

REGULAR MEETING

December 18, 2024

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Baker School Board was called to order by Chairperson Karen Wang at 6pm in the Boardroom of Baker High School. Trustees Dalon Dyke, Cody Strandbakke, Jodi Varner and Jay Quenzer were in attendance. 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. Guest was Pam Beach.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 59710 to 59772 were reviewed and approved. Mrs. Wang had a revision in the minutes at the end of the Superintendent Report; *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. to walk through the buildings.* There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items with corrections as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Brist presents to the board recommendations for extracurricular positions. Mrs. Keeja Cook is being recommended for Middle School Track & Field Coach for 2024-25 school year.

Dalon Dyke moved to hire Keeja Cook for middle school track & field for the 2024-25 school year. further move to hire the recommended fall head coaches as presented for the 2025-26 school year. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brist further recommended to hire next year fall head coaches. The following positions are being recommended for 2025-26 Fall Head Coaches:

Mr. Jay Hoversland—High School Head Football Coach

Mrs. Jessica Boggs—High School Head Volleyball Coach

Mrs. Abbey Wolenetz—High School Co-Head Cross Country Coach

Ms. Yvonne Skogen—High School Co-Head Cross Country Coach

Mrs. Ashley Varner—Fall Head Cheer Coach

Jay Quenzer moved to hire the Fall Head Coaches for the 2025-26 school year as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presents to the board a recommendation to hire for the 2025-26 school year. After conducting the interview with Family and Consumer Science applicant, it is recommended to hire Mrs. Cori Enders as the FCS teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire Cori Enders as a Family & Consumer Science teacher for the 2025-26 school year, pending results of a background check. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

NEW POSITION CONSIDERATION – ASSISTANT ELEMENTARY SECRETARY

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a recommendation for hiring a new position at the elementary level. It has been the goal of administration over the past few years to make sure an individual is in each elementary office throughout the day. In order to accomplish, subs have been covering the office opposite Mrs. Lineback, who is the current elementary secretary, but has proven hard due to short staffing in many positions. It is recommended to advertise to find a full time individual to fill those needs at Longfellow; it would be created as Assistant Secretary with starting grade four (4) and a max grade of nine (9) on the classified salary schedule. The starting pay for the position will start at \$16.75/hour. Discussion followed.

Jodi Varner moved to create a new position, a full-time Assistant Secretary position, with an hourly salary based on the Baker Public Schools current classified salary schedule, with a starting grade four (4) and a maximum grade of nine (9). Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. **MAINTENANCE, Jason Cornwell**

Reported on maintenance projects progress.

2. **TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson**

Reported results from BPA Regionals hosted at Baker High School on December 16, 2024; most all members qualified for State in March. Esports Rocket League team won the Fall Season.

3. PRINCIPALS

a. **ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker**

Thank you, Mrs. O'Connor - We are incredibly grateful to Mrs. O'Connor, who has been our sixth-grade teacher since the start of the year. She has built strong, meaningful relationships with her students, fostering positive connections and a love of learning in her classroom. We couldn't be more appreciative of her willingness to step in when we needed her most, and we are thrilled that she will continue to substitute when she can for the remainder of the year.

Welcome Back Miss Varner - Welcome back and congratulations to Miss Macy Varner She recently completed all the requirements for her student teaching! Immediately following her student teaching abroad in Greece, she attended her graduation this past weekend, and was in class on Monday to team-teach alongside Mrs. O'Connor. We are thrilled that Macy has returned home to Baker and will be finishing the year teaching sixth-grade. We are so grateful to have her as part of our school community!

K-12 Christmas Programs - Tuesday, 12.10.2024 and 12.17.2024 - The Spartan Christmas programs were absolutely fantastic! A huge thank you to Mrs. Hess and Mrs. LaCroix for their hard work in putting together all the musical pieces. We had a wonderful turnout from our community and parents, and the kids did an amazing job showcasing their talents and abilities. Thank you to Mrs. Cathy Frye for accompanying our choir students at both programs!

November Student of the Month: Lincoln: Mesa Varner 2nd Grade with Mrs. BreeAnn Schell and Jack Wassman with Mrs. Ashley Varner.

Longfellow: Alaunah Griffith 4th Grade with Miss Trinity Herman & Mrs. Maranda Hastig and Rafe Bettenhausen 3rd Grade with Miss Mollee Stenberg.

Attendance - Currently we have 119 (131 - 2023-24) elementary students with three or more absences, as compared to 69 (88 - 2023-24) at last month's board meeting. 47.6% (53% - 2023-24) of our students in K-6 had 3 or more absences, 11.6% (9.6% - 2023-24) of our students had 9 or more absences.

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

I want to publicly thank Mr. Brist for his incredible hard work and dedication throughout the Fall sports season. He has been an invaluable teammate and a role model for our students. His positive outlook on life and education sets a great example for all. I'd also like to thank the school board and leadership for their decision to provide a full-time assistant principal position at the 7-12 level.

