

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 11, 2025

Jenni Starman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order November 11, 2025, at 7:01 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

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

ROLL CALL

Also present: Pat Hould, Superintendent; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal.

Jenni Starman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 90458-98809

Claims: 63377-63426

Jenni Starman asked for public comment. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Communications to and from the Board. None.

COMMUNICATIONS TO
AND FROM THE BOARD

Jenni Starman, Board Chair- December board meeting will be moved to December 11th at 10:00 am in the Elementary Multi-Purpose room.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to accept the bid of \$1800 for the enclosed trailer. The motion passed unanimously

SEALED BIDS

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that Parent-Teacher Conferences are this week. There has been a good turn out. Thank you to the parent team for providing evening meals and snacks for our teachers during the conference. The flu shot clinic was last week, thank you to the health department for providing this to our students. Window painting was a success, the kids have fun with this and do such a great job. We had a great time with Red Ribbon Week. Lots of the kids participated in the dress-up days. It was good to see all the student involvement. Thank you to Deputy Reardon for coming with the DARE program. We get such great support from the Sheriffs office. The parade of costumes was again a hit, nice to see all the kids costumes.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

There has been a change to the kindergarten report card, with a better breakdown of the skills they are learning and where they may need more support. The book fair will be in the library through conferences. Thank you to Marvin Brodock for all the support with the Veteran's Day parade. The next round of YIIP meetings will start in November. See attached.

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported that there were 5 runners that attended the state cross country meet in Missoula. Volleyball districts were in Chinook, there was a lot of learning this year and adjusting to our new district. Football playoffs are still underway, the boys will head to Scoby this week. We were able to honor Skip Ross at the last home game with a bench, donated by the class of 2025. There will be a send off for the football team Friday at 9am, please plan to line the street by Mountain View and we will honk them out of town. Middle school basketball will have games at home this Friday and will travel to Cut Bank on Saturday. Winter sports will start on the 20th, the interest meetings were all well attended. Speech and Drama has 8 students participating, they will have their first competition in Conrad. Robotics has 4 members.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Larry Wright as High School Robotics Coach and Volunteer Middle School Robotics Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

ROBOTICS COACH

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Thank you to Jordan and Dani for all their hard work keeping our school clean. Will need to advertise for an additional elementary school custodian, Dani will go on maternity leave soon. Thank you to all the veterans, the parade was well attended. Thank you to the city for the help with getting the bench for Skip Ross ready. Thank you to Jamie Ball, for all her hard work with all the fall events, she does a great job. The fire marshal was here and every thing checked out. The heaters at the high school are nearly complete. The grease trap at the Longhorn Café is nearly complete; there was a small set back, but should be completed before the weather changes.

MAINTENANCE

Cali O'Hara, District Clerk- Reported the budgets are on track for the end of the 1st quarter. Now that the majority of the building projects are completed will need to look into extending the Intercap loan. Student count numbers have been uploaded to OPI, see attached.

CLERK

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Reported that National Honor Society has changed the year on the FB as part of their service projects. They will be looking for donations to help paint and light the FB. The 8th grade students attended a buffalo hunt, they all appeared to have a great time. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held this week. The Honor Roll assembly was on the 11th and the Be the Bridge awards, see attached student honor roll numbers. The middle school and high school students attended the Veteran's Day ceremony. Looking into adding security cameras to the bus barn, due to recent activity surrounding the bus barn - the Sheriff's office has suggested that we look into adding cameras.

SUPERINTENDENT

Students will attend the State Student Council in Great Falls. With all the recent events happening at the school it has been great to have Jamie Ball at the high school, the events seem to run just a bit smoother with us being able to have more access to her during the day. See attached report.

Committee Reports-

Policy – Dusty reported they are taking another look at the gym policy for adult groups wanting to use the gym.

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark to approve the following policies; Policy 8301, Procedure 5120-P(1) option 3, option 2, option 2., Notice Form 5430-NF(1), Policy 5252, Notice form 2165-NF(1), Policy 8560, Policy 1015FE, Policy 1009FE, Policy 1007FE, Policy 2150, Policy 2100, Policy 2050, Policy 2335, Policy 2165. The motion passed unanimously.

Extracurricular – They held a meeting to visit about the 5th graders moving to join middle school sports, they kept their recommendation the same to leave middle school sports 6th -8th.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

Future Agenda Items-

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

CLERK _____

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF POLICIES

EXTRACURRICULAR

CLOSED SESSION

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

ATTEST

