

REGULAR MEETING

November 15, 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 Kelsey Miller, Amanda Tunby, Linda Rost, and Yvonne Baker.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 58922 to 58976 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Flint approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Rost reports to the board on behalf of the BEA the status as we are currently 4 FTE short in the middle school and high school. It has been difficult and not a high-quality teaching experience. The union would like to continue to use Infinite Campus for behavior referrals; right now, it is done through email, but want to use Infinite Campus.

EDUCATION REPORT – MCEL TRUSTEE REPORT

Mr. Quenzer and Mr. Strandbakke report on their experience at the conference at MCEL conference they attended over teachers' convention.

ACTION ITEMS

CLASSIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATION

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a recommendation to hire a paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year; interviews were conducted for 3 applicants and Ms. Lisa Lonear is being recommended for hire at this time. Jay Quenzer moved to hire Ms. Lisa Lonear as a paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year, pending the results of a background check. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR CONTRACT CONSIDERATION

No recommendation to be made at this time.

BEA INTENT TO NEGOTIATE

Mr. Skogen presents to the board the Intention to Negotiate presented to the board as this is the last year of the current collective bargaining agreement. The committee of the board to negotiate will be Klint Flint, Karen Wang and Jay Quenzer; BEA would like to get the process started sooner rather than later. The board would like to set the groundrules for December 6th at 5pm, tentatively awaiting BEA confirmation.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the applications for the alumni scholarship. Two applications were received and recommended to award the scholarships.

Karen Wang moved to approve a \$500 alumni scholarship to each Caleb Ploeger and Bryce Shelhamer for the 2023-24 school year. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2ND QUARTER OIL AND GAS ALLOCATION

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the recommendation for oil and gas allocation. She stated with the projects for this coming summer, it is recommended to put some revenue in the building reserve fund but still need to allocate to the flex fund. Jay Quenzer moved to reallocate oil and gas revenue received on or about November 1, 2023 to the Flex Fund \$500,000 and the Building Reserve \$179,921.59, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

No changes at this time.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX, Kelsey Miller

Full staff cleaning day on 11/19/23 and will be first Sunday of the month. Will be holding the staff to a high standard with cleanliness and the lifeguards are doing a great job. Locker rentals are going to be organized moving forward and will be cleaned and start anew.

2. **MAINTENANCE, Mardi Brown**

Allied Plumbing has all of the Pool AHU vent repairs done in the area above the bleachers. That unit is now running very quietly. The new Compact Bobcat and attachments were delivered on Oct 11th and has been very nice to have with the recent storm we had. Griffith Excavating put the Blue garage back in place and Direct Electric hooked up the power to it. We are waiting on the new garage siding before we can get the Sports Booster shed put in place. Adam has the fence removed next to the Drivers Ed garage to make room for the ConEx that the County is putting in for the Rec Dept. Fire Marshall was onsite to inspect the items we needed to fix from his last inspection. Three minor things still showed up and all but one has been done. Waiting on Direct with the Exit sign by handicap door at BHS. The sign came in lighting on only one side and it needs to be visible on both sides. Mike Menger winterized the Stadium on Tuesday Nov 7th and I turned all the heat down and shut the breaker off for the bathroom lights. The lights are auto and seem to come on all the time during the winter for no reason. We had a hot water line leak at Longfellow in the ceiling above the Custodial room. I did a minor repair until Allied could get the repair done. We have 2 ceiling panels to replace and the wall has some water damage. Beach Cenex has been contacted to come and fill the propane tanks for the drivers Ed garage and the generator for BHS. Tuesday November 14th went to Marmarth and did the Asbestos check at the school and went to Bowman and picked up Potash as the local fertilizer has none in storage.

3. **TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson**

Working on little projects throughout the District, locally hosting Regional BPA on December 4th and always looking for judges to volunteer.

4. **PRINCIPALS**

a. **ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, Erin Nevers**

Elementary Book Fair - Thank you Mrs. Lesh for hosting this event. It was a huge success! She had \$5,368.66 in sales and earned \$2,684.33 for the elementary libraries!

Parent Teacher Conferences - Conferences were a huge success by and large. We tried a new set-up at Longfellow, teachers held conferences together in the gym. It was good for parents to have the option to meet with multiple teachers.

Staff In-Service - Today 11.15.23 - Teachers at Lincoln and Longfellow met to explore the Barton System for Students with Dyslexia as their PLC.

Attendance - Currently we have 88 elementary students with three or more absences, as compared to 48 at last month's board meeting. 35% of our students in K-6 with 3 or more absences, 3.6% of our students with 9 or more absences. 39%, 96 students, with 0 absences in October! 18%, 45 students, with 0 absences since the start of school!

October Students of the Month:

Lincoln - Blair Rieger and Dawson O'Donnell

Longfellow - Claire Losing, James Connolly, and Kevin Lewis

Veterans Day Celebrations: 6th graders set up America's White Table at the bank.

Longfellow's 5th & 6th Grade Volunteer Choir sang at Superior Care, the Hospital and our Student of the Month Assembly.

UPCOMING:

Mrs. Nevers Out of the Office - Thursday afternoon & Friday, November 17th - Special Ed Law Conference

Early Release @ 1:29 - Holiday Schedule - Wednesday, November 22nd

No School - Happy Thanksgiving - Thursday & Friday, November 23rd & 24th

December 1st: 2nd Quarter Mid-term,

November Student of the Month Assemblies: Lincoln - 8:20 AM, Longfellow - 1:30 PM

Elementary Christmas Program - Thursday, December 7th @ 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Early Release @ 2:15 - Staff In-service - Wednesday, December 13th

5-12 Holiday Concert - Tuesday, December 12th @ 7:00 p.m.

