

REGULAR MEETING

January 14, 2025

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 Principal/AD Bill Brist, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, Technology Director Scott Anderson, and Head Custodian Jason Cornwell; Associate Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker was absent. Guest was Pam Beach.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 59773 to 59832 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

CLASSIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendations for hire for the following positions:

Mrs. Kayleigh Straub, 7-12 Paraprofessional

Mrs. Kristin Ehret, Asst Elementary Secretary

Mrs. Kristi Burns, Part-Time Complex Manager

Jodi Varner moved to hire positions listed as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

GRADUATE PROFILE

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the agenda item for approval for the graduate profile. Based on our survey results the following have been narrowed down as the top traits that we would desire students possess as graduates of Baker High School:

- Work Ethic – 87.1% of all votes (Highest Priority)
- Responsibility—76.3% of all votes
- Communication Skills—74.2% of all votes
- Integrity—64.5% of all votes
- Financial Literacy Skills—60.2% of all votes
- Critical Thinking Skills—59.1% of all votes

We need the board to select five (5) traits. You may choose to include all six (6). We can also change the attribute title(s). For example: We can change Responsibility to Responsible Citizens, Communication Skills to Effective Communicators, Integrity to Ethical Leaders or Financial Literacy Skills to Financially Savvy. You may combine attributes or characteristics for example, combine Responsibility and Integrity and/or change the name to Responsible Ethical Leaders. Essentially our goal is to create and develop the standard and goal we work toward as we prepare our students for life after Baker High School. Based on the attributes we select; we need to develop short descriptive definitions of what each trait looks like for our students. This allows us to develop specific action plans for how we will foster these skills within our students.

Additionally, this allows us to identify how specific decisions we make affect our ability to develop these skills within our students. It is recommended to define those traits and those can be worked on over the next few months. Mrs. Varner asks if we can adopt all 6 traits and combine and define in the next few months; Mr. Skogen responded it can be done and work on them in the next few meetings.

Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer moved to select work ethic, responsibility and integrity, financial literacy skills and critical thinking skills as the descriptors for our Graduate Profile. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

MHSA PROPOSALS

Mr. Brist presented to the board the 6 MHSA proposals that will be voted on at this year's annual meeting next week.

1. Proposal to Amend Students Below Ninth Grade By-Law
 - a. Presented by Sunburst-North Toole County
2. Proposal to Amend Transfer Rule By-Law
 - a. Presented by Polson High School
3. Proposal to Amend Award By-Law
 - a. Presented by MHS Executive Board
4. Proposal to Amend Amateur Rule By-Law
 - a. Presented by MHS Executive Board
5. Proposal to Add General Penalties, Section 2.8.2 By-Law
 - a. Presented by MHS Executive Board
6. Proposal to Amend Physical Exam By-Law
 - a. Presented by MHS Executive Board

Discussion followed.

No board action on this agenda item and Mr. Brist will report back after the meeting on the status of the proposals.

Jay Quenzer moved to remove MHS proposals from the February Agenda as an action item. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CALL FOR ELECTION

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the resolution to call for election.

TRUSTEE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees for School District No. 12, Fallon County, State of Montana, will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, 6th day of May, 2025, which date is not less than seventy (70) days after the passage of this resolution.

The election will be conducted by **mail ballot** election. Voting will end at 8:00 pm on Election Day. The designated place of deposit will be located at Baker Public Schools Boardroom, 1015 S 3rd St W, Baker, MT.

The purpose of the election is to:

1. Elect **two(2)** trustees for a three-year term each.
2. Approval of additional levies to operate and maintain Baker Public Schools for the 2025-26 school year.

If it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required, the Board of Trustees authorizes Jennifer Mettler, election administrator, to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with **13-1-304** and **20-3-313 MCA**.

Three electors of this district who are qualified to vote at such election are hereby appointed to act as judges of the election: Elaine Stanhope, Candace Mettler, and Therese Thompson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of this school district is hereby directed to notify the above-named election judges of their appointment and to notify the county election administrator of the date of holding said election, and request the clerk to close regular registration and to prepare and furnish election materials as required by law. If any of these judges should not be able to serve, the election administrator will choose a replacement from certified judges.

No further proceedings were conducted relating to the election.

