

REGULAR MEETING

October 16, 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 Dalon Dyke, Cody Strandbakke and Jay Quenzer were in attendance; Trustee Karen Wang was absent. 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 Amanda Tunby, Kallie Madler, Josie Hadley, Mollee Stenberg, Jessica Boggs, Linda Rost, and Makenzie Noseep.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 58857 to 58921 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Flint approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amanda Tunby as we continue to look for qualified personnel does the board or administration conduct exit interviews? Mr. Skogen stated administration visits with all our outgoing personnel and most times the information is personal. Kallie Benter states her sister owns Classy Cactus, local floral shop, and she is participating in Pedal It Forward program and 5th grade class will be delivering bouquets for free around town on Wednesday.

EDUCATION REPORT – Linda Rost & Jessica Boggs, PHAGE Program

Linda Rost and Jessica Boggs report on their PHAGE Program and how they are using it in their classrooms. Mrs. Rost and Mrs. Boggs take the board to their classroom to run a small lab to show how the PHAGE program is working in their classrooms. Board members recess at 6:27pm. Reconvene at 7:03 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

STUDENT ACTIVITY HANDBOOK REVISIONS

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the revision to training rules; after visiting with board members and administration a change is presented on the self-reporting clause in the training rules. It is being recommended to strike the language on self-reporting and will be effective immediately. Mr. Skogen added it will be presented at the next board meeting as well to change the student handbook.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve changes to the Activities Handbook as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY REVISION – BP5222

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a revision to board policy 5222; a meeting with administration and union members it is recommended to change the language in the policy to add “The tenure teacher will be evaluated at least every two (2) years”.

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve changes to Board Policy 5222 as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

MOA WITH BAKER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. Skogen requested to table the agenda item. Mrs. Denise Wang approached the district about the vacant elementary position. She is currently a retired teacher and drawing on her retirement and wishes to continue in her retirement status but that would lower her contracted amount to be contracted and the union needs to sign off on that contract and process. The union would like to have a little bit more time to review the MOA at this time.

Chairperson Flint agreed and agenda item is tabled until union can review the MOA.

CERTIFIED CONTRAC CONSIDERATION

Mr. Skogen stated the consideration to be tabled until the MOA can be reviewed. Chairperson Flint agrees and tables the agenda item.

CLASSIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS

A. PART-TIME LUNCH AIDE

Kim Counsell is being recommended to be hired part-time for the 2023-24 school year.

B. FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN

Jason Cornwell is being recommended to be hired full-time for the 2023-24 school year.

C. REC CENTER MANAGER

Kelsey Miller is being recommended to be hired full time for the 2023-24 school year.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire the individuals as presented for the 2023-24 school year. All hires are dependent on the passage of a background check and/or the results of a pre-employment physical if applicable to the position.

Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presented some attendance agreements for 2023-24 school year.

NAME	DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE	DISTRICT OF CHOICE
O'Connor (6 students)	Plevna	Baker
Harris (2 students)	Plevna	Baker
Hadley (2 students)	Plevna	Baker
Miller	Baker	Ekalaka
Bechtold	Baker	Ekalaka
Lutts (2 students)	Baker	Wibaux
Alford	Baker	Plevna
Buerkle (2 students)	Baker	Plevna
Eisele (2 students)	Baker	Plevna
Hart (3 students)	Baker	Plevna
Li	Baker	Plevna
Liane (2 students)	Baker	Plevna
Stonebrink	Baker	Plevna
Swarts	Baker	Plevna
Wiedmer (2 students)	Baker	Plevna
Wike	Baker	Plevna
MacKay	Baker	Plevna

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the attendance agreements for the 2023-24 school year as presented.

Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

No Changes

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX

No report

2. MAINTENANCE, Mardi Brown

I had a new sump pump, Dehumidifier, and lights replaced in the crawl space of the School housing. The large rains we have had left us with more moisture in that area that our fans couldn't keep up with. Batteries have been replaced in the doors and the smoke detectors. BHS custodial staff removed the old weight equipment from the Cardio room and took it out to Baker Metal for disposal. Spirit night went well and Mrs. Frank and her Class did a thorough cleanup of the bond fire area. Tailgate by the Bank of Baker Friday of Homecoming was very successful. Cleanup went well and we had very little trash in the outside area of the Stadium that night. Wednesday Oct 11th I had Josh Hancock onsite to start the Pool AHU repair above the gym bleachers. Bobcat of Billings delivered the new Compact skid steer with the attachments and Mike Griffith got the Blue tractor shed moved. Direct Electric was on site Thursday to get the Blue shed power back on. I will work on getting the equipment attachments rearranged and the Drivers Ed garage cleared out. Holmlund Lock and Key has the new vestibule door keyed to the outside master and will order a new handle and parts for the Refs outside entrance door that's broken. Kruger has also been contacted to replace the broken glass in the lower South inside the roll up door. Jr High Football coaches and players did an excellent job cleaning up and putting their equipment away. Bollards in front of the Rec Center were finished Friday and the covers put on today

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_P1m46dHTbi4/edit?usp=sharing. Rec Center Tech - Ordered and Moving Forward with mounting TVs by the treadmills and using youtube tv. Cyber Threats & KnowBe4 Training - Requesting that the entire board watch for KnowBe4 Training and complete basic training. Data Breach Incident Response Plan is handed out for review; developed by MTSBA.

4. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, Erin Nevers

Accolades:

Mrs. Josi Hadley has been a lifesaver! Thank you for being willing to move into the open 5th grade teaching position. We were able to start the school year having all our elementary classrooms staffed with certified teachers. Thank you to Mrs. Kara MacKay. We have been struggling to find support staff and Kara has been a strong team-player showing an incredible amount of flexibility.

Our fantastic support staff - Alyson Lineback, Kim O'Donnell, Alivia Schultz, Rebecca LaCroix, LeeAnn Powers, Karlene Kloetzke, BreAnn Leidholt, Lisa Herbst (Para Sub), Sheila Thimony, Leida Swartz, and Lloyd Edwards. We couldn't get through a day without this fantastic crew. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our schools running! Mrs. Cathy Frye has worked throughout the last month to ensure that our students have all completed the district academic screeners, FastBridge and MAPs. She is now working diligently on MAST assessments. Thank you! Students of the Month:

Lincoln - Elliot Schell and Ledger Coulter

Longfellow - Haddie Barkley and Isaiah Burns

September Attendance Awards - Each month, students who miss zero days are entered into a grade level drawing for a prize. Two students from each grade level are chosen. This month students earned a special lunch with the principal.

Kindergarten - Noella Lineback, Henley O'Donnell

1st Grade - Brooks Losing, Brynn Haan

2nd Grade - Capri Boggs, Cooper Enos

3rd Grade - Westin Nelson, Keaton DuCharme

4th Grade - Urijah Losing, Warren Rieger

5th Grade - Aurora Bachelor, Owen Harris

6th Grade - Morgan Sonsalla, Braxton Packineau

Observations/Evaluation - Formative teacher evaluations and observations will be starting for non-tenured teachers and should conclude by the end of November.

Resource Room at Longfellow - We are seeing an uptick in the number of students who are struggling emotionally, particularly at Longfellow school in the 3rd and 4th grade classes. As we know from brain research, if a student's emotional 'fight or flight' response is triggered, they are unable to learn. To assist when students can no longer remain in the classroom, we have implemented a Resource Room for students to receive small group help and a break to calm down. Currently this is monitored by substitutes, but we will track the data to see if it is an addition that needs to continue.

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Dom Vergara

I'd like to give a special "thank you" to all of the volunteer coaches in our community. We currently have volunteers that coach from 5-8 pm three days a week. These volunteers are coaching 180 of our students during the fall youth sports season. The last few weeks they have battled aggressive mosquitos and have done it with a smile. These folks are making a tremendous difference in the lives of your youth. I also want to thank our local sports officials for all they do. We are very fortunate in Baker to have a strong officiating pool that we can call on to assist in providing a great experience for not only our student-athletes but our community.