Early Release @ 1:29 - Holiday Schedule - Wednesday, December 21st

No School - Christmas Break - December 22nd - January 1st

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

Spartans of the Month – October: Chance Follmer (HS Boy), Briley Gorder (HS Girl), Reese Lecoe (JH Boy), Cadence Brown - 7th grade (JH Girl).

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

- 7-12 Vision Team System

- New financial literacy classes are going well, #1 MS team in the Montana Stock Market Game (600+ teams)

- More students being active and giving more effort in our physical education classes

Recent Events/Meetings

- Dynamic Influence Assembly (Vaping and Marijuana) – October 24 at 10 am, Grades 7-12, High School Gym
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences – November 7th, 2:30-7 pm
 - o 2022-2023 – 44% Parent Turnout, 2023-2024 – 45.8% Parent Turnout
 - Spartan Lunch (October 30-November 3)
 - Fall Concert – A fun concert put on by Ms. Johnson
 - Code Red (October 18), Code Brown (November 15)
 - 2023 AAU Football Season
 - o Ended the season 4-1, only loss was at Miles City 8 to 6, beat Miles City at Baker 14-6.
 - o 24-25 AAU Football Sign Ups will be Tuesday, March 19th at 6 pm (High School, ITV Room)
- Our greenhouse is alive and well. Fish and Wildlife provided us with bluegills for our greenhouse. Special thank you to Rich Menger and Ms. Dunn.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Teacher Evaluations
- Thanksgiving Social (MS/HS Staff) – Thee Garage at 6 pm (November 16th)
 - o Set up by the social/relations vision team
- BPA Region 7 – Hosting regionals, December 4th
- MSU Educator Recruitment Fair – TEACH Montana, December 13th (at Bozeman)

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

The HS Volleyball team finished second in the District 3B Tournament and wrapped up their season at the Southern Divisional. Madison O'Connor and Kyal Hadley both earned 1st Team All-Conference, while teammates Kaytlynn Gaub and Kayl Hadley earned 2nd Team All-Conference Honors. Madison was also tabbed with All-State Honors.

The HS Football team wrapped up its season with a first-round playoff game against 2-time defending state champion Florence-Carlton. All-Conference selections will be shared after this weekend.

The Cross-Country team finished their season at the State Championship meet held in Kalispell. Winter sports are currently underway with MS Girls Basketball and MS Wrestling starting their competitive seasons this week, while the HS Basketball and HS Wrestling teams will open their first practice on Thursday, Nov. 16th. Season openers will be the Sidney Invitational Tournament Dec. 1 & 2, followed by the Baker Mixer (12/5) for Wrestling and games against Miles City on Dec. 8th for the HS Basketball teams.

Winter Cheer Tryouts will be held on Nov. 20 & 21st.

Baker Middle School Wrestling Tourney held on Friday. Middle School Wrestling Coaches Dustin Erickson and John Bertsch will be hosting the Baker MS wrestling tournament on Friday in the HS Gymnasium. Matches will begin at 2 PM with teams from Bowman, Sidney, Circle and Baker in action.

FFA – John Deere Ag Expo in Bozeman. FFA will travel to the John Deere Ag Expo in Bozeman (11/16-18). Several members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis at the beginning of November. A full report will be shared at the December Board Meeting by Coach Dunn.

BHS Business Professionals of America (BPA) to Host Region 7 Leadership Conference On Dec. 4th, BPA members from across District 7 (The seven counties that make up the Southeastern part of the State) will come together at Baker High School to compete, gain leadership training, and be recognized for their achievements.

Music Department's Fall Concert a Success – District Honors Festival, Christmas Concerts upcoming The Honor Band & Choir will travel to the District Honors Music Festival, held in Glendive, on Nov. 20 & 21st. The Christmas Concert will be Dec. 7 (Elementary 10 AM @ Lincoln, 6:30 PM @ Longfellow) and Dec. 12 (MS/HS 7PM @ Longfellow)

5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current openings: MS math, elementary, 7-12 industrial arts, and English. The bus contract is expiring at the end of this current school year, so will need to open the contract up for bids and an RFP will be posted in the paper.

Dress Code concerns: past practice the District has required students to be well groomed and want their faces shaved; want to know where the board would like to direct the administration to on how to approach the well-groomed portion of the policy. Karen Wang stated she doesn't think the district can legally tell people how to wear their hair and facial hair. Discussion followed on the dress code and discussion of facial hair. Board is agreement the facial hair rule that the district is not opposed to allowing but it must be well groomed and hygienic and allow the administration the discretion to address.

We had a 4-day school week meeting on November 9, 2023 and will continue to host committee meetings to further discuss the options for next school year; two board members are part of the committee and it is Jay

Quenzer and Cody Strandbakke. Discussion was had with the board, teachers present and administration on the pros and cons of the 4 Day School Calendar; the board would like to have some individuals present to talk about the good and bad of a 4 day schedule. Mr. Skogen will reach out for those individuals to possible talk to the committee.

Strategic Planning on December 6th @ 6pm; Negotiation Groundrules meeting with the BEA will be December 6th @ 5:30pm.

Next scheduled board meeting is December 13, 2023 at 6 pm.
There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Clint Flint

Chairman