSFER

Committees -

Buildings and Grounds – Met with Bob Nutt and discussed his research on teacher housing, this is an issue that is affecting other small schools around us so he has been looking into options for Highwood, and he was willing to share the knowledge with our board. This is something that we will need to keep looking at to ensure that we are able to find housing for our teachers.

COMMITTEES

Policy- meeting June @0th @6:00 pm

Resignations- Cassidy Guiannine

RESIGNATIONS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright, to approve Wendy Krovoza as Middle School Janitor The motion passed unanimously

HIRES:
JANITORAL

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Shayanne Clark as Assistance cook. The motion passes

ASSISTANT COOK

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott to hire Thad Kaiser as Bus Driver. The motion passes

BUS DRIVER

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Will Scott, hire Jenna Botts and Katie James as Elementary Para Professionals. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY PARA PROFESSIONALS

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Emily Nishakawa as High School Science Teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Mark Gunkle as part time math/dean of students/AD. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL PART TIME MATH/ DEAN OF STUDENTS/AD

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Kyla Wright to hire Carlotta McGarvey as Online dual credit para professional. The motion passed unanimously.

ONLINE PARA PROFESSIONAL

Future Agenda items:
School Foundation
School Garage Sale
Early Kindergarten

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Kyla Wright, and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON_____

ATTEST

CLERK_____