

REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2023  
6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Baker School Board was called to order by Chairperson Klint Flint at 6pm in the Boardroom of Baker High School. Trustees Karen Wang, Dalon Dyke, Cody Strandbakke, and Jay Quenzer were in attendance. Also present were Superintendent Aaron Skogen, Principals Dom Vergara and Erin Nevers, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, Technology Director Scott Anderson, and Head Custodian Mardi Brown. Guests were Maranda Hastig & Mollee Stenberg.

**Consent Items:**

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 58785 to 58856 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Flint approves the consent items as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**EDUCATION REPORT**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**CLASSIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATION – PARAPROFESSIONAL(S)**

Mr. Skogen presented to the board recommendation for two (2) paraprofessionals, one full time, one part time; Karlene Kloetzke, full-time and BreAnn Leidholt, part-time.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire Mrs. Karlene Kloetzke as a full-time paraprofessional and Ms. BreAnn Leidholt as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year. Hires are contingent on the passage of a background check. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)**

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the recommendations for student aides for our After School Program; Jessica Kruger and DeAnna Hess.

Karen Wang moved to hire student aides as presented for the After School Program. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**2023-24 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONSIDERATION(S)**

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the list of current substitute teachers for the 2023-24 school year as follows:

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST 2023-24**

Michelle Bear	Bob Curry	Traci Bruha (secretary)
Heather Havens	Lola Fried	Lisa Herbst
Seth Kendall	Alison Enos	Brittany Follmer
Kristin Ehret	Shye Coulter	Lindsey Thompson
Ashlee Moore	Shantel Sander	JoDee Pratt
Carrie Schwartz	Robin Menger	Randi Selle
Josh Stieg	DeAnna Herbst	Alissa Miller
Patti Morris	Amanda Rost	Pat Ehret
Stacey Teter	Janalee Ferrell	Cameron Wolenetz
Lorin Buerkle	Kayleigh Straub	Marnie Moberg
April Hensley (custodial)		Ande Malmin
Christina Schmid	James Parks	

Karen Wang moved to approve the substitute teacher list as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**EXTRACURRICULAR CONTRACT CONSIDERATION(S)**

Mr. Brist presented to the board the recommendation to hire Brittany Hoversland as Freshman Class Advisor. Cody Strandbakke moved to hire Mrs. Brittany Hoversland as Freshman Class Advisor for the 2023-24 school year. Karen Wang seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – BEA**

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Board of Trustees and the Baker Education Association (BEA) is needed to address the current and past practice of allowing individual coaches or advisors to divide their stipend between themselves and an assistant coach/advisor, should the coach/advisor agree to this.

The MOA is attached for your review. The MOA has been approved by the BEA.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the MOA between the Baker School District and the Baker Education Association as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## **OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT**

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a recommendation to dispose of the broken and unused black cable squat rack in the weight room for obsolete equipment; the equipment will not be replaced and the space will be better utilized.

Karen Wang moved to approve the list of items for obsolete equipment as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## **BOARD POLICY UPDATES**

Montana School Boards Association presented to the school district changes to board policies after the 2023 legislative session.

### **NEW MTSBA Required Model Policies**

**MTSBA Model Policy 1650 – Public Charter Schools** – This policy was created to assist districts in complying with HB 549. The policy details how to apply for authorization to establish a public charter school and respond to public requests for new schools or programs as detailed in law.

### **MTSBA Model Policies with Required Updates**

**MTSBA Model Policy 1005FE – Proficiency Based ANB.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in the law from SB 8. The policy provides new definitions and legal references.

**MTSBA Model Policy 1110 – Taking Office.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in the law from HB 811. The policy provides for the district to participate in the online repository for information on boards of trustees.

**MTSBA Model Policy 1400 – Board Meetings.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in the law from HB 724. The policy provides for online notice of regular board meetings, special board meetings, committee meetings and possible closed sessions.