November Spartans of the Month:

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

Blake Barsness (HS Boy)

Sophia Harris (HS Girl)

Cayson Crawford (JH Boy)

Ailey Bettenhausen (JH Girl)

Recent Events/Meetings: Mental Health (Staff & Students) – Bringing more awareness to mental health; State of Mind Tour (Coming March '25) - Josh Asseng; Catalyst for Change Meeting – December 9th (Welcome our new community health worker Kimberlee Rost to our team, she will have an office at the high school); Student Advisory Council will partner with our Student Council and ideas will run through our student council, presented ideas at last student council meeting; TEACH Montana at Montana State University – December 11th (Recruitment Fair); Vaping Preventative Assembly – November 21st (OPI, Kris Menard); Department of Labor Meeting (Sara Engle); Resources available for career exploration and preparation; Discussed ways to partner with our school district; CDL Classes Starting 2nd Semester (4 students, Miles Community College) Upcoming Events/Meetings: 2025 Principals Conference - January 26th-28th; BHSU Teacher Fair (Recruitment Fair) - February 25th.

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

HS Wrestling teams begin their season at Sidney & Glasgow Tournaments HS Girls (14) – Sidney Inv: 10 girls place in the top 5 of weight class – Jayda Harbough – 1st place Glasgow Inv: 2nd place team, 9 girls in the top 5 – Kylie Schwartz, Jayda Harbough – 1st place HS Boys (15) – Sidney and Glasgow – At Scottie Inv: team finished 9/29 (all classes), Tucker Miller, Chris Brawley & Logan Sherman place in top 3. Hosted the first of two home mixers on Dec. 17th with Broadus and Hettinger. The second will be held on Jan. 7th in the High School Gymnasium (senior recognition/parents night). The Middle School Wrestling program (15) will wrap up its season this Friday at the Glasgow MS Tournament. High School Basketball teams began their season at the Class B Tipoff Tournament HS Girls (17) – Class B Tip-off Tournament (V & JV Lewistown) v. Columbus (W 53-24) Malta (L 46-47) HS Boys (24) – Tip-off tourney v. Columbus, Fergus JV Upcoming: 12/19 Thursday @ Ekalaka, 12/20 @ Fairview, 1/3 @ Miles City, 1/4 Lame Deer in

Baker. The Middle School (MS) and 4/5 grade Girls teams concluded their basketball season this past Monday. The MS Boys will open their basketball season with a game against Harding County here in Baker on January 13th. Esports Team defeats East Helena to earn Fall League Championship - Team members were Zander Rost, Jaron Kessinger, and Bodee Swarts BHS Business Professionals of America (BPA) hosts Region 7 Leadership Competition on Dec. 16th, participants from Baker, Forsyth, Custer, Plevna, Hardin, St. Labre, and Lodge Grass came together at Baker High school to compete in the Region 7 Leadership Competition. Speech & Drama and Debate team continues to Improve Completed: Fairview, Circle, Wolfpoint, Glendive. Upcoming: Frazer, Culbertson, Plentywood – DeeAnna Hess – 5th at Circle, 3rd at Wolfpoint in the Dramatic Solo division. Music Department performs at Honors and Christmas Concerts 11/25-26 – Honors Band and Choir performs at District 11 Honors Music Festival in Glendive. 12/10 – HS/MS Students performed at Longfellow, 12/17 - Lincoln Elementary students performed in the morning, Longfellow Elementary students performed in the evening

4. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

- Current Openings
 - HS Mathematics
 - Business Education
 - Industrial Arts
 - Special Education
 - Scheduling Interview on December 27th, tentatively
 - Family & Consumer Sciences
 - Recommendation for Hire 12.17.24
 - Complex Manager – possibly look at advertising 2 part-time responsibilities
 - Elementary Paraprofessionals – possibly 2
 - High School Paraprofessional
 - Lunch Aid
 - Assistant Elementary Secretary (New Position)
 - If approved by Board of Trustees (12.18.24)
- Resignation(s)
 - Mrs. Johanna Tooke–7-12 Paraprofessional
 - Mrs. Tammy Hunt–Lunch Aid
- 4-Day School Week
 - [Survey Results](#) - 48 respondents
 - [Letter from BEA](#)
 - Recommendation–continue with 4-day calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Thresholds for creation of 2025-2026 School Calendar
 - *Duty Year* shall not exceed 1225 hours and 165 work days
 - *Duty Day* shall not exceed 8.5 hours (inclusive of lunch)
 - *Duty Day* shall begin at 7:45 a.m. and end not later than 4:00 p.m.
 - Committee(s)
 - School Calendar ; try to have the meeting first full week of January
 - Consists of two (2) teacher representatives from each building
 - 2 Lincoln Teachers
 - 2 Longfellow Teachers
 - 2 High School Teachers
 - Each Counselor
 - Mrs. Burdick & Mrs. Frye
 - Each Administrator
 - Mr. Skogen, Mr. Vergara, Mrs. Nevers, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Brist, Miss Wacker
 - Representative for Extracurricular Activities
 - Invited Representatives
 - Mrs. Mettler
 - PIR Planning Committee
 - Consists of Administration and Volunteered Staff (teachers, classified staff, etc.)
 - Prefer to have more representatives, similar to the Calendar Committee; like to have more participation.

Facilities Walkthroughs (Board of Trustees):

Lincoln Elementary (before/after February Board Meeting)

Longfellow Elementary (before/after March Board Meeting)

Baker 7-12 (before/after April Board Meeting)
Next scheduled board meeting is January 14, 2025 at 6 pm.
There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman