

REGULAR MEETING

March 12, 2024

6:00 PM

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

**Consent Items:**

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 59163 to 59216 were reviewed and approved. Jay Quenzer moved to approve the consent items as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**EDUCATION REPORT**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST**

Mrs. Rost and Miss Dunn present to the board as they have been working collaboratively with science and agriculture. They would like to grow plants in water as fish fertilize the plants; they have Perch from Baker Lake currently. Looking for more of a small aquaponics system for the greenhouse. Mrs. Rost is looking to conduct brain studies and would buy EEG Headsets to accomplish the studies to help broaden the studies the kids can explore. Dalon Dyke moved to approve the request to apply for the Continental Grant as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS**

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the student attendance agreements for the 2023-24 school year.

Name	District of Residence	District of Choice
Toth	Wibaux	Baker
Hoffman (1 student)	Plevna	Baker
State Placement (2 students)	Baker	Great Falls
Enos (2 students)	Baker	Ekalaka
Longee (2 Students)	Baker	Ekalaka

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the 2023-24 attendance agreements as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**CERTIFIED CONTRACT(S) CONSIDERATION(S)**

Mr. Skogen presents to the board a recommendation to hire for 2024-25 school year. Discussion followed. Jay Quenzer moved to hire Ms. McKinnon Little as an elementary teacher for the 2024-25 school year, pending the result of a background check. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**NOTICE TO INCREASE NON VOTED MILL LEVY RESOLUTION**

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the notice to increase non voted mill levy resolution.

**BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT #12**  
**NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE NON VOTED LEVIES**  
**March 12, 2024**

The Baker School District is committed to financial transparency; 20-9-116, MCA requires school districts to provide notice of its intent to increase non-voted levies in the ensuing fiscal year. As a result, the proposed notice contains projections (estimates) for all of the District's non-voted levy supported funds:

Fund	2023-24 Actual Levies		2024-25 Projections				Est. Annual Tax Impact \$100K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$200K home
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills	Change \$	Change Mills		
General - BASE	\$ 1,406,540	29.92	\$ 1,425,988	29.70	\$ 19,448	(0.22)	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.60)
General - OverBASE	\$ 871,179	17.90	\$ 861,874	17.95	\$ (9,304)	0.05	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.14
Transportation	\$ 414,481	8.82	\$ 394,481	8.22	\$ (20,000)	(0.60)	\$ (0.81)	\$ (1.62)
Bus Depreciation	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Adult Ed	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Technology	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Flexibility	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Building Reserve Permissive	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Building Reserve Voted	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,692,200</b>	<b>56.64</b>	<b>\$ 2,682,343</b>	<b>55.87</b>	<b>\$ (9,857)</b>	<b>(0.77)</b>	<b>\$ (1.04)</b>	<b>\$ (2.08)</b>

This notice must also document the District's expected use of its Building Reserve State Major Maintenance levies and associated funding. As of the date of this notice, the District does not intend to levy money in the Building Reserve Fund due to sufficient cash reserves for the coming years projects.

These estimates are the District's best estimates at the current time. They are based on the current year's taxable value as required by 20-9-116, MCA. If the District's taxable value increases as expected, the mill and taxpayer cost increases will be less than presented here. These estimates are preliminary and changes are expected before the final budgets are set in August. Please contact the District Business Office at (406) 778-2577 or [mettlerj@baker.k12.mt.us](mailto:mettlerj@baker.k12.mt.us) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the resolution as presented and to be posted and advertised in the Fallon County Times. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.  
**SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN**  
 No Changes.

**REPORTS:**

**1. COMPLEX, Kelsey Miller**

**Training:** According to American Red Cross Guidelines, Staff members are required to attend a minimum of six hours of training per month to refresh skills, rescue techniques, and CPR/AED training. For this training requirement, Staff members will attend training days to ensure they will be prepared for any scenario that may come their way while in the workplace.

**Cleaning:** Due to being short staffed and accommodating for sports and other extracurricular activities, deep cleaning has been difficult to stay on top of for the staff members. An all-hands cleaning day will be attended two days a month coinciding with the scheduled training. On top of this, a new cleaning schedule has been made for each shift throughout the day to better break down tasks for employees.

**Equipment:** This morning we had a new adjustable decline bench, new dumbbells, and a new dumbbell rack delivered.

**Swimming Lessons:** Although sign-ups for swimming lessons will not begin until closer toward the end of May, preparation of lesson plans have already begun.

**Parent & Tots:** Looking at past lessons, floaters classes have been extremely full and the lifeguards have expressed that it was difficult to teach the large classes, as well as a safety concern for the children left sitting on the edge waiting for their instructor to return with the kids they are taking across the pool. To better handle the large class sizes, Parent & Tot classes can be offered outside of the lesson plan throughout the week. This will allow us to incorporate another floaters class into lessons and decrease the amount of children each member of staff will have to teach at one time.