**MTSBA Model Policy 1700 – Uniform Complaint Procedure.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 504. The policy requires posting for the complaint process, updates legal citations, and clarifies procedures.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2050 – Innovative Student Instruction.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 8 and HB 214. The policy provides for new definitions of remote instruction and online instruction, clarifies personalized learning options, and updates ANB calculations.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2132 – Student and Family Privacy Rights.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 676. The policy provides for notice of rights provided in state and federal law as previously detailed in the policy.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2140 – Guidance and Counseling.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 458. The policy provides for the use of career coaches to assist students in particular areas of academic interest or career fields.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2158 – Family Engagement.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 518. The policy provides for public notification of a district plan to engage families and involve them in a student's education while providing information about educational opportunities within the district.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2167 – Correspondence Courses.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 8 and HB 214. The policy provides expanded application for use of correspondence courses.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2168 – Distance Learning.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 8 and HB 214. The policy provides expanded application and definitions for use of remote instruction offered by sources other than the school district.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2170/2170P – Digital Academy.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 749, SB 8 and HB 214. The policy provides for expanded use of the MTDA for personalized learning and authorization to use of the newly established MTDA clearing house.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2332 – Religion and Religious Activities.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 744 and HB 745 as well as the United States Supreme Court Decision in *Kennedy v. Bremerton*. The policy provides specificity as to when it is applicable for district staff and updates legal references.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2450 – Indian Education for All.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 338. The policy provides for update legal references and authorizes application for the Indian Education for All payment.

**MTSBA Model Policy 2600 – Work Based Learning.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 444. The policy provides for collaboration with families in certain areas when developing the student's work-based learning plan.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3100 – Early Enrollment for Exceptional Circumstances.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in the law from HB 352. The policy provides for a termination date and revisions to address required transition from early enrollment for exceptional circumstances to targeted intervention for reading proficiency as required on July 1, 2024.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3110 – Entrance, Placement and Transfer.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 396. The policy provides for the admission and assignment of a student on a part time basis.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3120 – Compulsory Attendance.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 518. The policy provides for excused absences for reasons related to parental rights.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3121/3121P – Enrollment and Attendance.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 8 and HB 214. The policy provides for new definitions of remote instruction and online instruction and updates ANB calculations.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3141 – Non-Resident Enrollment.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 203. The policy provides for a termination date and methodology to establish educationally relevant standards for enrollment of non-resident students prior to July 1, 2024.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3150 – Part-Time Admission.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from HB 396. The policy is clarified for the admission of resident students on a part time basis.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3226 – Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation.** This policy is updated to reflect changes in law from HB 361. The policy now has updated legal references.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3233 – Student Use of Buildings.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 518. The policy provides for public notification of rights of parents to withdraw a student from a club or group.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3235 – Video Surveillance.** This policy is updated to reflect changes in law from SB 397. The policy provides protocol in the event a district utilizes facial recognition technology.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3310 – Student Discipline.** This policy is updated to reflect changes in law from HB 361 and HB 450. The policy outlines self-defense provisions and updates legal references.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3413 – Student Immunizations.** This policy is updated to reflect changes in law from HB 715. The policy provides for public notice of immunization guidelines and exemptions.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3510 – School Sponsored Activities.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 518. The policy provides for public notification of rights of parents to withdraw a student from an activity.

**MTSBA Model Policy 3550 – Student Clubs and Groups.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from SB 518 and HB 382. The policy provides for public notification of rights of parents to withdraw a student from a club or group. The policy authorizes CTE clubs to seek grants to support club operations as provided in law.

**MTSBA Model Policy 4410 – Relations with Law Enforcement.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in the law from SB 213. The policy specifies methods by which a district can assist a county in establishing rules of operation for an interdisciplinary student information and school safety team.

**MTSBA Model Policy 8301 – District Safety.** This policy was updated to reflect changes in the law from SB 213. The policy clarifies procedures related to establishing a district safety plan, coordinating with the community to implement the plan, and identifying threat assessment practices within the plan.

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the Board Policy Updates as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion seconded the motion.

## **SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN**

No changes to the plan.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **1. COMPLEX**

Jennifer Mettler reports in the absence of a full-time manager. She will continue to schedule the lifeguards for the next few months until a manager can be hired. Mardi Brown will be the CPO administrator in lieu of a manager as well. The complex committee met on Monday and Mrs. Mettler will start to look at a modified open pool schedule during the school year; open swim Monday – Friday 6am-8am but open evening swim Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4-6pm and Saturday 12-5pm.

