

REGULAR MEETING

February 12, 2025

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Baker School Board was called to order by Vice Chairperson Dalon Dyke at 6pm in the Boardroom of Baker High School. Trustees Cody Strandbakke, Jodi Varner and Jay Quenzer were in attendance; Chairperson Karen Wang 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 Amanda Tunby, Maranda Hastig, Abby Tolzien, and Kristi Burns.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 59833 to 59887 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Vice Chairperson Dyke approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT

Nothing this month.

ACTION ITEMS

CLASSIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

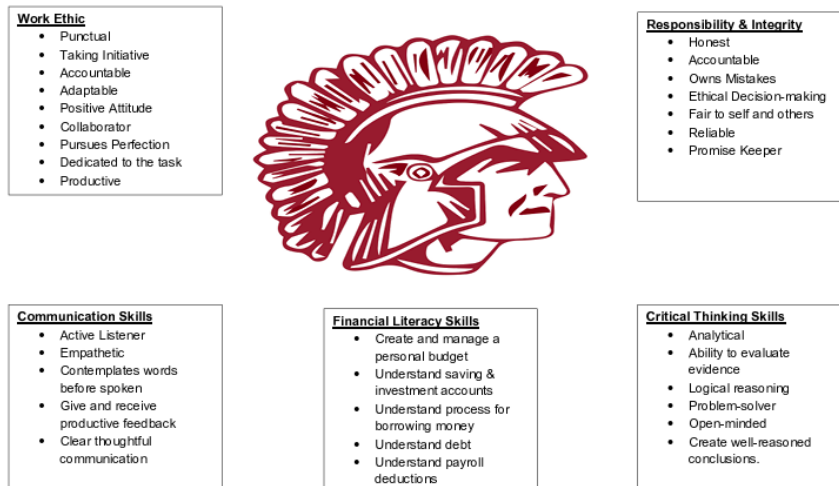
Mr. Skogen presents to the board recommendation for hire as full-time complex manager; recommended to hire Abbigail Tolzien as full-time to work alongside part-time hire Kristi Burns.

Jodi Varner moved to hire Abbigail Tolzien as a full-time co-manager of the complex. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

GRADUATE PROFILE

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the changes as requested from last months meeting with the graduate profile.

Baker High School Graduate Profile



Descriptors have been added for consideration of the board; defining each attribute may be done using descriptors, full statements, single or multiple sentence structures. Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the graduate profile as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY REVISION – BP2410

Mr. Skogen presented to the board policy revisions in regards to graduation requirements; BP2410 needs to be adjusted to our current practice. Current practice is *students to take a ½ credit of Computer Applications and a ½ credit of Financial Literacy* and this language will be added to the policy.

M: Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the changes as presented to Board Policy 2410, High School Graduation Requirements. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a request for a leave of absence. Mrs. Ashley Varner has submitted a request for a leave of absence for the 2025-26 school year; her request is in accordance with Collective Bargaining Section IV, 4.3(B).

Jodi Varner moved to approve Mrs. Ashley Varner's request for a leave of absence for the 2025-26 school year. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

OIL & GAS ALLOCATION – 3RD QTR 2024

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the oil and gas revenue for 3rd quarter of 2024; revenue for this quarter is \$633,298.97. Recommendation to deposit this quarters oil and gas in the Flex Fund.

Jay Quenzer moved to reallocate the oil and gas revenue on or about February 1, 2025 to the Flex Fund in the total amount of \$633,298.97, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX

New hires Abby Tolzien & Kristi Burns will start together next week; Kristi has been working on cleaning in the facility and lifeguarding as well.

2. MAINTENANCE, Jason Cornwell

Johnson Control sprinkler inspection did all three buildings; had first of 2 pool inspections; TWE Generator serviced Longfellow generator after an alarm triggered; continue with snow removal.

3. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson

Updated Obsolete Equipment List -

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

Notice of possible Cyber Attacks - Providing information for your cyber and situational awareness. The South Dakota Fusion Center (SDFC) has identified potential targeting of K-12 schools in multiple states through typosquats that may impersonate legitimate school district domains. Also identified within multiple states are enumerated subdomains with specific – and accurate – school district names. Currently, the domains appear to resolve to a placeholder site. MX records are established on many of the domains. The naming convention of the possible typosquats are k12[state abbreviation].us. A complete list of the domains assessed is included below.

(U//FOUO) These typosquats and subdomain enumeration may likely be pre-positioning for phishing campaigns targeting communication to or from school districts. In Montana that would be k12mt[.]us...

4. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker

Shout-out to Staff - We want to give a special shout-out to our staff. January was long and February has brought bitter temps and way too much indoor recess. Our elementary teachers are just wrapping up a marathon of FastBridge and MAST testing, working against the cold and flu bugs that keep a multitude of students home sick. Our para-support staff has been so incredibly accommodating as we recently had to revamp schedules in order to provide more support at Lincoln school. Additionally, they have stepped up in covering the after school program and we are so incredibly grateful. We are so fortunate to have a staff that shows up everyday ready and willing to give their best to our students, they are understanding and flexible and we wouldn't be able to serve our students without each and every one of them. Thank you TEAM! Special thanks to our paraprofessionals—Alivia Schultz, LeeAnn Powers, Kim O'Donnell, Danielle Fisher, Fayth Gilmore, Karlene Kloetzke and Shianne Beach.

Chase Mielke—The Burnout Cure - On January 17th, Mrs. Frye and Miss Wacker traveled to Miles City to attend a presentation by award-winning speaker Chase Mielke. He discussed various factors that contribute to burnout. Here are some of the main takeaways:

- We give our best when we are OUR best.
- Every interaction we have with children either impairs or empowers.
- It's easy to miss something you don't look for.
How aware are you?
- Look for the good in your day!
Jar of Goodness
Gratituesday
Shoutouts
Victory Session
24-hour no-complaining challenge

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. We are continuing to see the benefits of this partnership as we recently acquired a motorized wheelchair for one of our students in need on loan. It has been so exciting to see the transformation this piece of equipment has had for this kiddo! We look forward to opening more doors for our students through this partnership.

Energy Share Award Presentation- Today, Longfellow School had the honor of welcoming Laura and Leah from Energy Share. They shared insights about Energy Share's mission and its impact on families across Montana. During their visit, they presented a first-place plaque and a \$75 award to fourth-grade student Harper Renner, as well as a third-place prize and \$25 to Marcella Medearis. A huge thank you to Mrs. Hastig for facilitating this opportunity for her science students and encouraging their participation in the drawing competition. Thanks to her support, the entire fourth-grade class was able to compete, with Harper and Marcella earning first and third place among all fourth graders in Montana. To celebrate their achievement, Energy Share generously sponsored a pizza party for the entire class.

Substitute Shortage - It seems to happen this time of year, for one reason or another, but this year seems to be hitting us particularly hard. We are in need of substitute teachers; five times this week we have been without a substitute to cover a position. This puts a HUGE strain on our office, admin, and really our whole building when we are rearranging and pulling people to cover unexpectedly.

2025 Principals Conference - Thank you for giving us the opportunity to attend this conference in Helena. Once again, it was packed with valuable information that we can apply both now and in the future. Below are some key takeaways we shared with our staff during this month's meeting!

- Importance of classroom presence
- Know what you can control
- Value what students value
- In your "season" you are the most important
- Student to family weekly connection.

January Student of the Month - Congratulations to our student of the month winners for January! Lincoln Students - Briar Straub and Jace Ehret and Longfellow Students - Landon Kapps, Danica Croy, Sarah Johnson, and Rayce Skogas!

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Dom Vergara

We appreciate the Bank of Baker and Jodi Varner for providing Mrs. Hadley's Accounting 1 students with the opportunity to visit their workplace. We thank Alyson Lineback for her excellent leadership of the student council and for developing new staff engagement activities, such as Celebrity Crush. We recently have addressed and/or focused on the various topics below:

Online Classes Lunch Meeting – Outlining tips to be successful with online classes

Principals Conference Update:

Reflection: Can't do it all... prioritize where to focus.

Not Alone: Observation and conversations with other principals

Teacher Evaluations

What is going well?

What can I help you with? (Follow up on how you addressed)

Who has been helpful to you? (Share Shout-outs)

What can I/administrators do to improve?

- Graduation Planning
 - Scholarships
 - Outcomes – College Applications, Job Applications
 - Valedictorian/Salutatorian Conversation / Writing Graduation Speech
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey
 - How often do you use social media? 33% are using social media multiple times per hour, over 80% are using social media every hour
- Tutoring Service provided by our National Honors Society
- SMART – Workforce Development Meeting (February 4th)
 - Focus on continue development of our work study program, business partnerships in the Baker community

Numerous meetings with Catalyst for Change (Mrs. Kimberlee Rost, Introductions)

January Spartans of the Month

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

Jarek Janz (HS Boy)

Johanna Barth (HS Girl)

Tristan Barth (JH Boy)

Kloe Ehret (JH Girl)

Upcoming Events/Meetings

BHSU Teacher Recruitment Fair (February 25th)

Spring Career/Job Fair at Baker High School (8:30-11:30 am, April 24th)

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

Wrestling Teams Earn Hardware at Championship Tournaments

At the Eastern B/C Division Tournament at Huntley Project (2/7-8), both the girls and boys wrestling teams competed well. The girls team won the Division Championship with 150.5 points with 11 individual placers (top 8) and seven state qualifiers (including 2 division champions). Boys – 8th place 84.5 pts with 5 individual placers (top 8) and 5 state qualifiers (including 2 division runners-up placers). All individual qualifiers will compete at the MHSA All Class State Championship Tournament in Billings beginning on Thursday (2/13-15).

High School Basketball teams enter final games of the regular season: The Varsity Basketball teams look to wrap up its regular season with games against Colstrip and St. Labre at the end of this week. They will begin the post season with trips to Huntley Project for the District Tournament with the top 3 finishers moving on to the Southern B Tournament held at the Metra in Billings on March 6-8. Pep Band and Cheer Squad to perform at Basketball Tournaments: Both the Pep Band and the Cheer Squad will perform during the upcoming District, Divisional and State Basketball Tournaments representing Baker High School during the pre-game, half-time and post-game time slots.

Speech and Drama Wraps up Season: The Speech and Drama season wrapped up at Huntley Project with the State B-C Championships where DeeAnna Hess finished in 7th place in the Dramatic Solo event. She had placed 4th at the Eastern Divisional to earn one of the twenty spots in her event at the state competition.

Music Department's Participation at the Americanism Concert a Success: The Americanism concert was held on Feb. 11th at the Longfellow Gymnasium. This event, hosted by the American Legion, featured several musical ensembles including groups from both the Middle and High School Music Departments. Upcoming: Middle & Elementary School Music departments will participate in a music festival held here in Baker on Feb. 26 & 27.

FFA participates in District Contests: The FFA team competed in qualifying events for Meats, Vet Science and Floriculture at the Winter Eastern Districts, held at Miles City on Feb. 7th. They are scheduled to compete in the events of Mechanics, Agronomy, & Food Science at the Spring Eastern Districts, held in Broadus on Feb. 17th.

Spring Sports – Tennis, Golf and Track & Field – Start Practice on 3/11- Academic Olympics & State BPA

The Spring Sports Parents Night will be held on Tuesday, March 4th. Academic Olympics MS-3/3, HS 3/4 in Miles City. State BPA will be in Billings on March 9th, 10th and 11th.

MHSA Annual Meeting Proposals Approved:

The 2025 Annual Meeting was conducted in Billings on January 20, 2025. The proposals approved by the membership to take effect in 2025-26 were:

MHSA Eligibility By-Laws were amended to remove the following language from the 8th grade participation requirements - Committed to a contest at the high school level, the eighth-grade student may not also participate in that same sport at a level under high school concurrently. Beginning next year, 8th graders will be allowed to participate at the same time in both middle school and high school contests in the same sport. **(a new rule must be created to cover this change for our 2025-26 activities handbook.)**

MHSA Eligibility By-Laws were amended to allow a revision to the MHSA Awards rule. (Limit of \$500 for a total school year in award value).

MHSA Eligibility By-Laws were amended to allow a revision to the MHSA Amateur Rule. This change allows a student athlete to profit from his Name, Image and Likeness (NIL).

The MHSA Eligibility By-Laws were amended to add a 3-game suspension to each spectator who is ejected from a contest in the future.

The MHSA Eligibility By-Laws have been amended to require MHSA participants to undergo a Pre-Participation Physical Exam every two years, replacing the previous policy that mandated an annual exam. This change aims to encourage more comprehensive evaluations by licensed healthcare providers, allowing for a more thorough assessment of participants' health over an extended period. (by keeping our current rule in the activities handbook, we will require a physical every year, with the same parameters as last year).

5. **SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen**

- Current Openings – still advertising
 - HS Mathematics
 - Business Education
 - Industrial Arts

- Special Education
- Elementary Paraprofessional (2)
- Lunch Aid
- Custodian (2X)
- After School Program Update
Ms. Pat Ehret will be helping out and take that role on for the remainder of the school year.
- Cleaning Services
 - Contract Specific Services: with lack of applicants maybe need to think outside the box for help but will continue to discuss. Might consider contracting for help for night cleaning or part time.
- 2025–2026 Calendar
Met today after school (3rd meeting) 156 school days with 9 early release days was presented as an option to the committee and was well received and would be a great option for next year; finalized and hopeful to have a calendar for next months meeting.
- Facilities Update
 - Teacher Housing: met with McKinstry on Monday moving forward with the design/build adding 2, 1-bedroom units at our current apartment site; they will work on prices with options.
 - Flooring plan for the summer is getting finalized with Jason.

Next scheduled board meeting is March 11, 2025 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Dalen Dyke

Vice-Chairman