**Preschool at The Pool:** I was approached by Mariah Miller ( Rec Department Director), about the possibility of running a program at the pool. This program would run on Thursdays and Friday from (10:15-11:00) from May 23rd - June 7th. The Chamber has already approved this and are prepared to pay \$100 for use of the facility and to account for having staff on deck for the extra time. Parents will be required to be in the water with their children.

**Certifications:** Below is a list of all employees current certifications as well as when they expire. With these soon expiring certifications and to have the ability to train new lifeguards/swimming lesson aids I will need to secure my own certifications. In order to accomplish this, I will need to complete the Lifeguard Instructor

Course. I will also need to complete the Water Safety Instructor course in order to run swimming lessons this summer in June. The only courses that are running currently are in Bismarck. The Lifeguard instructor course will run from April 19-21, and WSI is being held May 28th-30th.

**2. MAINTENANCE, Mardi Brown**

Cerberus was onsite and has the new FOB installed on the inside glass door at Longfellow gym. I placed a small note on the door that's located to the right side of the right door. It seems to be a very nice mechanism. Over the break HS staff went to Longfellow and installed piano dollies on the older piano in the Music room for Mrs Hess. Boiler inspector with AIG was here and inspected and approved all boilers at the 3 schools. He also commented that our boiler rooms are the cleanest he's been in. Longfellow gym floor was covered and set up on Friday the 23rd for the Missoula Children's Theatre and then cleaned up after the last performance on Saturday. Kruger Windows and Doors installed new windows in the Rec center entry that needed replacing. Zip ties were ordered for the Tennis courts and we will get the wind screens up when we have nice days and no wind. We are still working with Long and McKinstry on the AHU units we are having problems with. They are AHU 6 that covers the Library and ITV and the AHU C that does the Rec center old wrestling room, mens and ladies restroom and office.

**3. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson**

Absent, attending conference meetings.

**4. PRINCIPALS**

**a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, Erin Nevers**

Missoula Children's Theatre : Thank you to Mrs. Hess for the extra volunteer time and energy you put into this project. Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Wang for hosting the MCT actors. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students! Over 50 kids participated in the production of Peter and Wendy.

Staff Evaluations: Summative observations for certified elementary staff were completed by March 8th. Nearly all post-observation evaluation meetings have taken place, with the exception of 2 due to absences and illnesses. Continue with Lunch with Law Enforcement.

Student Behavior: Spring has sprung! We are seeing an increase in behavioral issues and concerns, particularly at Longfellow. Students are showing more aggressive reactions and expressing emotions in a negative way. Mr. Brist and I work closely on student discipline concerns and will continue to hold students accountable for their actions by upholding the policies outlined by the district in the student handbook.

Mrs. Frye and I have been working with the 4th grade teachers to address specific issues that have come about with 4th graders. On February 23, we sent a letter home with parent information. We have met to talk about bullying and coping skills. In the coming weeks we will dive into healthy relationships, communication skills, impulse control, empathy, problem solving and decision making. Next year emotional regulation and executive functioning skills will be a focus in all K-6 classrooms.

Attendance: 2023-2024 - 2nd Semester Absences - Starting January 16th

Currently we have 121 (65), 49% (26%) of our students in K-6 have 3 or more absences for the 2nd semester. 5% or 13 students are considered to have chronic absenteeism with 9 or more absences. 38% (30%), 93 (75) students, with 0 absences in February!

UPCOMING: February Student of the Month Assemblies - March 13th

Lincoln - 8:30 AM, Longfellow - 1:45 PM

Staff In-service - Wednesday, March 13th

Early Release at 2:15

Elementary - Staff Meetings and Quarter 3 Grading

Elementary Music Festival - February 14th - 15th

5th and 6th grade performances are at Longfellow

7th and 8th grade performances are at the High School

End of Quarter 3 - Friday, March 15th

Kindergarten Registration - Tuesday, March 19th

Easter Break - Thursday, March 28th - Holiday Schedule 1:29 Release

Friday, March 29th - No School

Monday, April 1st - No School

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

I would like to take a moment to thank Jen Mettler for all of her hard work this spring. She is always present and I always receive an immediate answer. This helps all of the various district business move forward seamlessly. I also want to thank her for assisting with providing meals for our meetings and doing all of the clean-up. It's appreciated.

I would like to thank Mrs. Burdick for taking the time to clean out our old SPED office.

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

- Vision Team Process -March 13th (Vision Team Presentations, Vision Team Shared Folder)
- Vision Team Goals for 24-25
- Increase in Military Recruitment at Baker High School
- Guest Speaker: Vaughn Zenko, English – Importance of Grant Writing
- 23-24 (7-12) Teacher Evaluation Process – Completed
- National FFA Week (February 19-23)
- OPI Observation of MAST Testing (March and April)
- Mrs. Hoversland – Adding Life Skills Curriculum to our 7-12 SPED Program
- Mrs. Beach – Shared idea’s about adding content to her life development curriculum regarding the beginning and end of life. She mentioned spending time with students at a nursing home and funeral home.
- Mrs. Anderson – Knights’ Ball, NHS Fundraiser (March 22nd)
- Updating Course Descriptions for 7-12 Class Offerings, Class Registration 24-25
- Ms. Gustad – Considering a new course: Drama, Theater, and Film
- Met with Mr. Brian Michelotti (Road to 182) – MHSA is making visits to every member school
- Preventative Vaping Presentation for Fall 2024 (7-12 Student Assembly Format) – Working on
- Dr. Slinger (Met with at MCC) – Discussed several different ways to partner, advanced math
- Home school students trending in Eastern Montana communities
- Attended the Montana Virtual Job Fair (3/8/24)

February Spartans of the Month (Reserved Parking Spot, Spartan T-Shirt, Lunch w/ Principal, Certificate, Facebook, Newspaper)

- Turner Smith (HS Boy)
- Sydne Austin (HS Girl)
- Ryan Griffith (JH Boy)
- Bree Straub (JH Girl)

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- Summer Administrator Institute (July 21-24)
- Upcoming Recruitment Fair – Minot State (Mid-March)

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

Lady Spartan Basketball Team concludes Season with a State Championship

The Girls team ended their season as State Champions as they won the Class B Girls State Basketball Tournament held at the Metra in Billings. They defeated Chinook in the first round by a score of 46-30. They advanced to the semi-final round against Ennis, where they won with a score of 61-30. In the Final, the Lady Spartans defeated Missoula Loyola by a score of 57-44. Their record for the season: 22-4, They placed second in the 3B, and second in the Southern B Division before winning the State Tournament. The Spartan Boys Basketball team finished their regular season as the third seed at the District Tournament and ended the season with an 11-9 overall record.

Kudos to both the Pep Band and the Cheer Squad for their performances at the District, Divisional and State Basketball Tournaments. Their presence helped to keep fans involved and helped to provide a motivational and upbeat atmosphere for everyone in attendance at our Spartan Basketball games throughout these 3 tournaments.

MS and HS Academic Olympic Teams Shine in Miles City: Spartan Academic Olympic teams participated in the Southeast Montana Region Academic Olympics held at Miles Community College in Miles City with the MS participants competing on March 5th and the HS participants competing on March 6th.

Spartan BPA Team wrap up Season at the State Leadership Conference in Billings: Twenty Spartan BPA students participated in the State Leadership Conference, held from March 10-12 in Billings. Several Baker students earned top-ten finishes at the event: Open Testing results: MS Business Communication Skills – Bree Straub 8th, Business Math Skills – Bree Straub 6th, Brady Graham 9th, Computer Literacy Concepts – Brady Graham – 9<sup>th</sup> State Awards: Advanced Spreadsheets – Turner Smith 6th, Database Applications – Kaydree Anderson – 5th, Database Applications – Emily Enos – 10th, Financial Analyst Team – Chloe Thurlow and Marvin Sobanski – 6th, Video Production Team – DeeAnna Hess, Jessica Kruger, Tylar Smith – 5th.

Music Department to Host an Elementary Music Festival on March 14 & 15. The Baker Music Departments will host an elementary school music festival on March 14 & 15th. On Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade musicians will participate, and on Friday, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade musicians will have their opportunity.

Spring Sports – Tennis, Golf and Track & Field - are underway: Spring Sports have started with their first practice dates held on March 11th. Mild pre-spring weather has helped all of the sports to begin their practices with positive outdoor practices.

FFA State Convention will be held in Billings from April 2nd – 6<sup>th</sup>: Over 26 Baker students have qualified to participate, many in multiple events, for this statewide competition.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen**

Current Openings: HS Mathematics, 7-12 Industrial Arts, Elementary Vice Principal.

Resignation(s): Mrs. Mardi Brown – Head of Maintenance, Mrs. Kimmie Counsell – Lunch aide, Mr. Bo Lingle – HS Football Assistant Coach, Mrs. Kallie Benter – Academic Olympics.

Building Security:

Front Entrance–Vestibule @ High School & Complex (FOB Access); public knows they should not be in the facility during class times and the gyms doors do lock into the gym. During last intruder trainings, Cody Strandbakke would like to have the doors into the school locked down and regulate the access; those recommendations will be taken to the facility committee.

Bus Contract: Today had meetings with the bidding contractors and by next week should have a meeting to award the contract.

Negotiations, 6th Meeting will be on Thursday March 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Summer Projects flyer is attached to summarize all the upcoming projects.

Strategic Planning - 3rd Session is still waiting to be scheduled.

Cody Strandbakke stated he feels uncomfortable to enter into the school and be able to access the school without being stopped.

Next scheduled board meeting is April 15, 2024 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

*s/ Jennifer Mettler*

Clerk

*s/ Clint Flint*

Chairman