

REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2025

6:18 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, Principal Erin Nevers, Associate, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, Technology Director Scott Anderson, and Head Custodian Jason Cornwell; Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker and Principal Dominick Vergara were absent. Guests were Pam Beach, Kyle Bruski, Jennifer Johnson, Brandon Johnson, Jaci Swyres, Frank Swyres, Molly Losing, Kevin Losing, Linda Rost, Bree Straub and Kristi Burns.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT

None

NON-ACTION ITEMS

NATIONAL STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE COMPETITION – BREE STRAUB

Mrs. Rost presented to the board Miss Bree Straub will be representing MT this summer to St. Louis, MO to compete. The US winner receives \$10,000 in cash and competes at the international competition in Sweden. The Water Environment Federation will pay for her costs to attend.

ACTION ITEMS

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board recommendations for hiring for the 2025-26 school year. It is recommended to hire Mrs. Dena Kirschten, MS Teacher, Mr. Jay Shumaker, HS Math, and Mrs. Valerie Jones, Elementary.

Dalon Dyke moved to hire as presented for the 2025-26 school year, pending the results of a background check. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Brist presents to the board recommendation for extracurricular positions for the 2025-26 school year.

Mr. Tim Robinson—4/5th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

Mr. Tom Breitbart—Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

Mr. Jay Shumaker—High School Head Girls Basketball Coach

Mr. Deryk Van Zee—High School Assistant Football Coach

Mr. John Nowak—High School Assistant Football Coach

Mr. Lane Straub—High School Assistant Football Coach

Mrs. Sheila O'Connor—High School Assistant Volleyball Coach, Middle School Girls Basketball Coach, and Senior Class Advisor

Ms. Makenzie Noseep—Head Fall Cheer Coach, Head Winter Cheer Coach

Ms. Halle Burdick—High School Assistant Volleyball Coach

Mr. TC Shelhamer—High School Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Mr. Jay Hoversland—Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

Mr. Austin Braun—Middle School Football Coach

Mr. Allan Barth—Middle School Football Coach

Ms. Keeja Cook—Middle School Volleyball Coach

Ms. Alivia Schultz—Middle School Volleyball Coach

Ms. Marisa Varner—Middle School Girls Basketball Coach

Mrs. Shawna Batchelor—4/5th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

Mrs. Abbey Dunn—FFA & Summer Vo. Ag Advisor

Mrs. Alyson Lineback—Student Council Advisor

Mrs. Brittany Hoversland—Junior Class Advisor, Close Up Advisor

Ms. Kayleigh Straub - Spartanettes

Mr. Scott Anderson—BPA Advisor

Mrs. Lisa Burdick—Student Union Advisor, Concessions Advisor, Junior Class Advisor

Mrs. Michelle Anderson—National Honor Society Advisor

Mrs. Hillary Frank—Yearbook/Newspaper Advisor

Mrs. JoDee Hess—Music Director

Mrs. Rebecca LaCroix—Assistant Music Director

Mrs. Jen Mettler—Concessions Advisor

Ms. Kolleen Gustad—Middle School Advisor, Academic Olympics Advisor

Mrs. Cathy Frye—Academic Olympics Advisor

Mrs. Linda Rost—Academic Olympics Advisor

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

CLASSIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board recommendations for hire in the following classified positions: Mrs. Faytema Halmans, Custodian and Miss Edie Peters, Paraprofessional.

Jodi Varner moved to hire Mrs. Faytema Halmans as a custodian, pending passage of a background check and results of a pre-employment physical. Additionally, I move to hire Miss Edie Peters as a paraprofessional for the 2025-26 school year, pending the results of a background check. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2025-26

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the professional development calendar for certified staff. This year we do not have in-service built into the calendar and this past year we had approximately six (6) hours of in-service scheduled in the calendar for professional development. We would need an MOA with the BEA to schedule in-service this next year. Based on discussions the teachers would prefer to offer/provide in-service for specific topics and that attendance would be voluntary rather than required. Our professional development committee will continue discussing how we can provide voluntary PD that would benefit our staff and district. The PD scheduled for next year is as follows:

- August 11th–15th (Full Day)**
 - The floating day must be scheduled with your building principal and scheduled as one full six (6) hour day or may be broken into two (2) hour or three (3) hour blocks of time over multiple days.
- August 18th (Full Day)**
 - Breakfast – Longfellow Cafeteria (all staff)
 - Schedule TBA
- August 19th (Full Day)**
 - Schedule TBA
 - Back to School Night Open House Lincoln & Longfellow (4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.)
- August 21st**
 - 7-12 Back to School Night Open House (4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.)
- October 16th–17th (NO SCHOOL)**
 - Montana Teachers Convention (MFPE)
 - Teacher FLEX Days
- October 22nd–7-12 ONLY**
 - Parent Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.)
- October 24th (Friday, NO SCHOOL)**
 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Elementary, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - 7-12, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- November 21st (Friday, 2:00 p.m. Release)**
 - Chase Mielke, *The Burnout Cure*,
 - Longfellow Gymnasium, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- May 22nd–June 4th (Two (2) floating hours)**
 - Teacher checkout scheduled with building principal

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the professional development plan for the 2025-26 school year as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the student attendance agreements for 2024-25. These attendance agreements are not necessarily new students but students not being identified as our district students right away this year but with the new tuition law in place, Districts will be paying for students living in their district to attend a neighboring district.

Student ID	District of Residence	District of Choice
867347677 (State Placed)	Baker	Forsyth
311259325, 865829916	Plevna	Baker
390743734, 637798110, 674269777, 429951971, 847935842	Baker	Plevna

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the 2024-25 attendance agreements for the students listed as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

SET BUS ROUTES 2025-26

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation for bus routes for the 2025-26 school year. There is not a change to stops this year, mileage would stay the same, but there has been a request from a family on route #3 to run the route first-on/first-off. Due to this request, it is requested to adopt the routes as they are for the 2025-26 school year and meet at a later date for changing pick up/drop off times.

Discussion followed. The board would like to discuss the option of another route and the pick up/drop off times for route #3 with the transportation committee and Mr. Geving.

ROUTE 1:

Leave Baker and proceed North on Highway 7 to the Cabin Creek Road. Turn West and proceed 6 ½ miles past Battleship Butte Trail, then turn around at *Hadley's stop* and continue back South to Highway 7. Travel South to Johnny Creek Trail, turn East and travel to the Selle Home, turnaround and then turn South on School House Road to the junction with Shell Oil Road. Then turn West back to Highway 7 turn South and proceed to Baker twice daily for a total of **110 miles per day**. Bus capacity minimum **36**

ROUTE 2:

Leave Baker and proceed North on Highway 7 to Ollie Road to Sanders turnaround and head south to Trolley Road. Go to the junction of Trolley Road and Big Hill Road, turn west onto Big Hill Road and go back to Highway 7. Turn south on Highway 7, drive to Pennell Road, go west to Valley View Trail, turn around back to Highway 7 and turn right to Baker twice daily for a total of **112 miles per day**. This route will reverse from AM to PM. Bus capacity minimum **36**

ROUTE 3:

AM: Leave Baker and proceed South on Highway 7 to junction of Highway 7 and the 101 Road. Turn onto 101 Road and proceed to the Webster Road. