BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 8, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order March 8, 2022 at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Room, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Mandy Wright, Brent Hanford, Tyler Starman, Dean Schuler, and Adam Olson. A quorum was present.

Also present: Jory Thompson, Superintendent; Roxanne Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Paul Benhart, Transportation Supervisor; Bethany DeBorde- Reporter for River Press, Robyn Dickerson, Carly Weber, Aspen Bogart, Eva Clark, Jacob Dickerson.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- Reported that they have received a letter from Harry Buckingham for the negations for the classified staff.

It was moved by Brent Hanford, and seconded by Tyler Starman, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PLEDGE

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

Payroll: 95589-95646
Claims: 60418-60487

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD CHAIR

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Student Council students, Ava Clark, Aspen Bogart, Carly Weber, Jacob Dickerson, presented the attached report. Roxie would like to than Dawn Dunham to putting together the 5/6 ski trip - they had a fantastic time. They are working towards selecting a new math curriculum. They have had several interviews and would recommend hiring Molly Willson for the ½ time library position, Mindy Evans for the 3rd grade, and they are still looking for a preschool teacher. There was a letter sent out to SpEd and title students about a summer school program, to assist the learning loss incurred during the COVID break. Parent-Teacher Conferences will begin next week. They will be holding the High Trust training again this summer.

MINUTES

WARRANTS

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Reported that the heating issue in the elementary is being fixed. The sewer in the elementary backed up causing pipes to leak on the new boiler system. The sewer system has been flushed and FICL will be here next week to install the boiler parts. The second phase of the thermostats is nearly complete, they have been hard wired

Jory Thompson, HS/MS report – Reported that the RAMP program has been well received by the students. Krystal and Tanara have been having good conversations with the students. Thank you to Jolene and Amy for their help with the Civil Rights data collection process. Things have been busy and going well in the schools. See attached report.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

to the rooms. Last year they tried to use the wireless system but were having trouble getting the individual thermostats in classrooms to respond to the main system. A list of summer projects is being developed. This week spring sports will start so getting the track ready. The kitchen update is coming along, will meet with the structural engineer Friday and then will be about 1 week away from the bid process.

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director– Reported that the Wrestling team finished the season with a 2nd place state trophy. Congratulations to Coach Cline and Coach Jones. The Girls Basketball team ended their season with 4th at Divisional. Congratulations to Coach Fultz and Coach Wellman. FFA participated in the meet at Conrad this week. The Longhorns in Theater play will be April 11th and 12th. The east coast trip leaves next week. FFA CDE and state will take place at the end of March. Middle School state wrestling will be this week. 5/6 basketball has started and they had their first games last week. Spring Sports season starts next Monday. There are 15 students out for tennis, 15 students for golf, and 30 for track.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Tyler Starman, to approve Tom Clark as Robotics coach. Motion passed unanimously. Joellyn Clark abstained.

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager – Reported that the general fund budget for the current school year is sitting about the same level as last year. The school election is rapidly approaching. The non-voted levies will be published in the paper, see attached report. The preliminary budgets from OPI have been published and there is room to increase the elementary budget with a voted levy if the board choose to do so.

It was moved by Brent Hanford, and seconded by Adam Olson, to run a general fund levy in the Fort Benton Elementary school district for $58,200.92. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports –

Personnel Committee- Mandy Wright reported that they are now ready to meet again with the teachers and they will meet with the classified staff as well. They are still working on the clerk evaluation. Next meeting will be March 15 @ 7 p.m.

Transportation meeting- Adam Olson reported that they are looking to purchase a new route bus and it will be a Thomas bus. They are still waiting for the parts on the new traveler to be installed.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS REPORT

HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS

CLERKS REPORT

GENERAL FUND LEVY

7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds – Brent Hanford reported that they met and discussed with Russ that the best thing would be to hard wire the thermostats which will, hopefully, resolve some of the heating issues. They are waiting for the engineers to finish on the kitchen and then they will go to the bid process.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to hire Mindy Evans as 3rd grade teacher. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mandy Wright and seconded by Brent Hanford, to hire Molly Willson for ½ time librarian. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Brent Hanford, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to hire Angela Hucke as a substitute teacher. Motion passed unanimously.

Future agenda items- Personnel meetings, Teacher Contract renewals

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON_____

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CLERK_____

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HIRES

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

ATTEST