

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 13 , 2025

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order May 13, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Jenni Starman, Dusty Schuler, Kyla Wright, Kayle Axtman, Will Scott, 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, Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Kayle Atman, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 98024-98098  
Claims: 62942-63010

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Communications to and from the Board- Resignation from Kelley Bushong.

COMMUNICATIONS TO  
AND FROM THE BOARD

Joellyn Clark and Kyla Wright were sworn in as District #1 Trustees by Cali O'Hara, Board Clerk.

SWEARING IN NEW  
TRUSTEES

Dusty Schuler was sworn in as District #59 Trustee by Cali O'Hara, Board Clerk.

It was moved by Kayle Axtman, and seconded by Will Scott, to appoint Jenni Starman as Chairman and Darin Arganbright as Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF  
BOARD CHAIR AND VICE  
CHAIR

It was moved by Joellyn Clark, and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to nominate Cali O'Hara as Board Clerk. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF  
CLERK

Committees will be reviewed and assigned at a later board meeting.

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that April and May are super busy months at the elementary school. There has been lots going on. The wax museum was a great success and so much fun. There are some updates to the parent/student handbook. The changes are in yellow. A majority of the changes are the student use of cell phones, the elementary policy now aligns with the high school student policy. Working on a new student discipline plan to better support teachers and students. See attached report.

## ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Athletic Report- Roxie reported in Jamie's absence. I would like to commend middle school track for a productive and encouraging season. They wrapped up last Saturday with their district meet in Havre. Who would have ever thought we would be making weather changes in May, but we had to adjust due to the hot weather! The kids and coaches powered through like champions and finished strong. Golf played Divisionals in Bozeman last week. The girls placed second as a team. Amaris and Addison tied for 6th place, MyCal was in tenth, and Aspyn was 15th. They will all be heading to state. The boys finished 6th. Ethan tied for 12th and Emerson placed 17th. They, along with Spencer, will head to state in Sidney. The golf team will leave immediately following graduation. Tennis is currently playing Divisionals. The girls are in Havre today and tomorrow for play, while the boys head to Conrad Thursday-Saturday. State occurs in Missoula next week. Track wrapped up their district in Havre last week with both boys and girls earning second place trophies. There were many placers. The girls 4x100 relay, and Etta in the 100, set new 9C District records. Divisionals will take place in Great Falls on Thursday and Friday, with state in Missoula next week. Band and choir had an incredible showing in the gym with their spring concert. They represented us well at the state music festival with a low brass quintet performing before heading off to their sporting activities. Tonight is the annual Booster Club Banquet. What a celebration for our kids! Please join us, if you are able, at 5:30 at the Ag Center.

## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Thank you to Larry and Dani for all their hard work. Still in need of custodians. Getting the buildings ready for Graduation and Track & Field Day. Finalizing the contracts for the summer projects. Getting geared up for all the summer work. Thank you to Joellyn for all her years of service as the board chair.

## MAINTENANCE

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Darin Arganbright to re-hire the following Elementary School Classified Staff:

Jenna Botts	Katie James	Dani Lehman
Mark Smith	Sarah Smith	Fusae Vaughn
Corey Walker		

The motion passed unanimously

## ELEMENTARY CLASSIFIED STAFF HIRES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright to re-hire the following Middle/High School Classified Staff:

Roxie Allen                      Jacquelyn Aragon                      Amy Hanson  
Patrice MacDonald      Carlotta McGarvey                      Larry McGarvey  
Connie Walker

The motion passed unanimously

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASSIFIED STAFF  
HIRES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to re-hire the following Kitchen Classified Staff:

Amanda Lewis                      Kistia Golie

The motion passed unanimously

KITCHEN STAFF HIRES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark to re-hire Russ Axtman as Maintenance Supervisor.

The motion passed unanimously. Kayle Axtman Abstained.

MAINTENANCE  
SUPERVISOR HIRE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler to re-hire Paul Benhart as Transportation Supervisor.

The motion passed unanimously

TRANSPORTATION  
SUPERVISOR HIRE

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Will Scott to re-hire Roxie Benjamin as Elementary School Principal.

The motion passed unanimously

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PRINCIPAL HIRE

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman to re-hire Cali O'Hara as Business Manager.

The motion passed unanimously

BUSINESS MANAGER  
HIRE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark to re-hire Pat Hould as Middle/High School Principal and Superintendent.

The motion passed unanimously

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  
SUPERINTENDENT HIRE

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Reported they had the first Crisis Intervention team meeting April 9<sup>th</sup>. The senior trip went well, the sponsors said all the kids were super well behaved and a fun time was had by all. The Career Expo was a huge success, thank you to Joellyn and the Chamber of Commerce for helping put on this event. The kids all enjoyed the event. The Big Sandy school also sent students to come and learn about jobs in the area. Longhorn Day was May 1<sup>st</sup>, weather was nice so thanks to all those who helped make this a successful day. The National Honor Society induction was held during the Scholarship Awards Assembly, and it was nice for the student body to be a part of this ceremony. Spring Band and Choir Concerts were May 6, great job to Mr. Lenington and students - it was excellent. Carley Vielleux has asked that we read the following statement, to be in compliance with our technology agreement with Triangle Communications.

SUPERINTENDENT

“In order to meet the Children’s Internet Protection Act, Fort Benton Schools use an internet filtering system through Triangle Communications: *Securely Filtering* for chrome books and *GoGuardian* for classroom filtering.”

CHILDREN’S INTERNET  
PROTECTION

Cali O'Hara, Clerk- Report that budgets are on track to end the year with adequate funding. Working on completing the forms for the STARS Act as it was recently signed by the governor. Will start the work of getting the school year wrapped up.

CLERK

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright to allow the clerk to pay claims through June.  
The motion passed unanimously.

PAY CLAIMS THROUGH JUNE

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Joellyn Clark to accept the bid from Paul Benhart on the small trailer as obsolete property.  
The motion passed unanimously.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Will Scott to approve the out of district student attendance agreements.  
The motion passed unanimously

OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

#### Committee Reports-

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy – Meeting scheduled May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm  
Building and Grounds- Meeting scheduled May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

Resignations:  
Kelley Bushong - High School Math

RESIGNATION

Hires:  
It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Myla Clark as Science Teacher.  
The motion passed unanimously.

HIRES - HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Angela Fondale as Math teacher.  
The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark to hire Caeli Hanson as a substitute teacher.  
The motion passed unanimously.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Kyla Wright to hire Brooke Cunningham and Jaquelyn Aragon as summer maintenance help.  
The motion passed unanimously

SUMMER MAINTENANCE HELP

#### Future Agenda Items-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook  
Policy meeting May 28 @ 6:00pm  
Building and Grounds meeting May 28 @ 7:00pm

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Will Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

ADJOURN

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

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