

REGULAR MEETING

January 9, 2024

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 Amanda Tunby, Heather Schwindt, Mollee Stenberg, Kallie Benter, Abbey Dunn, Jessica Stark, Julia Schallenberger, Casey Koeningsfeld, and Maddie Butori.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 59030 to 59092 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Flint approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather Schwindt visits with the board about her concerns with the movement to a 4 day school calendar.

Mrs. Schwindt leaves the meeting.

Mrs. Amanda Tunby hands out to the board "6 must dos to fix the educator shortage crisis". Mrs. Tunby also asks for clarification on the evaluation of sports but are all extracurriculars being evaluated? Mr. Skogen stated yes. As we look for new employees for open positions, we don't have many openings on the extracurricular schedule since how the handbook is stated we don't have many openings since they would be hired following an evaluation.

EDUCATION REPORT – FFA NATIONALS TRIP

Jessica Stark, Maddi Butori, Casey Koeningsfeld and Julia Schallenberger present to the board a report on their National FFA Trip they took in November. Students thank the board for the support and leave the meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION/PROGRESS

Jay Quenzer and Dalon Dyke attended the PTA meeting last week; visited with PTA about the strategic planning meeting and 4 day schedule. PTA is a great organization but with small numbers; they provide great support to our younger students/buildings.

ACTION ITEMS

ELEMENTARY ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION OPENING

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation of adding another administrator to the elementary. In the last couple years, we have changed our approach and offered additional administrative coverage at the K-6 but that also meant we reduced our administrative coverage in the 7-12. Having attempted multiple ways for balancing out two (2) elementary schools, I feel it is necessary for the Board to consider an additional full-time administrator at the K-6 level. This would allow Mrs. Nevers to have a full-time vice principal dedicated entirely to the K-6 level. This would also give Mr. Vergara a full-time vice principal/activities director at the 7-12 level. I believe the needs within our district have changed over time. We are short on support staff but additionally the needs of our staff and students isn't the same as it was in the past. I feel two (2) full-time administrators at the K-6 level and 7-12 level will allow our administration to better balance the needs of their buildings in addition to making purposeful change moving forward. The proposal is to add a K-6 Vice Principal with salary and benefits as outlined in the Administration Handbook with a sliding experience & responsibility percentage range from 0%-10% based on the Administrative Salary Schedule. Minimum salary would be \$77,620.00 and may increase based on negotiations.

Discussion followed. Chair Flint would like the administration to consider hiring within our own staff if it works out and the applicant fits the criteria. Mr. Skogen inquires timeline of recruiting in-house; Chair Flint states there isn't a concrete timeline but keep the board informed.

Jay Quenzer moved to create a new elementary vice principal position. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

MCKINSTRY CHANGE ORDER – SUMMER CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Skogen stated the attached document is the change order from McKinstry that would allow us to tie in the remaining drains, regrade the north yard, hydroseed, install a new sprinkler system and concrete the north parking lot for a cost of \$550,717.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the change order provided by McKinstry, as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Flint asked to move this agenda item to the end of the meeting due to the executive session.

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

No changes at this time.

REPORTS:

1. **COMPLEX, Kelsey Miller**

Absent, but submitted a report.

There was a full staff cleaning day on Sunday, January 9th. Cleaning days will continue to be on the first Sunday of every month. The Fallon County Health department conducted the 2nd Pool Inspection for 2023 and the facility received an excellent report and was in great condition. All Staff members have been consulted on ensuring the TV's are turned off when not in use. Staff members are expected to maintain their assigned lockers. Chemical Levels have remained normal. Due to the New Year, membership sales and attendance have increased significantly.

2. **MAINTENANCE, Mardi Brown**

The Districts 5 AEDs are updated and checked to be in working order if needed. I ordered and hung 3 shower curtains in the girls locker room showers as per Bill Birst request. Over the Christmas break items that were taken care of by the custodial staff are as follows: Mop all classrooms, replace unit vent filters, scrub and buff complex, scrub lunchroom floor, clean locker rooms thoroughly top to button. Along with any extra repairs or requests from staff. Tuesday morning January 2nd all water systems in all 3 schools were flushed as per the DEQ requirements. This needs to be done if school is out for more than 3 days. Otis was onsite Wednesday January 3rd to service the elevator at Longfellow school as per our contract.

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

Pushed back obsolete items to next month. Smart Boards have been listed for a while and would like permission to transfer to the landfill. Working on Intercom & Alarm changes and additions; looking to add speakers and lights to areas with volume concerns. Please complete your KnowBe4 training.

E-Sports - Group working on Constitution and Bylaws to apply for official school affiliation by the start of the Spring season. Fall League Finishing Up: Rocket League lost to East Helena in 6 games. All participating members are working on by-laws and expect to wrap up and present by the start of Spring league in March.

4. **PRINCIPALS**

a. **ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, Erin Nevers**

December Students of the Month

Lincoln - Ellie O'Connor and Kori Knipp

Longfellow - Jasper Fullmer and Adasa Custer

Holiday Fun at Longfellow - The school-wide stations at Longfellow were a huge hit! Kudos to our teachers for creating a fun-filled morning before Christmas break. Shout out to Mrs. Kallie Benter for planning and organizing this event. Thank you to Sergeant Cody Strandbakke and Mr. Clint Flint for joining the fun!

Attendance - Currently we have 150 elementary students with three or more absences, as compared to 131 at last month's board meeting. 58% (53%) of our students in K-6 had 3 or more absences, 12.1% (9.6%) of our students had 9 or more absences. 44% (39%), 113 (98) students, with 0 absences in December! 7.4% (11.6%), 19 (29) students, with 0 absences since the start of school!

UPCOMING:

4-day Teacher Panel - January 10th - 6:00 PM - HS ITV Room

5-12 Band Concert - January 11th - 7:00 PM - Longfellow Gym

End of 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester - January 12th

No Students - Staff PIR Day - January 15th

FastBridge Winter Screening - 4 week window opens January 15th

Mrs. Tunby's Class to Superior Care - January 18th - 9:45-10:15

SAM Principal Conference - Mrs. Nevers out of the office - January 21st - 23rd

Early Release at 2:15 - Staff In-service - Wednesday, February 7th

Elementary PLCs

Mid-Term Quarter 3 - Wednesday, February 14th

Early Release at 2:15

No School - District Basketball Tournaments - February 15th & 16th

Missoula Children's Theatre - February 19th - 24th

Performances are Saturday, February 24th at 3:30 and 6:00 PM - Longfellow Gym

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

We would like to thank the Bank of Baker and Grassland Federal Credit Union for taking the time to visit with our finance students over the past the month. I'd also like to give Mrs. Franks and our

social vision team a shout out for putting together activities day for the students the day before Christmas break.

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

- Encouraging guest speakers (Successful alumni, community members, professionals...)
- Teacher-Parent Communication (Staying positive, building student self-confidence “sprinkle every student with positivity”)

- Reviewing 2023-2024 Individual Staff Goals & Follow Up Meetings

- o Teacher Evaluations

- Valedictorian/Salutatorian Update

- Staff Recruitment – TEACH Montana Fair Update

- Stock Market Game – 6th and 10th place (\$50 Visa Gift Cards), Over 1,400 participants

- 2024 Graduation Prep Work

- Spring Testing Schedule/2nd Semester Schedule Changes – Mrs. Burdick

- Spartan Media Facebook Page

December Spartans of the Month

(Reserved Parking Spot, Spartan T-Shirt, Breakfast w/ Principal, Certificate, Facebook, Newspaper

- Quinn Griffith (HS Boy), Saraya Afrank (HS Girl), Cade Huft (JH Boy), Addison Heiser (JH Girl)

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- 2024 Montana Principals Conference – Helena, MT (Jan 21-23)

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Wrestling teams excel at first two Tournaments. The Spartan Ladies used the opportunity to show the rest of the state’s wrestlers how they stack up while competing at the Tom LeProwse Tournament in Bozeman last week. They came away with a second-place team finish. Defending state AA champion, Billing Senior won the tournament while the other 37 teams in attendance, including 13 AA squads, trailed Baker in the Results. Five Spartans came away with top three finishes. The boys have had a strong showing, as well. They finished 14th out of the 43 teams in attendance. They were the second B/C school at the event. Riley Davis and Jesse Brawley both placed in the top five of their divisions at the event. Plans are currently underway for a rescheduled Baker mixer. We have two teams interested in coming over to mix it up with our Spartan Wrestlers. The teams will have three more weeks of their regular season before entering the Divisional Tournament in Wolf Point at the Beginning of February, with the State Championships held the following week in Billings. High School Basketball teams set for Conference Contests. The Girls Varsity teams have won each of their last six games to bring their record to 6-1, while the boys sit at 5-2. Both teams are 1-0 in Conference Play. They travel to Huntley Project on Friday, and then host Lodge Grass on Saturday. The Lodge Grass game will be the midpoint of the regular season for both teams.

Speech, Drama and Debate team continues to improve. The Spartan Speech and Drama team will travel to Fairview this weekend, then to Culbertson for the Divisional qualifier next Friday. They will wrap up their season with the State Championship in Choteau on the last weekend of the month.

Music Department’s MS/HS Post Holiday Concert; The Post Holiday Concert will be held on Thursday, January 11th at the Longfellow Gymnasium. This event, postponed prior to the Christmas break, will begin at 7 PM featuring musical presentations from both the Middle and High School Music Departments. Montana High School Association (MHSA) Annual Meeting will be hosted on Monday, January 15th in Bozeman. As the Governing body of Montana High School Activities and Athletics, the Association meeting offers the opportunity for member representatives to meet and plan for the upcoming year. Proposals for this year’s legislative session are offered as an attachment to this document.

5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Middle School Mathematics, Elementary, 7-12 Industrial Arts, English, Special Education (Elementary), Elementary Vice Principal. Bus Contract is currently being advertised for accepting bids; open until February 20th.

4-Day School Week: Community Survey (closed 1.5.24), Student Survey (closed 1.5.24), Staff Survey (closes 1.12.24).

Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 @ TBD

Potential Special Board Meeting: January 24, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Negotiations 1st Meeting is January 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting is February 13, 2024 at 6 pm.

Chair Flint calls for recess at 7:42pm

Reconvenes at 7:50 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Flint called for executive session; all guests leave the meeting except for Mr. Skogen and Mrs. Mettler.

Meeting closed at 7:51pm

Meeting reconvened at 9:19 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Flint Flint

Chairman