

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 8, 2024

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order October 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

Members present: Joellyn Clark, Will Scott, Jenni Starman, Dusty Schuler, and Darin Arganbright. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director; Lucy Johnson, Etta Wicks, Emily Wicks, Bryce Cartwright, and Amanda Brown.

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Will Scott, seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 97642-97714

Claims: 62540-62601

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. Lucy Johnson spoke to ask the board to think about letting the 8th graders participate in high school Robotics. She stated that they have lower numbers this year but still have enough to create a team. There are lots of kids that are in two sports and this is a concern for her. Bryce Cartwright spoke saying that as an 8th grader he would like to participate in high school Robotics as well, he feels that they are mature enough to handle themselves. Emily Wicks would like to thank Jamie Ball for all she does as the AD, she is doing a great job. Also, like to thank Roxie Benjamin for stepping up to fill the role of the Cross-Country coach, it would have been sad to see the program die had she not stepped up. Emily would also like to see the 8th graders participate in high school Robotics, this would give them more team members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- The board received a Thank You from Wes Skerritt for the flowers. Would like to introduce the new History teacher Amanda Brown, she was unable to join us last month, as she is also the Middle School Volleyball coach. Would like the board to think of levy promotion ideas, so that we can start to let the community know what is needed at our school and when the special election will be.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Wanted to thank Russ for helping us have a successful homecoming week. It is a lot of hours that go in to making everything happen. Thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to make our events happen. Thankful to live in a supportive community. Middle School Tennis has completed their season with a tournament in Great Falls Sept 30. Football will have a home game against Shelby this Friday. Senior night and pink night will be on October 25 against Chinook. Volleyball had the mid-season tourney last Saturday. Their senior night will be October 24 against Centerville and pink night will be October 26 against Cut Bank. Middle School Volleyball will finish their season with the 7C Tournament we are hosting. The volleyball teams are going to travel to Great Falls to watch the Lady Argos play, thank you to Sara Worrall of UP to allow us this opportunity. Cross Country had a meet this Monday in Havre and will compete again in Malta on Saturday. They will finish up their season October 26 at state in Missoula. Robotics has started with quite a few middle school students showing interest. There were 16 that showed interest. High school will have 5 returning members. Cheer was able to start this last week with 5 students cheering in the fall season. FFA has 30 active members they are going to head to national convention.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Ethan Cunningham as assistant FFA coach. The motion passed unanimously.

FFA ASSISTANT COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Roxie Benjamin as Winter Cheer coach and Katie Guderjahn as volunteer. The motion passed unanimously.

WINTER CHEER COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright to hire Will Hucke as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT BOYS
BASKETBALL COACH

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Kyla Wright to hire Kim Kottoff and Shalayna Clark 5/6 girls basketball and Kim Hibl 5/6 boys basketball coaches. The motion passed unanimously

5/6 BASKETBALL
COACHES

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Thanks to the volunteer fire crew, it is fire prevention week. They stopped and assisted with the fire drills at both schools. Also thank you for all the help during homecoming week, the fire department was there with trucks for the bonfire. Thank you to the city crew for digging the pit for the bonfire. Kayle has been helping address the roof leaks that occurred during the rain, they think that most of them have been addressed. Thank you to Larry for stepping up and helping to clean the school even when he said he was retired, the new hire had some difficulties and has resigned. Aiden Manning will be hired this evening he has been working with Larry to learn the ropes before Larry heads out on vacation. The new phone and camera system are up and running. Thank you to Carley for all her hard work to get that all organized and working. The plumbing project is under way, the new water boilers have been ordered and all the plumbing parts have been ordered.

MAINTENANCE

Bob, with Liberty Electric, will start the wiring for the new water heaters. Air vent system has been ordered, waiting on a few bids for the flue project. They will work to get some of these smaller projects done during teacher's convention. The sprinklers will be winterized October 28th.

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that Heritage Day was great, the kids enjoyed the many activities. The fire drill went well - thank you to Russ and the fire department. The kids always like to see the fire trucks. The flu clinic will be on October 10th. Thank you to Karyn Giles for the cooking classes the kids really enjoy it and it is nice to offer an after school activity. DIBELS testing has been completed and they will start the next round of testing soon. MANDT training was attended by our special education teachers. This is something new that we have asked our teachers to attend, as we are seeing more students that have some higher needs that we need to be able to address. Red Ribbon Week is October 24-31. See attached. Just a few things that Pat wanted to highlight in his report: Homecoming was a huge success. There was a lot of student interest in joining the Leo's Club. Currently working on new teacher evaluations. Jason DeShaw will be here to speak to our students - we were 1 of 10 schools chosen. Pat's full report is attached.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/ Clerk – Reported the most current financials. Will have student count numbers at the next board meeting count day was October 7th.

BUSINESS MANAGER

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Will Scott to hire Amanda Lewis as Kitchen help. The motion passed unanimously.

HIRES

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Darin Arganbright to hire Stacy Bronec as Elementary Substitute. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Aiden Manning as Custodian. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Items-
Student Count

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Jenni Starman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____

