

REGULAR MEETING

November 11, 2024

6:04 PM

The regular meeting of the Baker School Board was called to order by Chairperson Karen Wang at 6:04pm in the Boardroom of Baker High School. Trustees Dalon Dyke, Cody Strandbakke, and Jay Quenzer were in attendance; Trustee Jodi Varner was absent. Also present were Superintendent Aaron Skogen, Principals Dom Vergara and Erin Nevers, Associate Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, Technology Director Scott Anderson, and Head Custodian Jason Cornwell. Guests were Pam Beach, Amanda Tunby, Michelle Anderson, Kyal Hadley, Kennedy Lyson, Jaxson Lyson, Casey Koeningsfeld, Abbey Wolenetz, Ethan Igo, and Halle Brown.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 59652 to 59709 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Flint approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT – FFA NATIONALS TRIP

Kennedy Lyson, Jaxson Lyson, Casey Koeningsfeld and Halle Brown presented to the board their National FFA trip where they placed 5th in the Nation in Agricultural Issues team. Kennedy Lyson placed bronze in Public Speaking as well.

ACTION ITEMS

SMART GRANT APPLICATION BY ESPORTS

Mr. Anderson presents to the board a request for grant to help fund their gaming den as the group starts out. Discussion followed. Jay Quenzer moved to approve the grant request for Esports to purchase gaming equipment. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION – RECYCLING BINS

Mrs. Anderson and Kyal Hadley present to the board their request to apply for the NASSP Student Service Grant. If awarded the grant, the group would use the funds to purchase recycling bins for aluminum cans that would be placed around the school. NHS members would collect the cans when the bins are full and would donate them to the Baker Fire Department to be used for their annual Independence Day firework display. Mr. Vergara has approved the project, but NHS will not be able to purchase enough recycling bins at this time without additional monetary support which is why we are asking permission to apply for the grant. The goal of this service project is two-fold: it would reduce the amount of aluminum cans going into our landfill and defray the cost of fireworks for the Baker Fire Department; the grant is from \$200-\$1000 and they anticipate to ask for \$400 to purchase bins to place around the building. Jay Quenzer states make sure to add some into the grant for yearly recurring costs.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the grant request by National Honor Society to purchase recycling bins for the school as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR TEACHER HOUSING

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the discussion about the purchase of land. It has been researched to potentially purchase land by Lincoln School to build housing. McKinstry estimates the cost \$270,000 per room for the apartments; options can be either 2-2bedroom apartments or 4-1bedroom apartments. Mr. Skogen stated it is recommended at this time to visit with McKinstry on the plan forward and purchase the land after consulting with designers and engineers. Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer moved to move forward with design build with McKinstry and look into options and present to the board. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

LIFEGUARD HIRING CONSIDERATIONS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the recommendations for new hires for the Baker Recreation Center. Nattie Hester and Sienna Gardner have applied.

Dalon Dyke moved to hire lifeguards as presented for the Baker Recreation Center, pending successful passage of the lifeguard course. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE CONSULTING CONTRACT CONSIDERATION

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation to contract services with Mardi Brown; as the maintenance department gets ready for winter it will be much needed expertise and help. It is recommended to hire her for \$1500/month for 6 months.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire Mrs. Mardi Brown as a Maintenance Consultant in the amount of \$1500 per month for 6 months starting December 2024. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the attendance agreements.

Student ID	District of Residence	District of Choice
884686771	Marmarth	Baker
584542614, 278857974, 681534602	Plevna	Baker
145921807	Baker	Plevna

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the 2024-25 attendance agreements as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

OIL & GAS REVENUE ALLOCATION

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the recommendation for oil and gas allocation for this quarter. It is recommended to allocate to General Fund \$25,000 and Flex Fund \$626,637.63 for a total of \$651,637.63.

Jay Quenzer moved to reallocate the oil and gas revenue on or about November 1, 2024 to the funds as presented in the total amount of \$651,637.63, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. MAINTENANCE, Jason Cornwell

Report and update on maintenance and events. Started to service equipment and getting properties ready for winter.

2. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson

Updated Obsolete Equipment List -

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PDhwtJXoKWB286nEsJ_3uy8i_3d8-fr_P1m46dHTbi4/edit?usp=sharing

District Volleyball Tournament - NFHS Feed had zero reported issues. Still have a strange bug in the new square stand equipment in the concession stand, but was able to keep the system up throughout the weekend. Mrs. Burdick has completed the majority of testing. Happy to report zero technical issues reported for this testing window. Lincoln/Longfellow/High School Security Camera and FOB Servers are being replaced this week. Current Servers have been in place since 2014 and showing their age.

3. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker

Elementary Book Fair - Thank you Mrs. Lesh for hosting this event during Parent Teacher Conferences! The profits from this event will go toward ordering new books for the elementary libraries.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - Friday, 10.25.2024—Conferences were a little different this year, but judging from staff feedback and parent turnout, the change was well received. Lincoln had nearly 100% participation, whereas some Longfellow families left town on Friday. All our teaching staff appreciated the relaxed atmosphere of having conferences on a non-teaching day and the flexibility to schedule conferences throughout the day.

Red Ribbon Week - October 23rd- 31st -Mrs. Frye and her guidance classes worked together to clean up the flower beds in front of Lincoln and Longfellow Schools. As part of their project, they planted red tulips, symbolizing the "Promise of a Drug-Free Life." When these tulips bloom in the spring, they will remind us how beautiful life can be when we choose to live drug-free. Thank you, Mrs. Frye.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) members visited our K-6 students to present the importance of making healthy choices in life. A big thank you to the following SADD students for their time and effort: Avery O'Connor, Jasia Stieg, Addy Menger, Madison O'Connor, Emily Burdick, Karlee Dyke, Pyper Mettler, Brittney O'Connor, Elyse Losing, Ambreigh Morris, Kayl Hadley, Kenadi Croy, Kyal Hadley, Iva Setinc, Ashlee Burdick, Maddox Moser, Kaydee Dyke, Kloe Ehret, Justice Croy, and Kaine Kendall.

Veterans Day Celebrations - Happy Veterans Day - Our elementary schools proudly showed support for Veterans Day with projects and activities. Under the direction of Mrs. Johnson, the 6th grade, set up white tables at the Bank of Baker and the credit union and the American Legion. K-2 created art projects to decorate the Legion for their dinner. Mrs. Tunby's first graders wrote notes of thanks to the Veterans in our community, and Miss Herman's fourth-grade class had a video conferencing with a friend of hers who is currently serving in the military.

Student of the months: Kjayjer Hoversland, Robert Updike, Harper Kenny and Colton Bruski.

Attendance - Currently we have 69 (48 - 2023-24) elementary students with three or more absences, as compared to 9 (13 - 2023-24) at last month's board meeting. 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!

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Dom Vergara

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Burdick, Mrs. Mettler, and Mrs. Hastig for their tireless efforts in running our concessions this year. Their work seems effortless, but we know it's a complex task behind the scenes. While concessions might seem like a small detail, they play a significant role in creating a memorable experience for our visitors and guests. For many families, our concessions are a lifeline during busy sports seasons. Thank you again for your dedication and commitment to making the Baker community such a special place. Note: District Volleyball Tournament volunteers.

Spartans of the Month – October

- Xander Rost (HS Boy)
- Brooklyn Miller (HS Girl)
- Braxton Packineau (JH Boy)
- Saige Knipp (JH Girl)

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

- 7-12 Vision Team System (Shared Folder)
- Montana Stock Market Game (600+ teams)
- Mrs. Anderson & Mrs. Cook – Entered into participating in a nationwide poetry contest
- Mental Health (Staff & Students) – Bringing more awareness to mental health
 - o State of Mind Tour (Coming March '25) – Josh Asseng
- Mrs. Burdick – Financial Aid Night for Senior Parents (November 4th)

