

REGULAR MEETING

April 9, 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 Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, Technology Director Scott Anderson, and Head Custodian Jason Cornwell. Guests were Yvonne Skogen, Pam Beach, TC Shelhamer, Bridget Schwartz, Amanda Tunby, Karlene Kloetzke, Samm Schermele, Kodee Varner, Zander Rost, Jaron Kesinger, Bodee Swarts, Abbey Tolzien, Kristi Burns and Rebecca LaCroix.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 59948 to 60000 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Zander Rost addresses the board and thanks the support given for E-Sports. They won their first state championship for E-Sports in Missoula.

EDUCATION REPORT

Nothing to report this month.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

HEALTH INSURANCE RATES 2025-26

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the health insurance renewal rates for 2025-26 with Blue Cross Blue Shield of MT; it has been presented as a 6.8% increase to health rates and 3% increase to dental rates. No action required.

TRUSTEE/MILL LEVY ELECTION CANCELLATION

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the election cancellation notices for the 2025 election called for in January. No action required.

ACTION ITEMS

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – BAKER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. Skogen presented to the board an MOA with the BEA. It would allow the District to hire new teachers and accept all previous verified teaching experience. The Collective Bargaining Agreement currently accepts a maximum of ten (10) years teaching experience; additionally, any teachers currently employed by the district that only received ten (10) years' experience when hired and had more years of experience will be given those years of experience for their 2025-26 contract.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the MOA between the District and the Baker Education of Association as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen asked to move this agenda item to the end of the meeting pending acceptance of an offer made.

ADMINISTRATIVE HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a recommendation for High School Principal hire; an offer has been made and accepted by Ms. Megan McKeighan for the 2025-26 school year.

Jodi Varner moved to hire Ms. Megan McKeighan as High School Principal for the 2025-26 school year, pending the results of a background check. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the classified contract recommendations for the 2025-26 school year.

Employee	Position	Years
RABE, ADAM	Custodian	11
HENSLEY, APRIL	P/T Custodian	2
EDWARDS, LLOYD	Custodian	4
DAVIS, SONYA	Head Cook	16
PIIL, RORIE	Cook	3
UECKER, LOVE DEN	Cook	6
EHRET, PAT	P/T Kitchen Aide	2
POWERS, LEEANN	Paraprofessional	7
O'DONNELL, KIM	Paraprofessional	18
STIEG, NIKKI	Paraprofessional	20
SCHULTZ, ALIVIA	Paraprofessional	2
GILMORE, FAYTH	Paraprofessional	1
FISHER, DANIELLE	Paraprofessional	2
BEACH, SHIANNE	Paraprofessional	1
STRAUB, KAYLEIGH	Paraprofessional	1
CURRY, ROBERT	P/T Paraprofessional	1
COLLINS, BROOK	Building Secretary	28
LINGLE, AMY	Building Secretary	21
LINEBACK, ALYSON	Building Secretary	12
EHRET, KRISTIN	Asst. Elementary Secretary	1

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the classified contract considerations as presented for the 2025-26 school year. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Brist presented to the board recommendations for Winter Head Coaches for the 2025-26 school year. They are as follows: Darick Gorder, Girls Wrestling Head Coach; Will Bagley, Boys Wrestling Head Coach; Aaron Skogen, Boys Basketball Head Coach.

Dalon Dyke moved to hire the extracurricular contracts as presented for the individuals listed. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Cornwell presents to the board his recommendation for summer hires. The following are recommended for part-time hire for the summer months:

Hallie Flint, Macy Varner, Edie Uecker, Rorie Piil, and Tim Robinson (outside maintenance).

Jodi Varner moved to hire the 2025 summer hires as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

FIELD TRIP REQUEST(S) – BP 2320

Miss Wacker presented to the board the field trip requests for May 2025. The 6th grade class is requesting to go to Devils Tower and 5th grade will be going to Dickinson, ND.

Jodi Varner moved to authorize out-of-state travel in accordance with BP2320 as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX

Kristi Burns reported usage is up and traffic in the facility is picking up as well.

2. MAINTENANCE, Jason Cornwell

Reported on activities hosted and had the yearly Fire Marshall inspection. Thanked all staff being understanding and helpful while the maintenance department is understaffed.

3. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson

Getting ready for rotation purchases for the summer into next year: 125 chromebooks, 40 iPads, 10 surface tablets, 10 small desktops and 50 sleeve style cases.

4. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker

As we move further into spring, we're experiencing the familiar shift in student energy; many kiddos are becoming more anxious and excitable with summer approaching, and we've seen an increase in behavior referrals to the office. Our team continues to manage these challenges with professionalism and care.

Staff Appreciation & Evaluations: We've officially wrapped up all staff evaluations and are feeling confident and grateful for the incredible team that will be returning next year. Our staff has consistently stepped up, especially as we face staffing shortages, and their dedication does not go unnoticed. A special thank you to everyone involved in making Friday Clubs happen—your extra efforts are deeply appreciated.

Friday Clubs: Our final Friday Club activity is coming up this week, and excitement is high among students and staff. These clubs continue to be a hit, with sign-ups filling quickly. Teachers have been great about helping students get into the activities they're excited about. Looking ahead, we plan to

gather feedback and compile a list of the most popular clubs to help guide next year's offerings. Shout out to the rec department for allowing a large group of 5th and 6th grade students to swim. Special Events: Mrs. Tunby's Annual Pizza Party: A huge thank you to Mrs. Tunby for once again hosting her annual pizza party, where parents were invited to read with students in the classroom and gym. She even brought in high school volunteers to help with the event—it was a wonderful community moment.

March Student of the Month: We recognized outstanding students during our March Student of the Month celebration. Thank you to all who helped organize and celebrate our student leaders.

Lincoln—Longfellow—Brezden Sander, Claire Losing, Lincoln: Alejandro Jake & Henley O'Donnell.

Behavior Support Visit: On April 7, we were fortunate to have Chyna Heiser, a board-certified behavior analyst, visit and observe some of our students with significant behavioral needs. She provided valuable feedback and strategies to help us better support these students and strengthen our staff's approach to behavior intervention.

Kindergarten Field Trip: Huge thank you to Barkley Farms & Baker Police Department for hosting our kindergartners on March 25th!

Middle School Track: Our 6th–8th graders participated in their first track meet yesterday, and there's a lot of excitement building around middle school athletics.

Schedule Change: K-3 & Volunteer Choir Elementary Concert - May 13th at 6:00 PM - Longfellow Gym. As we head into the final stretch of the school year, thank you again for all the energy, flexibility, and commitment you bring to our school community. We're in the home stretch!

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Dom Vergara

I would like to take a moment to thank Mrs. Lingle and Mrs. O'Connor for all of the hard work putting on prom this year. Mr. Vaughn Zenko also deserves a big thank you for DJ'n the prom, DJ'n the Knights Ball and announcing grand march. It can be challenging and very expensive to find a DJ for prom. Please help me in thanking Mr. Zenko for all he does for our students and community.

Mr. & Mrs. Anderson deserve a big thank you for hosting a great Knights Ball/Father-Daughter/Mother-Son Dance for the youth of our community. This was a great fundraiser for our National Honors Society. Thank you for all you do for our community and students.

March Spartans of the Month: Cade Huft (HS Boy), Grace Gunderson (HS Girl), Maddox Moser (JH Boy), Haizer Selle (JH Girl).

High School graduation is May 18th at 2pm.

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Baker FFA returns from State Convention with a long list of Accomplishments Kennedy Lyson is STATE CHAMPION in the Employment Skills LDE Halle Brown is 2nd PLACE State Star Reporter Sheridan, MyKalea, Kennedy, Aubrey, Aidyn & Halle received their State Degrees Kennedy Lyson wins her division in the Agricultural Sales proficiency award Halle Brown placed FOURTH in the Prepared Public speaking LDE Conduct of Chapter Meetings team placed FOURTH in the CCM LDE Kennedy Lyson wins the 2025 STATE STAR FARMER award. The Baker FFA Chapter was recognized as the 2nd place STAR CHAPTER in the state! Lukas Rost & Grace Gunderson are Plant Science and Social Systems division STATE CHAMPIONS in Agriscience CDE Kaydee Dyke placed SECOND in the Animal Systems division for the Agriscience CDE Ag Sales team placed THIRD in the state The Agriculture Communications team placed FIFTH Cade Huft placed SECOND in the Junior Ag Mechanics Show with his hydraulic calf table 5 Baker members participated in the Courtesy Corps and Day of Service with Meals of Hope. They helped box multiple pasta boxes which will go to Montana families in need.

Spartan ESports Team wins a State Championship in Missoula:

The Esports team earned a state championship – all classifications combined. Rocket League Team: Zander Rost, Jaron Kesinger, and Bodee Swarts

National Honor Society Induction set for April 16th: The NHS Induction Ceremony for Baker High School is set for 11:45 AM on April 16th in the Baker HS Gymnasium.

Music Department prepares for Solos and Ensembles at upcoming Music Festivals

Upcoming Music Events:

- District Music Festival in Glendive on April 25 & 26
- State Music Festival in Billings on May 2 & 3,
- Pops Concert at Longfellow (7 PM) on May 6,
- Music Department's Award Dinner on May 12,
- Elementary Music Concert on May 13 (Lincoln at 10 AM, and Longfellow at 6:30 PM).

High School Basketball Post Season: The Girls Basketball team competed at the State B Tournament (Missoula – 3/13-15) and won their first two games against Malta and Missoula Loyola. They ended their season as the State Runner-up.

High School Wrestling and Basketball Teams earn State Tourney Sportsmanship Awards: Both the HS Girls Wrestling Team and the Girls Basketball Team have earned the Stockman Bank Team Sportsmanship Award at the 2025 MHSA All Class State Wrestling Tournament & the 2025 Class B State Basketball Tournament! This recognition is a testament to both teams' outstanding conduct and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The Baker HS Volleyball Team also won this honor earlier in the school year.

Spring Sports – Tennis, Golf and Track & Field: Tennis has participated in Matches at Miles City and Glendive (on two occasions), with two of their events cancelled due to weather. The bulk of their season remains in front of them. Golf has traveled to Broadus, but lost their Colstrip event due to poor weather. They head to Forsyth and Huntley Project Tournaments next week.

Track had their opening meets cancelled by bad weather; however, both the HS and MS teams were able to open their season with meets at Bowman this past Monday and Tuesday. Baker will host a MS meet on April 10th and a HS meet on April 11th. The Baker Invitational will be on Thursday, April 17th.

5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: HS Mathematics, Business Education, Industrial Arts (Offer Made), Special Education, Elementary, Elementary Paraprofessionals, Lunch Aid, Custodians (3X).

Resignations: Mrs. Abbigail Tolzien, Co-complex Director; Ms. Kalynn Provence, custodian.

No new updates on the STARs act so we are still waiting.

Communication Matrix: want to have this matrix included on our website so our board and staff know the chain of command when dealing with complaints.

Textbook Selection Process: at recommendation of lawyers, we will be updating our policies to be in compliance with the current law.

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen stated no response as of the end of the meeting so it will be added to next month's agenda.

Next scheduled board meeting is May 14, 2025 at 6 pm. Sunday, May 18, 2025 would be a tentative special meeting for 10am for those students that might need to appeal to graduate if needed.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman