

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 23, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order June 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library, by Joellyn Clark, Chairman.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Dean Schuler, Brant Hasbrouck, Mandy Wright, Brent Hanford, Tyler Starman, and Angel Johnson. Members absent: Adam Olson. 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, Kalyn Fairbanks, Justin Roudebush and Bethany DeBorde, reporter for the River Press(Via Phone).

ROLL CALL

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment on non-agenda items, Justin Roudebush- Board chairman for Geraldine Public Schools, came to ask the board if they would again be interested in renewing the agreement to allow Geraldine middle school students athletes to join Fort Benton Middle School athletics. Justin said that it was a very positive experience for their students, Nathan Dunham- Fort Benton Athletic Director, also stated that it was a great experience as well. The board will review the agreement at the next board meeting.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Angel Johnson to approve the minutes of the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular meeting, pending 2 corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Angel Johnson to approve payment of warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: 93938-94102

Claims: 58994-59127

MINUTES

WARRANTS

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director-Reported that sports schedules are posted on the website for the 2020-2021 year. Open gym has started they are following the guidelines set forth by the County Health Department. Still looking for an Assistant Middle School Football coach, High School Assistant Volleyball coach, Middle School Girls Basketball, High School Head Wrestling coach.

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Brent Hanford, to hire Skip Ross as Assistant High School Football coach. The motion passes unanimously.

It was moved by Tyler Starman, and seconded by Brent Hanford, hire Monte Geise as Head Middle School Football coach. The motion passed unanimously.

Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor – Reported that they have been busy completing a variety of small jobs. He thanked the summer crew for doing an outstanding job of getting things completed in a timely manner. They are still completing deep cleaning both schools. The asbestos abatement has been completed and the air quality results have been returned as satisfactory. The flooring project in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade room as been started. Have gotten 2 bids from Central Plumbing and from Loenbro Plumbing, Heating and Electrical. Gary Morris recommendation was to move forward with Loenbro. Brant wanted to thank Russ for all the hard work he has put into making sure this project goes as smooth as possible. Project completion is slated for November 1.

Brian Miller, 7-12 Principal- Reported that graduation was great, Thanks to Russ for all the hard work of setting up and for assisting with the ceremony. There was a school survey of students on how they felt distance learning when. They are looking into ideas on how to better track student attendance if we were to go back to distance learning. The theme for next year is “Make it Count”.

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal – Reported that the Teacher parade was a hit, they all enjoyed seeing the kids. Preschool looks to have about 14 students in each class, they will need an aid to assist. We seem to be attracting students from out of the district as we are the only ones that

provide a Pre School, the students that come from out of district seem to be staying when they enroll in Elementary school. They are looking at having a Warm Up back to school for title students, would be 2 weeks before the start of school, 2 hours a day M-Th. They have reached out to the health department for guidelines. Will hire additional Aids for Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, RTI and Special Education based on current enrollment numbers.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR  
REPORT

ASSISTANT HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL  
COACH

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL COACH

MAINTENANCE REPORT

## 7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

## ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk- Reported that they will close the books June 30<sup>th</sup> for the year end. Funds are sitting at the same levels that they were last year, the district will enter the new year with full reserves in funds. Steve has stopped in to provide additional training and to assist with the yearend closure. Will need approval of the board to transfer between \$150,000 to \$200,000 to the Multi district fund. Obsolete property of a Skutt electric kiln with a minimum bid of \$500. The Montanan School board association will have their annual meetings in October in Missoula, all board members are encouraged to attend, just let Cali or Connie know as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

It was moved by Brent Hanford and seconded by Mandy Wright to accept bids on the Skutt Electric Kiln with a minimum bid of \$500. The motion passes unanimously.

It was moved by Dean Schuler and seconded by Mandy Wright to allow the Business Manager/ Clerk to transfer between \$150,000 to \$200,000 to the Multi District fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Jory Thompson, Superintendent- Reported that graduation was indeed a success, many commented on how nice it was to have the ceremony broadcast so they were able to listen. The teacher parade was a great ended

to a strange year. It was nice to see all the kids again. The summer food program has seen lower numbers than previous months. He wanted to thank the ladies that are continuing to keep this program going. Jory presented the 2020-2021 Handbooks for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

It was moved by Angel Johnson and seconded by Tyler Starman to increase Brian Miller's Salary by \$1000. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Brent Hanford to increase Roxie Benjamin's salary by \$3000. Angel Johnson opposed. The motion passed.

It was moved by Dean Schuler and seconded by Brent Hanford to accept the bid from Loenbro for the Elementary Boiler project. The motion passed.

It was moved by Brent Hanford and seconded by Tyler Starman, to accept the ratified Non-Certified CBA for classified staff. The motion passed.

Resignations- Jory accepted the resignation of Selena Spees, HS art teacher.

It was moved by Dean Schuler and seconded by Angel Johnson to hire Amy Gessaman 7-12 art teacher. The motion passed

HIRE GUESSAMAN- ART TEACHER

CLERKS REPORT

It was moved by Brent Hanford and seconded by Mandy Wright to hire Mindy Evans as part-time RTI teacher. The motion passed.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Future Agenda Items- Geraldine Middle School sports agreement. 2nd Reading of Handbooks

TRANSFER TO MULIT DISTRICT FUND

It was moved by Dean Schuler and seconded by Bent Hanford to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

PRINCIPAL SALARIES

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

RESIGNATIONS

HIRE MINDY EVANS – PART TIME TEACHER

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

ATTEST