Jay Quenzer moved to adopt the resolution as presented for election set for May 6, 2025. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Wang requested to move to reports and move the agenda item Superintendent Evaluation to the end of the meeting.

REPORTS:

1. MAINTENANCE, Jason Cornwell

During Christmas did some deep cleaning; tennis courts are scheduled to be done 1/31/25 pending weather; Chamber Department started their winter activities and lots of snow removal happening as well.

2. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson

Updated Obsolete Equipment List -

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

State Wide Cyber Attacks -

This email was sent out this morning by MSGIA and I felt it was important to share with all of you. Please slow down when using your email and doublecheck who you are sending information to. We have had 3 individuals fail phishing emails since we have returned from break.

Good Morning,

Cyberattacks targeting Montana school districts are in full force. Recently, we have had reports of multiple districts getting emails that appear innocuous, with subject lines such as “AP Records Request,” or “Records Request,” but are really cyberattacks that when opened become password scrapers. This means, any passwords stored on your computer are breached and used to access anything to which those passwords are attached (ie...credit card accounts, email accounts, shopping sites, etc.).

Unfortunately, we have seen a few MSGIA Property & Liability pool members affected by these business email compromise cyberattacks. Attackers are sending emails to staff, students, and board members (anyone with a district email address) with links that will direct the users to provide login credentials, typically through what looks like Google forms or a similar program. Once the credentials are entered, they can then be used by the attackers to access the user’s accounts to locate any sensitive data, or at the very least distribute another email to all of the compromised user’s contacts from their actual email account. This helps make the phishing email more authentic to the recipients.

There are two very important steps you can take to help prevent your district from becoming the next victim of this attack. Staff and Student Awareness/Training: Please make sure your users are aware of these types of attacks, and that they need to be extremely cautious when clicking on embedded email links and attachments unless they are confident in their authenticity. They should also never provide login credentials via an email link or attachment; they should instead go directly to the source. One available training resource is with the Vector Safe Schools online training that you have free access to use with your employees. In addition, keeping this topic on the forefront of conversations throughout the year with your staff and students is critical.

Multifactor Authentication (MFA): This should be an absolute requirement for all district users. This alone would have likely prevented these attackers from accessing the user’s data, even if credentials were compromised. As a note, recent messaging from the cybersecurity industry has suggested that text MFA is not the most secure option and that everyone should be using an authenticator app or key. I can’t emphasize enough the importance enabling MFA on your user accounts.

We do not want you or anyone in your district becoming the next victim of one of these attacks. They are extremely costly, time consuming, and can have long-lasting negative impacts. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

3. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker

Thank you, Mrs. Frye - We want to give a special shout-out to Mrs. Frye, she is our testing coordinator guru. We are grateful for the incredible work she does to keep our teachers and staff on track with our district and state assessments. She ensures that testing windows are communicated clearly and that every student completes their state assessments efficiently. She consistently goes above and beyond, taking initiative without needing reminders or prompts. Thank you, Mrs. Frye, for all that you do!

FastBridge Winter Screening - January 13th - February 6th

MAST - Window 2 - January 13th - February 21st

Early Literacy Updates - On January 8, Mrs. Tunby and I attended the Early Literacy Roadshow training in Wibaux, led by representatives from OPI. The training provided information on House Bill 352 which encompasses targeted early literacy intervention programs for children age four through third grade. We learned the details of how to screen students for eligibility and offer these programs to families. Following our winter FastBridge screening, we will be offering a home-based program through Waterford. The training also highlighted best practices for literacy instruction, and it was encouraging to see that we are on track and implementing these practices successfully in our classrooms. Additionally, some of the programs we’ve recently adopted are directly aligned with these recommended practices.

Assistive Technology - MonTECH - In October, we partnered with MonTECH and welcomed their Educational Outreach Program Coordinator, Kendra Lewis, to our school for a presentation on assistive technology. As a result of this collaboration, we received customized kits for each school, featuring tools such as specialty timers, sensory devices, and a pitching machine. Additionally, we acquired TouchPoint devices, which are designed to help relieve stress and help calm the body. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Dom Vergara

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Burdick for her invaluable contributions to our school. Her tireless efforts in managing student schedules, particularly during the challenging transition between semesters, are truly commendable. This complex process requires meticulous attention to detail and a consideration of diverse student needs, which Mrs. Burdick consistently demonstrates with grace and efficiency. Furthermore, I want to acknowledge her significant role in expanding our online course offerings, enhancing educational access and flexibility for our students. 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 2024-2025 Individual Staff Goals & Follow Up Meetings

