

BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 10, 2024

Joellyn Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts to order September 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

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

Also present: Pat Hould, Superintendent; 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; Amber Disney, Erik Lenington, Kelley Bushong, Jeff Kloetzer.

ROLL CALL

Joellyn Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, seconded by Jenni Starman, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2024 regular meeting and September 3, 2024 special 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: 97613-97641  
Claims: 62482-62539

Joellyn Clark asked for public comment. There was no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joellyn Clark, Board Chairman- The board received a Thank You from the Simms Superintendent, their bus broke down on the way to the volleyball game in Fort Benton, so Paul and Jamie got a Fort Benton bus to go get them. They were able to ride the Fort Benton bus to the games. Reminder that if you would like to attend MCEL please let Connie or Cali know. Would like to interduce the new teachers, Amber Disney, Jeff Kloetzer, Kelley Bushong and Erik Lenington.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Jamie Ball, Athletic Director – Reported on the fall sports numbers: Football 27, MS Football 21, Volleyball 26, MS Volleyball 16, Cross Country 7, MS Cross Country 7, MS Tennis 17, Cheer 5. There is lots of participation in extracurricular activities from our students which is great to see. There have been lots of schedule changes, due to refereeing shortages. We have also been able to add some 6<sup>th</sup> grade football games as well as some C squad volleyball games. Always nice to get the younger players extra games when we can. The first home football game has been

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

moved to Saturday with the MS starting at 4 and HS at 7. Homecoming is the week of Sept 23-27. The bonfire will be the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The board is welcome to come and help with the dinner. NFHS cameras are fixed; they are working to get the gym camera fixed to correctly display the score. The Northern Class C meeting is tomorrow.

It was moved by Kayle Axtman and seconded by Dusty Schuler to hire Amy Hanson as Speech and Drama coach, Emily Wicks and Ross Hanson as Volunteer Speech and Drama coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

SPEECH AND DRAMA  
COACH

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Julie Robertson and Alicia Bach as volunteer coaches. The motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEER CHEER  
COACH

Russ Axtman, Maintenance – Thanks to Larry for training the new hire. Larry will continue to work events for us and fill in if needed. Thank you to Corey for all the work at the elementary, the building looks great. Thank you to the city crew for moving the bleachers to the football field, they will be back this week to assist with digging the fire pit for homecoming. Thank you to Connie and Roxie for all they do in the office. The plumbing supplies have been ordered and some have arrived. Blansett Plumbing will start to get to work on this project. Dusty's Sprinklers was here doing fall maintenance as well as cleaning up the ditches around the football field. FICO has been in completing the repairs on the boiler pipes. The remaining security cameras will be installed tomorrow.

MAINTENANCE

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal- Reported that they are off to a great start. Thank you to Corey for helping out with lunch and subbing where needed. Thank you to Katie for helping in any way needed. Thank you to Pat for attending the elementary first assembly. The back to school carnival was a success. Picture day went very smooth. We have had our first fire drill and lock down drill of the year, the new phone system works great. Vision screening was today, thank you to the Lions Club for providing this service to our students. The first round of benchmark testing is completed. The first spirit rally will be this Friday. See attached report

ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL

Cali O'Hara, Business Manager/ Clerk – Reported the most current financials as well as the TFS report from fiscal year 2024.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Pat Hould, Superintendent – Reported that it has been a great start to the school year. Started the year with an Academic Excellence assembly, which was well received by the student body. Due to the air quality issue on Monday they now have printed guidelines from the MT Department of DEQ to use when the air quality is an issue. They have made some changes to the phone policy at the MT governor's request. Students now check their phone in at the start of classes, seems to be working well. Bus design #1 was the winner from the online voting. They are still working on reviewing the Emergency Handbook, hope to have that to the board for approval soon. See attached

SUPERINTENDENT

Committees –  
Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

COMMITTEES

Brank Hasbrouck reported that the committee recommends that they have a special levy election in January so that they can move forward with the bid process on some of the larger projects that need to be completed. The elementary sewer project needs to get started soon as they are seeing more problems arise. The bids need to be completed by March so that the bulk of the work can begin as soon as school is released in May. Estimates would bring the total for all the necessary projects to 1.49 million dollars, this would also allow a 5% contingency should any bid come in high, or they run in to unexpected problems.

It was moved by Will Scott and seconded by Darin Arganbright to run a special levy election for the elementary school district for \$823,000 for 10 years. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
LEVY

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to run a special levy election for the high school district for \$647,000 for 10 years. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL LEVY

It was moved by Dusty Schuler and seconded by Jenni Starman to hire Will Hucke and Amanda Brown as Activity Bus Drivers. The motion passed unanimously.

HIRES

It was moved by Darin Arganbright and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck to hire Bob Yothers as custodian. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Items-  
Buildings & Grounds

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dusty Schuler, and seconded by Kayle Axtman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

ADJOURN

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

ATTEST

CLERK \_\_\_\_\_