

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2024

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order May 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

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

ROLL CALL

Also present: Pat Hould, Superintendent; Connie Walker, Assistant Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for the River Press; Paul Benhart, Transportation; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director.

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 April 9, 2024 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97307 - 97469
Claims: 62208 - 62286

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kayle Axtman District #1 was sworn in as Trustee by Joellyn Clark, Board Chairperson.

SWEARING IN OF NEW
BOARD MEMBER

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, and seconded by Dusty Schuler to retain both Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson the same as last year. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

CLARK VOTED AS
BOARD CHAIR AND
ARGANBRIGHT VICE-
CHAIR

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck, and seconded by Jenni Starman to nominate Cali O'Hara as Board Clerk. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

O'HARA VOTED AS
CLERK

The committee assignments will remain the same as they were last year.

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal-Reported that she is using the OPI approved screening tests for pre-school. The Senior Citizen/Grandparent Luncheon was a great success. Testing is complete and the last couple of weeks are very busy. Please see the attached report.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Would like to thank Larry and Corey for all their hard work. Currently looking at all the summer projects. Rooms at both buildings will be cleaned. At the elementary we are going to move some classrooms around. The plan is to move all the classrooms that are currently on the second floor to the main floor.

MAINTENANCE

Track and Field will be held next Tuesday and graduation on Sunday. Watching the weather to determine if the ceremony will be outdoors or indoors.

Monte & Jeanna Giese along with Joellyn Clark have bought new record boards and brought them up to date. The boards will be in place by the beginning of the next school year.

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported that all spring sports are now in full swing. The weather has been a little challenging. On April 22, Joellyn Clark and Megan Lords accompanied Jamie Ball to Helena at MHSA, to petition not being moved to Class B. They all felt that this was only a formality as the MHSA Board seemed to have already pre-determined Fort Benton be moved up to Class B. To clarify for the 2024-2025 school year we will be Class C, and then for the 2025-2026 year we will be Class B. There was also discussion of adding boy's tennis again with minimal cost to operate the program.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to hire Roxie Benjamin as head coach for cross-country, Jenna Botts assistant coach, and Sally Scott and Jessica Hanford as volunteer coaches. The motion passed unanimously with Will Scott abstaining.

CROSS-COUNTRY
COACHES

We need to advertise for a Speech/Drama Coach, Cheer Coach, and Weight Room Supervisor. It was discussed having a weight room supervisor for the entire year, not just for summer months.

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Dusty Schuler to add Boys Tennis. The motion passed all in favor except Darin Arganbright who opposed.

BOYS TENNIS ADDED

It was moved by Kyla Wright, and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to renew membership in the Montana High School Association for the 2024-2025 school year, with the addition of boy's tennis with the cost of \$250. The motion passed unanimously.

MHSA RENEWED FOR
2024-2025

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Will Scott to rehire Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal. With only trustees in District #1 voting, the motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL REHIRED

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, and seconded by Darin Arganbright to rehire all Elementary school classified staff. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CLASSIFIED STAFF
REHIRED FOR 24-25

Jenna Botts Katie James Mark Smith
Sarah Smith Fusae Vaughn Corey Walker
Nicole Winkler

It was moved by Brant Hasbrouck and seconded by Dusty Schuler, to rehire the following High School classified staff, Kitchen staff, and route drivers. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL STAFF,
KITCHEN STAFF, ROUTE
DRIVERS,
MAINTENANCE,
TRANSPORTATION AND
BUSINESS MANAGER
REHIRED

Middle/High School

Roxie Allen James Child Amy Hanson
Carlotta McGarvey Larry McGarvey Patrice MacDonald
Connie Walker

Kitchen Staff

Nalin Dana Kistia Golie Honesty Podvin

Route Drivers

Jim O’Hara Vicky O’Hara Wes Skerritt

Business Manager/Clerk

Cali O’Hara

Resigning

Lindsey Langer

RESIGNATION

First reading of all Handbooks except for the Emergency, Classified, Elementary Faculty, Elementary Parent, and the MS/HS Faculty Handbooks will have their second reading at the June meeting.

FIRST READING OF
HANDBOOKS

Mr. Hould read the Compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act, (CIPA) to the Trustees in order to remain in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT
CIPA READ

Due to inclement weather this month and all the spring activities Longhorn Day will be held May 21st in the PM with Track and Field for the Elementary in the AM.

Connie Walker, Assistant Clerk – Told the board that after paying the three months of teacher salaries, our budgets look as good if not better than they did last year. Asked permission to pay bills until June 30th.

CLERKS REPORT
PERMISSION TO
PROCESS CLAIMS

Paul Benhart, Transportation Supervisor had a list of Obsolete Property that he would like to have permission to sell. See attachment.

TRANSPORTATION

It was moved by Kyla Wright, and seconded by Jenni Starman to approve the attached obsolete property and to set a minimum bid of 25% estimated value. The motion passed unanimously.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Mr. Hould discussed the Non-Resident Student Forms that we had received. There were more than 40 out of district students that plan to return to Fort Benton next fall.

It was moved by Will Scott, and seconded by Darin Arganbright to approve the Non-Resident Students. The motion passed unanimously.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Committees –
Policy Committee Report
March Policy Notes - 1st Reading. Carley Vielleux and Mandy Wright will review Policy 2314 & 2309 and to set a committee meeting. The remaining March Policies may be adopted at the June meeting with the exception of the policy that deals with the weight room. This one will be compared to our current policy.

COMMITTEES
POLICY READINGS

November Policy Notes – 2nd reading and will approve in June.

Schedule Transportation Committee meeting for June 4th at 6:00 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Personnel-
Resignations of Shyanne Clark, Kitchen staff, Anna Arganbright, teacher, Amy Hanson, Speech & Drama Coach

RESIGNATIONS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Eric Lenington as the K-12 Music Teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

ERIC LENINGTON HIRED AS MUSIC TEACHER

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott to hire Brooke Johnson as Summer Help. The motion passed unanimously.

BROOKE JOHNSON HIRED AS SUMMER HELP

Future Agenda Items-
2nd Reading of all policies and handbooks.
Transportation committee meeting, June 4 @ 6:00 p.m.
Hire FFA Advisor

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Will Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____