#### **2. MAINTENANCE, Mardi Brown**

The sewer line and flooring project at Longfellow Lunch room is finished with that area looking very nice and updated. Allied Plumbing installed a new heat circulation line under the BHS old section with new insulation. New basketball hoops are in at Lincoln School Playground along with 2 benches we had left from the BHS courtyard project. Jeremy Fix with Firemens was onsite in July and went through all of the Fire extinguishers he comes every year in July and updates them. All of the South side office screens were removed and sent with Kruger Windows and Glass for screen replacements. They are done and back in that

area. Vestibule doors for the gym are installed and ready for the FOB system by Cerberus. Weight room was painted Edy Miller and Kruger Window and Glass installed 8 new 4x8ft mirrors. Longfellow Carpets and BHS Complex carpets have been cleaned and I will contact Mand Varner to get the Gym entry carpets done when we have an opening for her. Stadium has been cleaned and ready for the football season. The bird dropping are getting very hard to keep up with over the summer. August 29th Todd Griffith and crew were onsite and uncovered the scoreboard. He still would like us to consider a new cover that is electric as he and his crew may not always be available to do this for us. Marissa Varner was contacted to take over the weed spraying for the District. She has been spraying when she can work around the rain and wind. Custodial staff worked diligently all summer to get everything cleaned and moved around for the summer projects.

### 3. **TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson**

Updated Obsolete Equipment List - New Items have been added and has been posted to the website under district news. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PDhwtJXoKWB286nEsJ\\_3uy8i\\_3d8-fr\\_PIm46dHTbi4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PDhwtJXoKWB286nEsJ_3uy8i_3d8-fr_PIm46dHTbi4/edit?usp=sharing)

Football Display Board has been fixed and able to display Ads and Animations during games.

Had some issues with static with Vaughn's audio, but have worked out bugs and looking forward to his broadcasts being on NFHS. NFHS has also fixed the scoreboard not displaying properly on our football broadcast. First set of fall testing & required tech changes is underway. Lincoln Fast Bridge testing did not have any technical issues and labs and Chromebook are being prepped for all upcoming testing.

### 4. **PRINCIPALS**

#### a. **ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, Erin Nevers**

Accolades:

Thank you to all our staff who have stepped up to fill in where we are shorthanded. We are continuing to work out the kinks in our schedule and our teachers and paraprofessionals have been incredibly flexible! Thank you to Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Benter, and Mrs. Hastig for mentoring and guiding our new teachers. Thank you to Mrs. Frye, Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Bachelor for the extra effort and time that has gone into the MAP Assessments and FastBridge Screening. Thank you to Mr. Vergara, the presentation from Dr. Collier was fantastic! She has a wealth of knowledge and brought awesome information to our community!

District Assessments:

MAP Assessments - Grades 3-6 started Fall MAP assessments this week and will conclude with make ups next week. FastBridge - Universal screening tool for grades K-2, identifies academic strengths and struggles and helps map a course of intervention for individual students. Kindergarten - Finished - Thank you Mrs. Bachelor!

1st Grade - 9.18.2023

2nd Grade - Week of 9.11.2023 & 9.18.2023

Homecoming - 3-6 will hold a poster contest. Winner received admittance into the Football or Volleyball game.

Attendance - Currently we have 13 students with three or more absences. We are following the policy outlined in the elementary handbook and send notices home as well as calling when students are absent for five or more days. As of today, 29 attendance letters have been sent to parents.

Lunch with a Cop - Started today, kiddos will get to have lunch with available law enforcement every Wednesday.

Early Release - Staff In-service - Wednesday, September 20st - Classroom Behavior

No School - Staff In-service - Monday, September 25th - Quantum Learning

Homecoming Week - Week of September 25th

Student of the Month/Attendance Assembly - Monday, October 2nd

#### b. **HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Dom Vergara**

I'd like to give a special "thank you" to Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Lingle for all of the assistance in kicking off this school year. Our teacher packets included numerous handouts that I requested. It should also be noted that our school was clean and looking great to open the school year. A big thanks to our custodial staff.

We recently have addressed and/or focused on the various topics below:

- Implementing Vision Teams – Rollout (First Vision Team work session, September 20th)

- 23-24 Kick-Off School Year Presentations

- Post Graduate Report – OPI (Submitted: 9/7/2023)

- The Vergara's provided ice cream treats for the staff on the 1st Day of School & we also provide a little breakfast at every monthly staff meeting.

- Finalized 5th & 6th Grade AAU Youth Football Schedule, 1st Game (Saturday, September 16th at 7pm vs. Colstrip)

- Assisting where needed with 5& 6 year's old rec department soccer



- Cook Center (Engaged them at the Principals Conference this summer)
  - o Medallion link on our website - <https://parentguidance.org/>
    - Parenting Courses
    - Therapists Available

Recent Events/Meetings:

- Dr. Crystal Collier – High Risk Behaviors, September 8th
  - o (10 am-Student Assembly, 6 pm-Community Presentation)
- Dynamic Influence Assembly (Vaping and Marijuana) – October 24th, Grades 7-12, High School Gym
- JH/HS Open House Night, FFA BBQ (August 24th, 6 pm)
  - o Special thanks to the Koenigsfeld family for cooking up the hamburgers
  - o Special thanks to Ms. Dunn for helping coordinate this event
  - o Special thanks to Mrs. Mardi Brown for helping with set up
- MASSP Board Meeting,
  - o Region V Director (Southeastern Montana, Secondary School Principals)

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- Goal Setting Meetings with staff, Start of the teacher evaluation process, 1 on 1 Meetings
- Spartans of the Month Program, September
- Meeting with student leadership, School Spirit - Student Section, Theme Nights
- IEP Meetings
- Preparing for a busy homecoming week
- Controlling the narrative, Sharing all of the positive and amazing stories taking place in our schools

**c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist**

To begin I'd like to thank everyone that has had a hand in creating such a great environment for our school's teams and activities. This would include all of the coaches, teachers and school board members. Much has happened with activities since we began the Fall Season: Spartan athletic teams have competed at all levels in Football and Volleyball. As of 9/13, the Varsity Football Team, led by Jay Hoversland and his staff, has an overall win-loss record of 2-1, and 1-0 in Eastern B play. The Varsity Volleyball team sits at 5-2 overall and 2-2 in Conference play, with their losses coming from hard fought split contests against defending State Champion, Huntley Project. Coach Jessica Boggs, and her staff, are doing a great job setting the team up for the next match. Cross Country has competed twice this season, with Hunter Bailey leading the way with top ten finishes at both the Bowman and Glendive Invitational meets. The Spartan XC teams will host their first meet of the season on Saturday (9/16). There will be ten teams in attendance at the Lakeview Country Club Course with the boys running at 11 and the girls competing at 11:40 am. We've had several members of our community sign-up to help with our athletic contests for this month, which helps us to provide a better experience for both the players and the spectators. Our maintenance staff, with help from the coaches, do a fantastic job of creating a welcoming environment for visiting teams, and our fans do a great job of providing the support for our teams. The roar of the crowd during that 4th set at the recent Volleyball game against Huntley Project was amazing. We have taken a few steps to improve our equipment and facilities for our athletic teams. We will be bringing in a new set of Volleyball standards to replace a worn out set. This will allow both gyms to have the ability to offer double matches similar to that recently played by our Middle School Volleyball team against Glendive the morning of Sept. 9th. It was great to see twice as many athletes have the opportunity to play the game, with a double standard set-up.

For the Football program, it was mentioned that our football Yard Marker and Chain Set was in a state of disrepair, held together by tape. We were able to bring in a new set that will keep our outstanding sideline chain and marker crew in action. The Pep Band has provided Music for our Home Football Game against Wolf Point and again at our home VB match against Huntley Project. Band Leader Karen Johnson has been making strides with this group to help create a motivational atmosphere for both our teams and fans. The Cheer squad has also provided support for our teams at the same games and matches. Their efforts to keep the crowd into the games helps to show our school spirit to everyone that attends. Ashley Varner and Makenzie Noseep are doing great things with these young ladies

Our FFA Chapter, led by Advisor Abbey Dunn, sent a group to the District Leadership School in Miles City on September 9th. They attended workshops, designed to help our students develop leadership and teamwork skills. They will host the Fall Districts on September 25th, here in Baker. That will be a great opportunity for our members to earn state qualifications for horse jumping, livestock judging and range CDE's. We just had all of our high school juniors attend a college fair in

Glendive during the afternoon of the 13th, that was today. Lisa Burdick said the event went very well and that our students did a fantastic job of representing Baker High School. ADs from District 3B gathered in Colstrip on September 6th to solidify schedules and spend time preparing for the next season. This was a great opportunity to meet all of the AD's from the District, this was especially valuable since there are five AD's that were not in the district last year. We used the time to ensure all of our winter schedules were accurate within the district and to plan for the future.

The agenda is currently being set for the Southern B Division Meeting set for September 20th in Billings. This will be a great opportunity to start solidifying our initial schedules for all of the spring sports, as well as spend time working on issues to discuss upcoming tournament issues and information.

Speech, Debate and Drama will be the next season coming up with a Parent's meeting on Oct. 12. We are set to interview two applicants in the coming days.

Dalon Dyke asked if there was a way to get the middle school football program fit tested so the parents wouldn't have to order their own equipment. They will look into it.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen**

Current Openings:

Middle School Mathematics, Elementary, 7-12 Industrial Arts, English, Complex Manager, Custodian, Lunch Aide.

Resignation: Mrs. Ashli Wiedmer-Paraprofessional

Montana Arbitration & Labor Relations Conference: was August 29-31, 2023, Billings Montana

McKinstry Update: Parking lot is getting finished up and project costs for the parking lot next summer will be ready by next month.

School-based Mental Health Screening (6th-12th), Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI), Thank you Mrs. Burdick & Mrs. Frye.

Cook Center for Human Resources

ParentGuidance.org

Over 50 courses written by therapists; Ask a Therapist FAQ; 24/7 on demand, private.

MyLifeIsWorthLiving.org

The first animated teen web-series featuring characters and their support system dealing with the tough issues that face teens today. All episodes contain a message of hope and show that there are always people wanting to help; parents feel empowered knowing what to say and do.

**Longfellow Parking Lot:** Posting Private Parking Lot Signs, Placing Notice on Vehicles; do have some habitual parking cluttering the lot. Mardi Brown will have flyers put on their vehicles and put permanent signs in the parking lot.

High School Reader Board: Fix/upgrade options; 3 different options at roughly \$25,000 each. Facility committee can discuss options to replace the sign in the front yard.

Board Members Visiting Schools: Jay Quenzer has started to visit the schools and Karen Wang would like to do it as well. Mr. Skogen stated he will send out a memo district wide to alert the staff board members will be visiting the school in a non-evaluative status.

Flex Calendars (2023-2024 Calendar): talked this summer to develop calendars for flex days during Divisional & State Basketball teams. Questions to answer to get flex calendars:

One or Two Qualifying Teams?

Looking at Thursday and Fridays

Take days back from the Calendar?

Shift Minutes?

Calendar committee can come together to address the issue of a flex calendar but want to know what the board is thinking for the calendar as the school year progresses. Another option is looking at a 4-day school year next year to think about as well. Karen Wang stated she would like a flex calendar for if 2 teams make it State Tournament. Board does agree would like to stay with the modified calendar for days off calendar for District Tournament and not take off any more days for Divisional and State Tournaments.

Request from County: Request placement of 40x10 Conex Storage Container for Baker Rec Department; would like to have it stored by the drivers ed garage in the back parking lot.

New Trustee Training: Friday, September 15th @ 11:00 a.m. it will be MTSBA via ZOOM

Strategic Planning: October 30, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m., dinner will be provided.

Next scheduled board meeting is October 16, 2023 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

*s/ Jennifer Mettler*

Clerk

*s/ Clint Flint*

Chairperson