Spartans of the Month – September

- Jerrick Moser (HS Boy)

- Brooklyn Miller (HS Girl)

- John Miller (JH Boy)

- Nakona Selle (JH Girl)

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

- 7-12 Vision Team System Kick Off (Shared Folder) - Teacher-Student Connection – Google Form Project - Job Corp Meeting/Pre ETS, Additional funding for SPED program, "pre-employment services" (9/14/23) - Montana Youth Challenge Academy (9/27/23) – 1st Student Accepted and will be attending in January

o Started engaging MYCA during the Fall of 2022, work in progress o Mrs. Hoversland visited the MYCA in early October via a Black Hawk Helicopter Ride - Drug Dog (9/26) - Code Red (9/20) – Fire Drill, Code Black (9/27) – Lockdown with intruder - Life Changer of the Year, Nominated – Mardi Brown o Link to support my recommendation - Teacher Evaluations - MAPS Testing, Pre-SAT (Finished in early October)

Dynamic Influence Assembly (Vaping and Marijuana) – October 24 at 10 am, Grades 7-12, High School Gym

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Homecoming – adding flavor to the school community:

Homecoming week, organized by Mrs. Hoversland, added to the sports experience this past month.

Activities like the bonfire/car-bash, parade and the homecoming assembly helped to boost spirit, both at the school and in the Baker community. I'd like to share a big "Thank you" to Mrs.

Hoversland for all of her organizational skill, hard work and the extra time that she put into this wonderful event. Fall Sports getting closer to Wrapping up their seasons:

The HS Cross Country team will travel to the other end of the state to compete in the State Cross Country Championships. Senior Hunter Bailey recently won the boys' varsity division at the Culbertson Invitational, while Sophomore Natie Hester placed 4th in the girls' varsity race. Only a minute behind her was her teammate Devyn Swartz, an 8th grade runner finished in 12th place.

Already others in the school are expressing interest in joining next year's team. In HS Volleyball, the young ladies of Baker will wrap up their regular season with matches against Colstrip on Thursday (10/19 - senior night) and follow that up with their final regular season match in Wolf Point on Saturday (10/21). After that, the District Championship will be held at Huntly Project (10/26-27), and the Divisional Championship will be at Columbus (11/2-3-4).

The HS Football team will wrap up it's regular season at home against Round-up on Friday at 7 PM (10/20). Depending upon the outcome of this weekend's district games, The Baker team will find out if they will travel as the 4th seed or host a playoff round as the second seed. The first round of the Class B Football playoffs begin on October 28th.

Seasons have wrapped up in MS sports of football and volleyball, while the Cheer Squad and Pep Band are getting closer to the end of their activities for the Fall. Coaching evaluations will formally bring an end to each of the fall sports and activities. FFA Heads to Billings for the NILE event and will then look toward Indianapolis, Indiana. FFA has hosted it Fall Districts here in Baker and is currently at the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) in Billings working on skills that will help them in the larger events that they attend later in the school year. This would include the National FFA Convention on Nov. 1 – 4th, an event that the Baker FFA team will travel to this year. Ms. Dunn has been helping the students organize fund-raisers to help pay the cost of their trip. Winter season activities beginning to roll out: Several winter activities have just started practices. MS Wrestling and Speech, Debate & Drama started practices today, while MS Girls Basketball will begin next week (10/23).

The Music Department will host it's Fall Concert at 7 PM at Longfellow on Tuesday night, Oct. 24th.

5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Middle School Mathematics, Elementary (Mrs. Wang), 7-12 Industrial Arts, English Paraprofessional (ELEM). MCEL is October 19-20, 2023, Billings Montana – Jay Quenzer and Cody Strandbakke will be attending with Mr. Skogen and Mrs. Mettler. Strategic Planning is scheduled for October 30, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be provided

Next scheduled board meeting is November 15, 2023 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Kent Flint

Chairman