

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 10, 2026

Jenni Starman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order March 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Jenni Starman, Brant Hasbrouck, Kyla Wright, 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; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Wendy Kamm, Cindy Lenington, Emily Wicks, Robin Wood, Landon Good, Amber Disney, Kelly Benhart, Shannon Grossman, Emma Grossman, Brenda Chinadle

ROLL CALL

Jenni Starman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Will Scott, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026, regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 98657-98707  
Claims: 63607-63655

Jenni Starman asked for public comment. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Communications to and from the Board. Thank you note from Mollee Gemar.

COMMUNICATIONS TO  
AND FROM THE BOARD

Jenni Starman, Board Chair- Landon Good presented a proposal for the overnight senior trip.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to allow the Seniors to take an overnight senior trip. The motion passed unanimously.

SENIOR TRIP

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that Parent-Teacher Conferences are this week. Thank you to all the families that have brought in food to feed our teachers during this week. Cooking with Kids continues, first assembly in a while where we honored kindergarten kids with AR points, Montana Farmers Union visited with a fun activity. The County Spelling Bee was last week, Ali Bronec was a champion speller.

ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL

Testing is in process both MAST and NAEP. Preschool screening will be April 17<sup>th</sup>. See attached.

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Reported big thank you to Jordan for all the extra work with the events at the high school. Larry is back at the elementary filling in while Dani is on maternity leave. Thank you to Mark Smith, Sarah Smith and Lin Dana for stepping up to help out with the cleaning, as well as all the teachers and elementary staff for stepping up and helping during this time. Starting outside spring work, getting spring sports equipment set up. Heating in buildings is going okay, there was a small leak on the elementary school boilers in February. Working on having a tree removed at the elementary school after the wind storm.

MAINTENANCE

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director- Reported High School Wrestling Boys Class B took 7<sup>th</sup> place, 6 boys competed - 3 placed. Girls are Class B Champions, 9 competed - 3 placed. Middle School Wrestling 3 weeks of competition with 4 weeks left. 8 boys and 4 girls. Little Guy Wrestling had their tournament, thank you to Kayle and Russ for assisting. High School Boys Basketball - 3<sup>rd</sup> at districts, Girls Basketball - 3<sup>rd</sup> at districts. Both teams moved on to the divisional tournament. Elementary Basketball -first jamboree last weekend in Fort Benton. Thank you to Damon Gilbreth and all the volunteers who helped with this event. Spring sports will start on Monday, weather dependent, schedules are up for spring sports. Next year's schedules are almost complete.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to hire Roxie Benjamin and Jenna Botts as Middle School Track Coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK COACHES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright, to hire Kevin Shaw as Volunteer High School Track Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER TRACK COACH

Cali O'Hara, District Clerk- Reported that budget is on track for this time of the year. Preliminary budget data sheets are available and the new budget season will begin. The bills have been slower to come in this month with the meeting being a little earlier this month.

CLERK

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to allow clerk to pay claims through end of month. The motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS TO END OF MONTH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to approve Non-Voted Levies. The motion passed unanimously.

NON-VOTED LEVIES

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Reported that teachers have voted on the new school calendar, see attached. Parent-Teacher Conferences are this week. Nice to see parents coming in to visit with teachers. This has been a very busy month with all the tournaments, so thank you for all the support. MAP testing results for this school year will be available soon, so we

SUPERINTENDENT

should be able to look at the academic growth of our students, will share that information when it is available.

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Kyla Wright, to approve school calendar for school year 2026-2027. The motion passed unanimously

Committee Reports-

Extra-Curricular – Kyla Wright reported that they have visited with tennis coaches Miranda Lynch and Deanna Farwick about the possibility of moving 8<sup>th</sup> graders up to spring sports. They will have another meeting to further discuss this item, March 16 at 7pm.

Personnel – Will Scott reported that they are still working through the negotiation process with the teachers. They will meet again March 16 at 6pm

Policy- Dusty Schuler reported 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Policy 2335:Health Enhancement Curriculum and Related Issues, option 1.

Resignations- Wes Skerritt and Marvin Brodock

Hires- None

CLOSED SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Future Agenda Items-

Personnel meeting March 16 @6:00pm  
Extra Curricular meeting March 16 @ 7:00pm  
Transportation meeting April 14 @ 6:00pm

2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Policy

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

CLERK\_\_\_\_\_

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

SCHOOL CALENDER

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXTRA CURRICULAR

PERSONNEL

POLICY

RESIGNATIONS

HIRES.

CLOSED SESSION

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

ATTEST