

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2025

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order March 11, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

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

ROLL CALL

Also present: Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Paul Benhart; Transportation Supervisor, Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Nick Bogart.

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 the February 18, 2025 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97937-97990
Claims: 62852-62888

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. Nick Bogart wanted to know why the 7th graders would not be allowed to play in the pep band for the state tournament. Why would we discourage students from participating, when we already have low numbers. Pat Hould replied that per MHSA rules we could only allow the 8th graders to travel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Communications to and from the Board- Thank you note from the family of Helen O'Hara, mother of Jim O'Hara.

COMMUNICATIONS TO
AND FROM THE BOARD

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Reported that we need to change the time of the May meeting due to a conflict with the end of the year Booster Club awards dinner. Meeting time is changed to 4:00pm, May 13. Meeting will still take place in the board room.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that they had a great February Assembly. The High School band came to play at the assembly. They are at the end of the 2nd trimester, and they have conducted pre-school screening. Parent-Teacher Conferences are this week and have been going well. There has been good traffic at

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

conferences this spring. The Spelling Bee was a success, thank you to Rick Cook for putting this on. MAST testing results will be coming back soon, so that is exciting, CCPA concert is March 18th. Missoula Children's Theater will be the Snow Queen and Anna Arganbright will be assisting with this production. There will be an Elementary school Parent Team interest meeting April 19th at 6pm in the Elementary Auditorium. The Senior Citizen lunch will be May 1st at 1:00pm.

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Thank you to the City Crew for all the help with the snow removal and for the help with the pole vault pit. Thank you to Larry and Dani for all their hard work this month; the schools are looking good. Will start track prep next week, rolling the track and getting it ready for track. Tennis nets will go up next week, as well as the golf net. CCPA concert is March 18th, Longhorn Day is May 1, helping student council get this organized. The air intake at the elementary school is mostly complete, they will hook up the controls next week. The Varsity locker rooms now have sinks and urinals installed, hope to complete this project in the next few weeks. The ads for the elementary school sewer project and high school electrical project will go in the paper this week.

MAINTENANCE

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director- Reported Girls Basketball season has concluded the girls made it to Divisionals and competed well. Boys Basketball got 2nd at Divisional and will be headed to state on Thursday in Butte. They will play Bridger in the first round. Middle School Wrestling is underway. 5/6 Basketball has begun, they had their first game last Saturday in Chester. Spring sports started Monday. Thank you to Russ for helping to get everything ready to go. Track has 16 girls and 17 boys, Tennis has 12 girls and 6 boys, Golf has 6 girls and 7 boys. Good numbers for our spring sports. We are still in need of some middle school track coaches.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Marta Ferguson Volunteer Golf Coach. The motion passed unanimously. Jenni Starman abstained.

VOLUNTEER GOLF
COACH

Cali O'Hara, Clerk- Report that at the end of the 2nd quarter the budget is doing ok. The preliminary budget data has come out, this is pre-session so is subject to change. Also, the trustee election will be May 6th, the last day to file is March 27th. Notice of Non-Voted Levies will go in the paper next week. We will have some obsolete property for the next meeting.

CLERK

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Reported that the calendar committee, which has certified and classified staff members, met and they came up with 2 calendar options which the staff was asked to vote on last week. The votes came in and option 2 won. The accreditation has been completed. Students are excited about the new award “Be the Bridge”, looking at ways to honor the students more than just at an assembly. They have visited with National Honor Society and Student Council about award ideas. Teacher appraisals in the Middle/High school have been completed. Will move forward with contract renewals in April. There is no school on March 21. The Emergent 3 app training will be held next week. The training will include secretaries

SUPERINTENDENT

and admin staff. Excited to announce that we are going to host a local job fair for juniors and seniors. We will host local businesses in the high school gym, working to showcase local job opportunities.

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright to accept calendar option 2, School start and end dates of August 27-May 29. The motion passed unanimously.

2025-2026 SCHOOL
CALENDAR

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Kayle Axtman to join the Golden Triangle CO-OP for FY2026. The motion passed unanimously.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE
MEMBERSHIP

Committee Reports –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds – Brant reported that Ads for bids have been put into The Tribune on March 16. There will be a walk-through of the school buildings on March 28, and will open bids April 4th. There will be a buildings and grounds meeting at 3:30pm to review bids on April 4th. They are working to put together a long-range plan committee.

BUILDINGS AND
GROUNDS

Personnel – Need to start negotiations with the classified staff. Personnel committee meeting April 8th at 6pm.

PERSONNEL

Resignations – Jeff Kloetzer and Emily Nishikawa

RESIGNATIONS

Hires-

HIRES

It was moved by Kayle Axman and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Jamie Ball as High School/Middle School P.E. Teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE
SCHOOL PE TEACHER

It was moved by Kayle Axman and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Emily Wicks as Substitute Teacher. The motion passed unanimously

SUBSTITUTE

CLOSED SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT NEGOTIATIONS

CLOSED SESSION

Future Agenda Items-

Buildings and Grounds- March 28th walk through, Bid meeting April 4 @3:30pm

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Personnel – Meeting April 8th at 6pm

It was moved by Jenni Starman, and seconded by Will Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____