

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 14, 2025

Jenni Starman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order October 14, 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.

Also present: Pat Hould, Superintendent; Connie Walker, Assistant 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.

It was moved by Will Scott, seconded by Kayle Axtman, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Payroll: 98374-90457

Claims: 63295-63376

Jenni Starman asked for public comment. None.

Communications to and from the Board. None.

Jenni Starman, Board Chair- None

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director –Pat Hould reported for Jamie

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman to hire Ray Allen as Volunteer Middle School Basketball Coach. The motion passed unanimously

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Thank you to Jordan and Dani for cleaning. Jordan is doing a great job, cleaning after the events is a big job. Thank you to the city crew for the help with the bon fire. Thank you to the board for helping serve the hot dogs. The kids had a great time with the homecoming events this year. The Fire department came over to conduct fire drills along with the Sheriffs department. Will have another drill in the spring. The stack project is complete except for the damper. Waiting for the boiler to be finished, waiting on a part. Both buildings are warm and working. Contract extension is ready to be signed for the elementary

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE

MINUTES

WARRANTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMUNICATIONS TO
AND FROM THE BOARD

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL
BASKETBALL
VOLUNTEER COACH

MAINTENANCE

plumbing project. They will start again in June of 2026. Heaters in the high school are being installed and will be done with in a week. The high school sewer will start next week during teachers convection. Outside sprinklers will be blown out on the 27th. Had to purchase some light ballasts, we will need to look at upgrading the lighting system.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported Thank you Montana Fruit for coming to take school pictures they are amazing. Heritage Day was a success. The Longhorn parade was a success, only lost a few, but they were found back at the High School. Lock down drill went well, visit with he kids before the drill and to ensure they understand the importance. Cooking with Kids had about 40 kids turn out. Thank you to the volunteer fire department for the help with our fire drills. MAST testing has started, will be testing through November. Flu shot clinic will be October 15th, Window painting October 21st, October assembly October 31st. Parent teacher conferences November 13-16. See attached report

CLERK

Connie Walker, Assistant Clerk- Reported that Cali is waiting to hear back from OPI on the child count numbers, as the numbers weren't rolling up to OPIs reporting system correctly. Obsolete property of an enclosed trailer. 16x6'6" trailer.

OBSOLETE PROPERTY

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to list enclosed trailer with a reserve of \$1000. The motion passed unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT

Pat Hould, Superintendent- Reported the new high school secretary Kathleen is doing a great job. New honor roll system this is the first quarter that we will recognize kids using the new system. The kids will get t shirts for the be the bridge award at the kids request. Testing for MAP and MAST has begun. The good thing about the MAP testing is that you get data back quickly so that teachers can see how we are doing, it is a better data source for us to use. Roxie working with teachers to see how to utilize the data. Flu shots at the high school next week. Middle school students attended the CCPA matinee. Great that the CCPA allow us to attend these performances. Parent conferences coming up in November.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports-

POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy – Dusty reported that we have a round of 1st reading and 2nd readings. Need to update the drivers ed policy to match wat our current practice is. See attached

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Dusty Schuler to approve the following policies; Policy 8301, no optional verbiage; Procedure 5120-P(H) with 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 passes unanimously.

APPROVAL OF POLICIES

Personnel-

PERSONNEL

Hires-

HIRES

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to hire Darby Reardon Volunteer Activity Driver. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER BUS DRIVER

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Joellyn Clark to approve Deneray Pasha as Elementary Volunteer. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY VOLUNTEER

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Kathleen Fry as MS/HS school Sectary. The motion passed unanimously.

MS/HS SCHOOL SECTARY

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark to hire Tracie Anderson MS/HS Paraprofessional and Substitute . The motion passed unanimously.

PARAPROFESSIONAL/ SUBSTITUTE

Future Agenda Items-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

2nd Reading of Policy
MCEL

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

ADJOURN

CLERK_____

ATTEST

BOARD CHAIRPERSON_____

