

BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Benton High School and Elementary School Districts was called to order September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library, by Joellyn Clark, Chairperson.

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

ROLL CALL

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; 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. There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Tyler Starman, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

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

WARRANTS

Payroll: 94226-94281

Claims: 59234-59262

Nathan Dunham, Athletic Director- Reported that he was excited that we were able to host a last second JV Football game with Belt. It was nice to see that we had people that were able to come together so quickly to make the game happen for the kids. Things seem to be going well with the new COVID-19 guidelines. The fans have been great. There are going to be changes to middle school basketball, there will be no jamborees this year. The wrestling CO-OP decision will be made in October.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
REPORT

Russ Axtman, Maintenance Supervisor – Russ wanted to start with some thank you's: to Connie- for helping with sanitizing and making sure that our supply of disinfectant is being replenished; Larry and Travis- for doing an outstanding job, as always, making sure that things are cleaned and ready to go. They always seem to get everything done. Elem boiler project is about 95% complete with the rough in, they are waiting on the registers. All the rooms are pressure checked and they are working on insulating pipes. Working on getting things ready for Senior night.

MAINTENANCE

Brian Miller, 7-12 Principal – Reported that it feels good to be back in school, they had a great 1st day, things seem to be going smoothly with all the new COVID-19 guidelines. They had their annual first day of school breakfast which Mr. Dunham and Mr. Barton assisted in serving the students. The theme for the year is to “Make it Count”. Teachers are to have two professional goals, one personal goal, and “What does support mean/look like to you?” They are using three daily goals: bell-to-bell instruction, transitions, and no cellphones. Student enrollment fall 2019-139, spring 2020- 138 and fall 2020 – 142. He has started an “Adopt a Teacher” program, and is happy to report that all teachers, aids and office staff have been adopted.

7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Roxie Benjamin, Elementary Principal – Reported that they are off to a great start. Kids are doing a good job with the new guidelines. Teachers and Paras are working hard to make sure that all student needs are being met. RTI report they are meeting 9/9, she will have more information at the next board meeting. Upcoming events at the Elem are vision screening on 9/9, School pictures 9/10, monthly assembly’s (they will be having 3 assemblies to ensure that students are properly socially distanced), and student council interviews. Student council is for 5th and 6th graders. They have had lots of interest in student council this year, and it is exciting to see that so many kids are interested in being leaders.

ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL REPORT

Cali O’Hara, Business Manager/Clerk – Reported that they will have more claims coming this month as the board meeting is earlier in the month than usual, and they had a computer go down on them so just didn’t have time to get them all entered before the meeting. Cali will have the 1st quarter budget reports read for the meeting in October, and will work to have a budget spreadsheet available monthly going forward to include in the board packet.

CLERK’S REPORT

Jory Thompson, Superintendent – Reported he has been pleased with how things have been going at each school. Teachers and staff are doing a great job. Has received lots of complements from the community that we are doing a great job and it’s nice to see the kids back at school. He has contacted MTSBA and they are willing to provide board member training. We will just need to set a date that will work for everyone to attend. It is a great opportunity for our new members, as well as a good refresher for our other members as well. They have more students to add to the early kindergarten program. For a total of 22 students.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

It was moved by Dean Schuler and seconded by Brent Hanford to approve the students listed to early kindergarten. The motion passed unanimously.

EARLY KINDERGARTEN

Dean Schuler, Policy & Curriculum Chairperson – Reported that they met and reviewed the new title 9 policies, this was the 1st reading. A second reading will be at the next board meeting

POLICY COMMITTEE

Jory accepted the resignation of Yvonne Zimmerman, Elementary School Custodian.

RESIGNATIONS

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Tyler Starman, to hire Michelle Vanek, Kistia Golie, and Carlotta McGarvey as Substitutes. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBSTITUTES

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brant Hasbrouck, to approve Darci Chylik and Michelle Erickson as HS Special Ed Aides. The motion passed unanimously.

HS SPECIAL ED AIDES

It was moved by Mandy Wright, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to hire Fusae Vaughn as Elem Special Ed Aide. The motion passed unanimously.

ELEM SPECIAL ED AIDE

Future agenda items – Reopening Plans and 2nd reading of title 9 policies.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Dean Schuler, and seconded by Brent Hanford, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____

ATTEST

CLERK _____