

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 10, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Jory Thompson, Superintendent; Roxanne Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Nathan Dunham, Activities Director; Brian Miller, 7 - 12 Principal; Jamie Ball, and Ava Nelson, reporter for the River Press.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. No Public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Mandy Wright, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 94344 - 94463

Claims: 59374 - 59423

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director – Reported that the District and Divisional Volleyball tournaments were successful. Thank you to Connie and Christy for all the extra help on short notice. Football playoffs have been going smoothly as well. Football will play again this Saturday. Middle School Basketball have a few games left in their season. NFHS has been working well allowing our fans to be able to view the games. The football games have been at fan capacity. So it has been nice that people are able to watch from the hill and at the fence.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS  
REPORT

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Brent Hanford to hire Marta Ferguson, Megan Lords and Shannon Grossman as Middle School Basketball coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
BASKETBALL COACHES

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to hire Tucker Taylor as Head Wrestling coach. The motion passed unanimously.

HEAD WRESTLING  
COACH

Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor – Reported that the custodial staff is doing a great job; Larry, Travis and Wendy. Russ wanted to thank Kale Axtman for all the help getting the football field cleared and ready for the game each week. Also, a thank you to the City for making sure that the snow is cleared from the streets where the busses travel. The Heat is on in the Elementary!! There are a few little things that need to be completed, but, so far, the system seems to be working. There are a few bugs that have to be worked out, but they are near completion. They will finish up coordinating the control system this week. Thank you again to the board for approving just a large project, this has been a big upgrade to the school.

MAINTENANCE

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal – Thank you to Russ for working hard to get the boiler up and going. She reported that they have a few new students and are expected to have more joining later this month. Parent/Teacher conferences went well. The scheduling looked a little different this year with some teachers choosing to spread their conferences out over the whole week. The assemblies have been going well. Red Ribbon week was October 26-30. It was fun to see all the students show their school spirit by dressing up. The theme this month is Courage & Honor/Attitude. They are working hard in anticipation of the winter RTI benchmark. Upcoming events are the Student vs. Staff food drive and the online book fair.

ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL REPORT

Brian Miller, 7-12 Principal – Would like to thank our students for doing great things and the teachers for going above and beyond what is expected. A shout out to Mrs. Vielleux for trying hard to reach out to a student who was having a hard time. All the teachers work hard to reach all of our students. Students of the Week – Billy Ullery and Brock Hanford. Students are working hard in the classroom as well as in the gym. The volleyball girls would go play their tournament game and then head back to the classroom - that says a lot about this group of kids. They will be discussing a homework policy and a finals week during the PIR day on Thursday.

7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk – Reported, to date, that expenditures are on track with last year's numbers. The date for closing on the loan from the Montana Board of Investments for the Elementary Heating Project is ready for signatures. Will notify the board when the closing documents are ready.

CLERKS REPORT

It was moved by Brent Hanford, seconded by Tyler Starman, to sell the Spray booth located in the wood shop. The motion passed.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

Jory Thompson, Superintendent – Things have been going well in both schools. It is great to still be in school and have the students in our building. The COVID-19 impact has been minimal - we have had a few students that have been quarantined due to contract tracing. The school did however receive a formal complaint from the governor's office citing that

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Leadership, teachers, and students are not following mask mandate. Jory has been in contact with the County health officials on actions to correct this complaint. County health feels that we are doing a good job following the governor's directive.

Brent Hanford, Building and Grounds Committee – Reported that they visited with Jared from the Fort Benton Volunteer Fire Department about some property next to the fire hall that they would like to purchase. They will look at various options that will benefit both parties. They also got the latest completion report from Russ on the elementary project.

It was moved by Tyler Starman, and seconded by Adam Olson, to hire Shana Diekhans as a substitute. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Adam Olson, and seconded by Tyler Starman to hire McKenna Hanford as a substitute. The motion pass unanimously. Brent Hanford recused.

Future Agenda Items – Tour of Elementary at next meeting. The December board meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room at the elementary school on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. Superintendent Evaluation.

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

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

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDING AND  
GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT

SUBSTITUTE HIRES

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

ATTEST