Recent Events/Meetings:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences - Friday, October 25th
- Drills: Code Red (Fire Drill) & Code White (Lockdown without intruder)
- 2024 AAU Football Season Update (Finished the season 5-1, 10-2 the past two seasons)
- Parent Teacher Conferences
 - o 22-23 (44% Parent Turnout)
 - o 23-24 (46% Parent Turnout)
 - o 24-25 (25% Parent Turnout)
- 1st Student Advisory Council Meeting – Monday, October 28th
 - o The Student Advisory Council will work through the student council on idea's for change
- Fall Concert – Wild About Music

Upcoming Meetings

- Teacher Evaluations
- Vaping Presentation, OPI: Kris Menard – November 21st at 11 am (9th-12th Grade)
- MSU Educator Recruitment Fair – TEACH Montana (December 11th)
- Business Development Meeting (Mr. Zenko, December 3rd at 10 am)

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Baker High School hosts 3B Volleyball Tournament: Baker High School hosted the recent 3B District Volleyball Tournament. With the help of many from Baker Public Schools and the Baker community the event was a great success. The Baker Sports Boosters stocked the hospitality room for the tournament while Blue Rock Distributing and Pepsi donated soda and water for the officials, coaches, bus drivers and tournament helpers. Jason Cornwell, and his building staff, did a great job of setting up the gym and the locker rooms each day of the tournament. The Tournament workers also did a fantastic job with Scott Anderson handling the Announcing through the entire program. Trish Barth, Carol Hadley, and Vaughn Zenko handled the bulk of the Clock and Book duties, along with help of Randi Selle, who tracked the libero position through the entire tournament. Brook Collings handled much of the tournament preparation duties and then she also handled the program sales position throughout the entire tournament, as well.

Fall Sports wrapped up, Winter Sports underway: The HS Volleyball team began the post season with a 3B Tournament Championship and then they also emerged as the Southern B Divisional Tournament Champions this past weekend in Colstrip. They will travel to Bozeman on Wednesday to compete in the State B Volleyball Tournament (11/14-16). The HS Football team wrapped up its season with a first-round playoff game against Manhattan. They ended their regular season with victories against Colstrip, Shepherd and Round up to earn the #4 seed from the Eastern B. The Cross-Country team finished their season at the State Championship meet held in Missoula. The Baker team had four girls and two boys compete at the event. Winter sports are currently underway with MS Wrestling traveling to their third competitive tournament this weekend. The MS Girls Basketball team has been practicing and are schedule to open their season next Tuesday against Glendive. The High school Wrestling and Basketball teams will hold their first practice on Thursday, Nov. 21st. Season openers will be the Sidney Invitational Tournament for wrestling (Dec. 6 & 7), while the Boy's and Girl's Basketball teams will begin at the Lewistown Tipoff Tournament on the same weekend. The Speech and Drama team will attend it's third event of the season at the

Fairview Tournament on Saturday (Nov.16th) and the Winter Cheerleading team will have their tryouts in the beginning of December.

FFA – John Deere Ag Expo in Bozeman: FFA will travel to the John Deere Ag Expo in Bozeman (11/14-16). Several members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis at the beginning of November, where the Spartan Ag Issues team finished in the top 8 at the National event. Music Department's Fall Concert a Success – District Honors Festival, Christmas Concerts upcoming The Music Department's Fall Concert, held at Longfellow school on Oct. 29th was a success. Baker High School's Honor Band & Choir will travel to the District Honors Music Festival, held in Glendive, on Nov. 25 & 26.

4. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: HS Mathematics, Business Education, Industrial Arts, Special Education, Family & Consumer Sciences, Complex Manager, Elementary Paraprofessional.

TEAMS/TOE Report is finished for now and now working on the accreditation report which includes Surveys, CSIP, Graduate Profile.

School Board Member Walkthroughs: like to have board members do it once a quarter with administration.

Facilities Walkthroughs: like to start doing this after board meetings and pick different buildings.

Mrs. Wang and another board member to meet with staff in small settings to check on climate of the staff; each board member will take turns going with Mrs. Wang to these meetings.

Next scheduled board meeting is December 12, 2024 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman