

REGULAR MEETING

August 11, 2020

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Baker School Board was called to order by Chairperson Gye Varner at 6pm in the ITV Room of Baker High School. Trustees Mike Gunderson, Quentin Burdick, and Klint Flint were in attendance; Trustee Johnna Koenig was absent. Also present were Superintendent Aaron Skogen, Principals Bo Lingle and David Breitbach, Vice-Principal Jacob Gion, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, Technology Director Scott Anderson, Head Custodian Mardi Brown and Rec Center Manager Darby Waldbillig. Guests joined via Google Meet were Tim Robinson, Austin Waldbillig, Brook Collins, Pam Beach, Nikki Stieg, Jenny Dukart, Amanda Tunby, Ashlee Moore, Robin Asay, Jorja Hanes, Maranda Hastig, Emily Palo, Jill Whiteman, Tonia Bailey and Brittany Hoversland.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks to 56249 were 56402 reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Varner approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT - None

ACTION ITEMS

CLASSIFIED HIRES

a. Kitchen Aide

Mr. Skogen stated the hiring committee had two great applicants for the part time kitchen aide and their recommendation would be to hire Robyn Eisele for the position and offer a substitute kitchen position to Billie Jo Griffith.

Klint Flint moved to hire Mrs. Robyn Eisele for the position of part time kitchen aide and hire Mrs. Billie Jo Griffith as a substitute pending background checks. Quentin Burdick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

b. After School Program

Mr. Skogen stated the hiring committee interviewed Mrs. Pat Ehret for the after school program director position. Along with the director position, Maria Moser and Danica Hanes applied as after school program helpers and they are all recommended for hire.

Klint Flint moved to hire Mrs. Pat Ehret for the position of After School Program Director and hire Maria Moser and Danica Hanes as After School Program helpers. Quentin Burdick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL – OLD BAND INSTRUMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board a list of old band instruments given to her by Ms. Jill Whiteman. She has contacted Eckroth Music and they are willing to buy the old instruments at fair value; with the smaller number of students in band, Ms. Whiteman would like to sell some of the older instruments to lower our maintenance cost of instruments.

Quentin Burdick moved to obsolete the old band instruments as presented and sell them to Eckroth Music for the prices listed. Mike Gunderson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the attendance agreements for the 2020-21 school year.

Mike Gunderson Baker Public School District #12 approve the 2020-21 attendance agreements for the following students from Plevna District to attend Baker High School: Walker Hadley, Mya Hadley, Kayl Hadley, Kyal Hadley, Cooper O'Connor, Madison O'Connor, Miles O'Connor, Avery O'Connor, Emma O'Connor

The following students from Marmarth, ND wish to attend Baker Public Schools: Halle Brown, Cadence Brown, Mason Brown, Clyde Brown, Colton Turbiville, Aubryn Brown, Miles Brown

The following students from Wibaux, MT wish to attend Baker Public Schools:

Gabriella Qualley, Rebecca Qualley

The following students from Baker wish to attend Plevna Public Schools:

Kalob Bollinger, Kinly Bollinger, Blaine Buerkle, Dacy Buerkle, Nicholas Buerkle, Weston Buerkle, Madison Butori, Lily Hoeger, Felicia Li, Ruilin Li, Billie Miller, John Miller, Dakota Steen, Danika Steen, Abagayel Stonebrink, Maile Wright, Isabelle Cuppy, Jasper Fullmer, Briley MacKay, Braxton MacKay.

Klint Flint seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

1ST QUARTER 2020 OIL & GAS REVENUE

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the 1st quarter oil and gas revenue. Klint Flint moved to reallocate the oil and gas revenue on or about August 1, 2020 to the General Fund in the amount of \$492,124.99, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Quentin Burdick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – BEA

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Baker Education Association and Baker Public Schools. This MOA is needed address issues related to reopening school during the Declared State of Emergency issued by Governor Bullock for the State of Montana. Changes to the draft MOA presented by MTSBA and MFPE have been stricken out and additions have been added in red. The union will vote to approve the MOA as presented tomorrow morning and if additional changes are requested by the union, then the MOA will be brought back to the Board for approval based on new changes. Quentin Burdick moved to approve the MOA as presented between the Baker School Board of Trustees and the Baker Education Association. Klint Flint seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY REVISIONS

Mr. Skogen presented to the board revisions to board policy in the 1900 series which were adopted specifically for implementation during the COVID pandemic which require revisions as we enter into the 2020-21 school year. Most of the changes are either date changes and/or authorizing administration to determine appropriate procedures for addressing issues related to COVID-19. Administration will work in conjunction with local health officials in making decisions but we are recommending the board authorize administration to make specific decisions rather than bring each individual decision back to the board of trustees. Masks will not be mandated at this time and Policy 1905 addresses the face masks.

Klint Flint moved to approve policy changes related to policy series 1900 as presented. Mike Gunderson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY ADOPTION – BP 7220 & 7220P

Mr. Skogen presented to the board policies 7220 and 7220P; it is based on reporting changes for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), these policies must be adopted to allow the District to complete reporting mandates associated with Title I funding.

Quentin Burdick moved to adopt the board policies 7220 and 7220P as presented. Mike Gunderson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BUS CONTRACT

Mr. Skogen stated he met with John Geving, Spartan Bus Lines, and he is anticipating increased costs for the yellow bus due to the increased time needed for transporting students and cleaning the buses after routes in the morning and night. At this time, this agenda item needs to be tabled due to a recent development with the Transportation Budgets from the OPI and Governor's office.

No board action at this time; agenda item tabled.

2020-21 BUDGETS

Mrs. Mettler states due to guidance from the OPI and Governor's office with the Transportation Budget, she is recommending to table budgets this meeting until she can get more information; a zoom meeting is going to be held tomorrow with the OPI and Governor's office. Budgets will have to be adopted before August 25th, therefore the board will have to call a special meeting to adopt budgets before that date.

No board action at this time; agenda item tabled.

CONTINUATION OF BOARD DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a resolution to continue the declared state of emergency from last Spring. Guidance from MTSBA urges the Board of Trustees to adopt a resolution declaring the continuation of an emergency pursuant to MCA 20-9-801. This declaration should specify a duration that extends through the upcoming fiscal year thus through June 30, 2021. This declaration will ensure that is everything else fails and the District is unable to provide instruction of any kind on certain days, the loss of funding will be proportionate to the reduction in instruction.

Mike Gunderson moved to declare the continuation of an emergency pursuant to MCA 20-9-801 until June 30, 2021 and/or the earlier should the Governor lift the Declaration of a State of Emergency for the State of Montana prior to June 30, 2021. Klint Flint seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OFF-SITE INSTRUCTION

Mr. Skogen stated as the District allows students to opt-out of in-person instruction and request remote learning, the District needs the board to authorize offsite instruction pursuant to MCA 20-9-311(11)(g). Klint Flint moved to continue to authorize Superintendent Skogen to work with District staff in providing instruction for pupils of the District. Such instruction may include any method or methods identified as appropriate by the superintendent, including but not limited to offsite instruction as defined and referenced in sections 20-1-101(5), 20-1-101(14), 20-7-118, and 20-9-311(11) MCA. Quentin Burdick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY ALLOWING ADMINISTRATION TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE PROFICIENCY FOR PUPILS

Mr. Skogen stated based on guidance from MTSBA, the Board of Trustees needs to continue authorizing/allowing administration to determine and declare proficiency for pupils. This declaration will allow us to continue to receive full funding in the event someone challenges our ability to meet the aggregate hours required by law.

Quentin Burdick moved to continue to authorize Superintendent Skogen to work with District staff in making determinations regarding pupils who are proficient in courses in which the pupils are enrolled without regard to aggregate hours of instruction provided. The Superintendent is directed to make final determination of proficiency for each pupil for each enrolled course, using district assessments, including class grades as a minimum, and reporting a full-time equivalent conversation of ANB for such pupils, based on the schedule time ordinarily provided through the aggregate hours of instruction for each course. Mike Gunderson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

RE-OPEN PLAN

Mr. Skogen presents to the Board the Reopen Plan for the 2020-21 school year.

Discussion followed.

Klint Flint moved to adopt the Reopen Plan for Baker Public Schools for the 2020-21 school year. Mike Gunderson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX

Started the transition from summer schedule to school schedule will start next week; swim lessons went very well in July and had about 155 kids participate. Lifeguards that were eligible went to WSI training in June before lessons and that helped the guards to teach swim lessons this year.

2. MAINTENANCE

Absent but Mr. Skogen reported drinking fountains will need to be turned off this year so more bottle fill stations might need to be installed in some of the buildings.

3. TECHNOLOGY

Staff training for those that want it will start tomorrow with Google training for staff in the 7-12. A concern he has will be with having multiple Google Meet sessions going on in the building and having enough network bandwidth to handle it but won't know that until the school year gets going.

4. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, BO LINGLE

Tomorrow will be meeting with staff per building and going to do a different format for Back to School night. It will be done the two days before school starts in the evening for an hour.

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, DAVID BREITBACH

High school will not be doing a back to school night this year. Next month's board meeting he would like to add Extracurricular Hires to the agenda to approve the last few coaches for the school year. High school football and volleyball practices start Friday and middle school will hand out gear on Monday and practice after. County Health has approved the plan for athletics, but MHSA just sent out emails that will change that plan. Athletic scheduling has been difficult due to teams not having fall sports this season.

c. VICE PRINCIPAL, JACOB GION

There will be 7th grade orientation on Thursday at 10am. MHSA has implemented a new platform for students and coaches to have important documents kept for the sport seasons; so if you have athletes be aware they will need to sign up with Dragonfly this season.

5. SUPERINTENDENT, AARON SKOGEN

Ventilation Assessment – McKinstry is here on-site for the next few days assessing our air flow systems in all our buildings and then Electricians will be here on Monday to assess the electrical capacity of the building if we need to get air purifiers.

Welcome back breakfast will be August 18th at 8am in the Longfellow Gymnasium.

Currently, we have 9 students that have opted-out for on-site instruction this year.

Received a resignation from Jamie Holliday, part-time custodian, and will visit with Mardi Brown when she gets back from vacation and see if she wants to hire the position back.

Next scheduled board meeting is September 16, 2020 at 6 pm; Special Meeting for budgets will be August 24, 2020 at 1pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Clerk

Chairman