BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2026

Jenni Starman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order September 8, 2026, at 7:01 p.m. in the High School Library.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Greg Iverson, Superintendent; Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/Clerk; Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal; Bethany DeBorde, reporter for The River Press; Russ Axtman, Head Custodian; Paul Benhart, Transportation; Jamie Ball, Athletic Director;

PLEDGE

Darin Arganbright opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Joellyn Clark, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2026, regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Will Scott, to approve payment of warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: 99140-99199
Claims: 63980-64035

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darin Arganbright asked for public comment. None.

COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM THE BOARD

Communications to and from the Board: MCEL will be October 15-16 in Billings, if anyone would like to attend please reach out to Connie or Cali.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported High School volleyball has 27, MS Volleyball has 13, HS Football has 29, MS Football has 20, HS Cross Country has 4, MS Cross Country has 6, MS Tennis has 22. Homecoming is in full swing. This week activities: Thursday Volleyball vs Fairfield, Friday football Vs Belt, Saturday Volleyball vs Cut Bank, Cross country in Havre. There will be some schedule changes as football games are severely short of officials so there have been multiple discussions for change. We have had to move our next home football game to Thursday due to official shortages. Thank you to Paul for all the help with the scheduling changes.

ASSISTANT VOLLEYBALL COACH

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Joellyn Clark to approve Tracie Anderson as assistant high school volleyball coach. The motion passed unanimously.

FALL CHEER COACH

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark to approve Jennifer Banks as Fall Cheer coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

It was moved by Joellyn Clark and seconded by Kayle Axtman to approve Beth Jones as Middle school girls basketball coach. The motion passed unanimously.

MAINTENANCE

Russ Axtman, Maintenance- Reported thank you to the city crew for delivering the bleachers and for digging the bon fire pit. Thank you to the volunteer fire department for helping with the bonfire. The summer crew finished up all the summer projects. Thank you to Jamie for helping clean up the water leaks after all the rain. The booster club is helping serve students hot dogs this evening as part of homecoming festivities. There are quotes for the high school roof repair, the repair will be for the foyer area and the men's bathroom. The sprinklers are still on but will be blown out later this month. The elementary school roof project will start next week when the weather is better.

HIGH SCHOOL ROOF REPAIR

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Will Scott to approve the high school roof repair of up to $5,000. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that they are off to a busy start to the year. They had a beach party to celebrate back to school. They have had their first fire drill and lock down drill. Working with the sheriff's department to make the lock down procedures as safe as possible. Thank you to the city for the fresh paint on the crosswalks. Thank you to the parent team, Emily Anderson does a great job of getting the group organized and providing items for our school. The elementary 5th and 6th grades will have concessions this week for homecoming so any parent help would be appreciated. October 14 will be the start of the testing window. There will be a speaker coming next Friday to speak to the kids about mental wellbeing. The homecoming parade is Friday after school. Elementary kids can meet at city hall and then will conclude at the city pool parking lot for parents to pick them up.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Cali O'Hara, District Clerk- Reported waiting for the new budget to be approved at the county level. Working to get all the new contracts and budget information into the accounting software.

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kayle Axtman to approve the federal milage rate to $0.76. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Will Scott to approve the sale of obsolete property of a clay slab roller, no min bid. The motion passed unanimously.

Greg Iverson, Superintendent- Reported that they have had their first fire drill, they did not use the emergent 3 system. After speaking to teachers and staff they would prefer to go back to the old system. Lunch at the elementary school they are working out the kinks and so far things seem to be going ok. The 8th graders now have a life skills class 8th period instead of a study hall. Tanara Martin, Greg Iverson and other community members have been in to address some life skills with students. So great that the community is so willing to come help our students. Will attend training to prepare the district for the Future Ready Payments and CTE pathways. The accreditation platform opens this week, so along with Roxie will begin that process.

SUPERINTENDENT

Committee Reports-

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy meeting September 15 @ 6:30pm

POLICY

Personnel meeting September 22 @ 6:30pm

PERSONNEL

Resignations – None

RESIGNATIONS

Hires –

HIRES

It was moved by Kyla Wright and seconded by Will Scott to hire Emily Hansen as Student teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

STUDENT TEACHER

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Kyla Wright to hire Karen Sansoucie as Adult Ed instructor . The motion passed unanimously.

ADULT ED INSTRUCTOR

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Joellyn Clark to hire Montana Fruit as substitute teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Joellyn Clark to hire Amanda Lewis as substitute teacher/Kitchen substitute. The motion passed unanimously

Future Agenta Items –

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Policy meeting 9/15/26 @6:30pm
Personnel meeting 9/22/26 @6:30pm

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Darin Arganbright to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

ADJOURN

CLERK_____

ATTEST

BOARD CHAIRPERSON_____