BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2026

Jenni Starman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order June 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Jenni Starman, Kyla Wright (via phone), Will Scott, Kayle Axtman, Darin Arganbright 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; Russ Axtman, Head Custodian; Paul Benhart, Transportation;

PLEDGE

Jenni Starman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026, regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

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

Payroll: 98836-99074
Claims: 63794-63852

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jenni Starman asked for public comment. None.

COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM THE BOARD

Communications to and from the Board: Thank you letter from Randy Durr, he is retiring from Harlowtown. Would like to thank Fort Benton for all the great years at our district.

TRANSPORTATION

Paul Benhart, Transportation – Reported big thank you to all the drivers for a great year. Thank you to our retiring drivers Jim O'Hara, Vicki O'Hara and Wes Skerritt for their many years of route and activity driving. They will be missed. Thank you to Karie Thomas for staying on as a route driver. The exterior cameras and door fob have been installed. Receiving the last few bids for the bus cameras. Will need to add information for student/parents about bus cameras when they are installed.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported by Pat: Golf: The boys and girls worked through some changing schedules and poor weather during divisionals. The top 3 teams and 20 golfers move on to state. The boys finished their season in Wolf Point at divisionals. There was a lot of growth gained this season. The girls placed third as a team and all placed in the top 20. Amaris was 8th, State was held in Billings. The girls represented us well. They all improved their scores from Day 1 to

Day 2. We look forward to continued growth next year! Tennis: Boys and Girls Divisionals were held in Great Falls The girls finished as Divisional Team Champions with Zoe and Alexis earning the Doubles Divisional Championship. Moving onto state in Missoula, the Longhorns came to play. Alexis and Zoe earned the State Doubles Championship and helped lead the girls to a second place state team trophy. For the boys, Brooks and Kooper placed 4th in doubles and John and Kelton placed 5th in doubles. It was a great year and we are already excited for the next! Track: District Track was in Great Falls. We had 10 girls and 15 boys able to compete. They all did a tremendous job. The ladies earned a second place trophy as a team. Divisionals took place in Glasgow this year. Ten boys and 9 girls competed at this round. We moved 8 boys and 7 girls on to compete at the state meet in Missoula. Ally placed 2nd in the 100, 2nd in the 200, and 4th in the long jump. Ally, Emmery, Etta, and Lilly ran to a State Championship in the 4x100 relay. Lilly, Brooklyn, Emmery, and Etta ran to a 4th place finish in the 4x400. Summer plans: Tennis camp (K-8) (June 8-10), Hoop camp (1st-8th) (June 22-24), and Football camp (1st-5th) (June 29-July 1) Open gyms .We are currently running our open gym schedule for the high school. It is set for 6-8pm every night, Monday through Thursday. Girls basketball is Monday, volleyball is Tuesday, football is Wednesday, and boys basketball is Thursday. There is also open weight room for the students during this time as well.
We have been able to find coaches and staff members to staff a time for middle school girls basketball on Monday from 5-6 and middle school boys basketball Tuesdays from 5-6. Gym use: I will be sending out the reminder letters to our users that we are coming to the end of the access period and that renewal can begin to happen for the upcoming usage year.

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It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to hire Shannon Grossman as Middle School Volleyball coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott, to hire Josh Kassmier and Wendell Clewien as Middle School Football coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to hire Rheanna Fultz as Middle School Girls Basketball coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to hire Katee Guderjahn as Fall Cheer coach. The motion passed unanimously.

FALL CHEER COACH

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to hire Miranda Lynch and Deanna Farwick as High School Tennis coaches. The motion passed unanimously

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Miranda Lynch and Deanna Farwick as Middle School Tennis coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TENNIS COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to hire Dave Rominger and Justin Cartright as High School Golf coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Jamie Ball, Damon Gilbreth and Wendall Clewien as High School track coaches. The motion passes unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK COACHES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Brooke Cunningham and Ethan Cunningham as FFA Advisors. The motion passed unanimously.

FFA ADVISORS

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Dusty Schuler to approve Keegen Sylverd. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN GYM

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to hire Damon Gilbreth as Fall & Winter Host. The motion passed unanimously.

FALL/WINTER HOST

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Reported: Thank you to Brant Hasbrouck for all his years of service to the school district for the last 19 years. Thank you to the city of Fort Benton for paving the street behind the football field. The summer help is working hard to get the classrooms cleaned and ready for next year. The plumbing project at the elementary has restarted. The building and grounds committee need to meet to discuss the roof over the primary wing of the elementary school.

MAINTENANCE

Cali O'Hara, District Clerk- Reported that budget is on track to finish out the remainder of the school year. Working to get all the claims entered for the rest of the fiscal year. There were no bids on the press, so will rerun ad in paper.

BUSINESS MANAGER

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to approve voiding year old FBAS warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

YEAR OLD FBAS WARRANTS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott to approve voiding year old warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

YEAR OLD WARRANTS

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Kayle Atman to approve individual transportation contracts on the Carter route. The motion passed unanimously. Jenni Starman abstained.

INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Darin Arganbright to approve individual transportation contracts on the Pleasant Valley route. The motion passed unanimously. Dusty Schuler abstained.

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Axtman to approve obsolete property of FCC educational licenses call sign (WNC79). The motion passed unanimously.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

SUPERINTENDENT

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Reported that graduation was a nice event. There is a community member that would like to upgrade the sign in the front of the school, Carley is looking into options for that. She is also looking into the cost of a new bell system. See attached report

CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott to approve 2 student requests for early graduation. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports-

POLICY

Policy- 1st reading of handbooks. 1st reading of updated gym use policy, the hours of use have been changed.

PERSONNEL

Personnel – Will Scott reported that the Classified Union has agreed to the MOU for the janitorial bonus.

RESIGNATIONS

Resignations – Jim O'Hara, Vicky O'Hara and Mandy Lewis

HIRES

Hires –

SCIENCE TEACHER

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Rob Truax as science teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

SUMMER CLEANING HELP

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Corey Walker, Kistia Golie, Mandy Lewis, Lin Dana, and Sarah Smith as summer custodians. The motion passed unanimously.

BUS ROUTE DRIVERS

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to hire Larry Garlick as a route driver. The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future Agenta Items –

Policy meeting July 2nd @ 6:30pm
Extracurricular meeting July 14th @ 6:00pm
Transportation meeting July 14th @ 5:45pm
Building and Grounds meeting June 16th @ 7pm

ADJOURN

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

ATTEST

CLERK_____

BOARD CHAIRPERSON_____