Teacher Evaluations

Valedictorian/Salutatorian Update

Staff Recruitment / Interviews

2025 Graduation Prep Work

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

Began the process of working with Catalyst for Change & Kimberlee Rost

State of Mind Tour (Meeting)

Main focus is making sure our students are off to a strong start 2nd semester

A lot of strategic conversations with students about learning from the 1st semester

December Spartans of the Month:

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

Daniel Schmidt (HS Boy)

Jessica Kruger (HS Girl)

Brady Graham (JH Boy)

Blakely LaCroix (JH Girl)

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: Baker HS hosted the second of two home mixers on Jan 7th with Miles City, Colstrip and Lemmon in attendance. The Boys and Girls teams attending Tournaments at Huntley Project, Bozeman and Hettinger. Regular season contests continue through the month of January with the Divisional Tournament being hosted at Huntley Project on Feb. 7th and 8th.

High School and MS Basketball: Upcoming games – From Jan. 17 to Feb. 15, the Baker HS teams will play a total of 9 game dates with district opponents (and also games against Miles City on 1/28). The results of these games will help to determine their seeding for the district 3B

Tournament. Both the boys and girls' teams are currently 1-0 in district play. Upcoming: 1/17

Friday @ Huntley Project, 1/18 @ Lodge Grass, 1/24 Colstrip (H), 1/25 @ Lame Deer.

The MS Boys team had their games against Harding County postponed due to weather conditions (rescheduled to 1/20). Their opener will now be in Dickinson on 1/17.

Speech & Drama and Debate: The final regular season competition will be in Plentywood this weekend. The State qualifier and Divisional event will be held at Froid on January 24th and 25th. Baker FFA: Several students attended the Fusion Leadership Conference in Helena. This included Kennedy Lyson, Aubrey Kirschten, Casey Koenigsfeld & Jaxon Lyson. Next up will be the LDE Days hosted here in Baker on January 20th.

Sportsmanship Assembly: In light of recent events (Lame Deer Basketball Game Issues), a short HS/MS Assembly was held on January 8th in an effort to help educate students to further make correct choices in regard to exceptional sportsmanship at all of our Baker HS/MS activities.

Montana High School Association: Preconference meetings will be on Sunday (1/19) and will include planning meetings for B-C Tennis, Class B Representatives, Southern B Division, and the MIAAA (Montana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association). The Annual Meeting will be on Monday (1/20). This will include a pair of general sessions along with Classification Caucuses. The goal of the Annual meeting is to provide the opportunity for membership to play a role in the rules, laws and legislation of the Association. Proposals to be considered during the voting session have been included in this month's board packet.

4. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: HS Mathematics, Business Education, Industrial Arts, Special Education, Complex Manager (additional part-time), Elementary Paraprofessional, Lunch Aid, Custodian, After School Program Director.

Resignation(s): Mrs. Sheila Thilmony–Lincoln Custodian and Ms. Ashley Rost–After School Program Director.

2025-26 School Calendar – what would the board like to see in next year's calendar? As the discussions start with the teachers and administration wanted to ask the board what they wanted to have in the calendar.

He will reach out to members and discuss.

Accreditation Report: due end of February.

Facilities Committee Meeting – he will send Jay and Jodi dates to set the meeting.

Complex Committee Meeting – he will reach out to Karen & Dalon.

2nd semester Math Courses – working on collaborative working sessions with the kids, possibly 2 days a month to have set classroom times to help the kids with lessons. Experienced growing pains with grading since universities only give semester grades and eligibility checks as well but made it through.

Facilities Walkthroughs with the Board of Trustees – Lincoln Elementary following the February meeting;
Longfellow Elementary following the March meeting and Baker 7-12 following the April meeting.
Next scheduled board meeting is February 12, 2025 at 6 pm.
Chair Wang calls for recess at 7:49 pm.
Reconvene at 7:53 pm.

AGENDA ITEM

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Wang calls for executive session at 7:53pm to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation; everyone leaves the meeting except for Mr. Skogen and Mrs. Mettler.
Meeting reconvened at 8:46 pm

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler
Clerk

s/ Karen Wang
Chairman