

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order May 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room by Joellyn Clark, Board Chairperson.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Eldon Pfile, Brant Hasbrouck, Greg McGinnis, Mandy Wright. Members absent: Dean Schuler, Adam Olson, and Darin Arganbright. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Steve Hamel, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Brian Wood, Transportation Supervisor; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Jamie Ball, Eldon Pfile, Corrine Davis, and Bethany DeBorde, reporter for the River Press.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

Joellyn Clark and Eldon Pfile were sworn in as Trustees by Steve Hamel, Notary for State of Montana.

TRUSTEES SWORN IN

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Mandy Wright to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

It was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve payment of warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

Payroll: 92919 - 93002  
Claims: 57943 - 58080

Joellyn Clark asked if there was public comment on an issue not included on the agenda. There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND  
COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Clark read letters of resignation from Amy Jaques, Javen Christensen, and Ray Allen. The Board thanked and commended Mr. Allen for his years of service to the school district. Mrs. Clark also informed the Board that the 2017-18 audit report had been completed and was available for review in the Business Office.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT  
ON RESIGNATIONS AND  
AUDIT

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Mandy Wright to nominate Joellyn Clark for Board Chairperson. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

CLARK VOTED AS  
BOARD CHAIR

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to nominate Darin Arganbright as Board Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

ARGANBRIGHT VOTED  
AS BOARD VICE-CHAIR

It was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to nominate Steve Hamel as Board Clerk. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

HAMEL HIRED AS CLERK

Joelilyn Clark appointed Eldon Pfile to chair the Personnel Committee and also serve on the Extracurricular and Transportation Committees. All other committee assignments stayed the same.

COMMITTEE  
ASSIGNMENTS

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Greg McGinnis, to renew membership in the Montana High School Association for the 2019-20 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

MHSA RENEWED FOR  
2019-20

Brian Miller, 7-12 Principal, led discussions on considering changing the GPA calculation to weigh more for “higher” level classes like Advanced Placement and chemistry for example. Mr. Miller and the Board also discussed the pros and cons of block scheduling and a 4-day school week.

7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Russ Axtman reported on the summer maintenance projects. On Mr. Axtman’s recommendation it was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve Katelyn Bird, Hallie Lowe, Cassie Nack, and Jace Thompson as summer maintenance workers. The motion passed unanimously.

MAINTENANCE,  
SUMMER MAINTENANCE  
HIRES

Steve Hamel presented and discussed the monthly and quarterly financial reports.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Hamel reminded the Board that a late-June meeting would be needed so the Board could approve transfer amounts to the Multi-District fund and the Transportation fund. He reported that those numbers wouldn’t be available till late June. It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to change the June meeting to Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.

JUNE BOARD MEETING  
CHANGED

It was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Joelilyn Clark, to declare a John Deere F932 mower and a used milk cooler as obsolete for school purposes and to sell the items should no member of the public oppose the above designation. The mower will require a minimum bid of \$1,200. The motion passed unanimously.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Thompson reported on enrollment and attendance numbers, pre-school screening, the benefits and process for starting an early Kindergarten program, ag days, testing, and teacher fairs and recruiting.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Mr. Thompson reported that 2 calendar options had been presented to the staff for their vote, the option that had most votes had a later school starting and ending date than in the past. It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Eldon Pfile, to adopt the calendar that started school on August 27, 2019 and ends on May 29, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

2019-20 CALENDAR SET

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to rehire the following classified staff for 2019-20:

2019-20 CLASSIFIED  
STAFF HIRED

|                 |                  |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Roxie Allen     | Russ Axtman      | Lynn Cook        |
| Eleanor Bowers  | Sue Brodock      | Harry Buckingham |
| Jolene Danbrook | Dawn Dunham      | Mindy Evans      |
| Peggy Gannon    | Myrlinda Gray    | Amy Hanson       |
| Larry McGarvey  | Vicky O'Hara     | Tim Roberts      |
| Tabitha Roth    | Marjorie Schuler | Wes Skerritt     |
| Mark Smith      | Sarah Smith      | Esme Teeters     |
| Angela Thomas   | Connie Walker    | Scotti Wood      |

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Eldon Pfile, to approve the proposed negotiated agreement with the teacher's union for a 2 year contract which agreement includes: a 2% increase on the base for 2019-20 and a 1.5% increase for 2020-21, increasing the district share of health insurance by \$17 per month each year, awarding teachers on the advanced ed committee an additional paid personal day per year, creating 3 paid robotics coaching positions and 1 field trip position, and requiring teaching staff to be in the buildings at 7:50 am until 4:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

TEACHER NEGOTIATED  
AGREEMENT APPROVED

Joellyn Clark reported that the Policy Committee had met and approved all the policy changes submitted by the Montana School Boards Association. There was also discussion regarding the disposition of unused senior class funds, the question arose if this issue should be address in the handbook and not policy. This reporting acts as approval on first reading, second reading will occur at the June meeting.

POLICY CHANGES  
APPROVED ON 1<sup>ST</sup>  
READING

The Board acted on the following hiring recommendations made by Superintendent Thompson:

HIRING

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Eldon Pfile, to hire Rosemary Koch and Donna Arganbright as substitute teachers. The motion passed unanimously.

KOCH AND  
ARGANBRIGHT AS SUBS

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to hire Robert Truax as a Tech Assistant for the 2019-20 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

TRUAX AS TECH  
ASSISTANT

It was moved by Greg McGinnis, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to hire Andrew Kilpatrick as Music Teacher for the 2019-20 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

KILPATRICK AS MUSIC  
TEACHER

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Eldon Pfile to hire Justin Cartwright as Elementary Special Education Teacher for the 2019-20 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

CARTWRIGHT AS  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
TEACHER

It was moved by Eldon Pfile, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to hire Marjorie Schuler as an elementary teacher aide for the remainder of the 2018-19 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHULER HIRED AS 18-19 AIDE

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Eldon Pfile, to hire Micah Barton as a part-time elementary aide for the 2019-20 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

MICAH BARTON HIRED AS ELEMENTARY AIDE AND HIGH SCHOOL DRIVERS EDUCATION TEACHER

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to hire Micah Barton as the High School Drivers Education teacher for the 2019-20 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Future agenda items: 4-day school week, weighted GPA, block scheduling, and policy 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Eldon Pfile, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

ADJOURN

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

ATTEST

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_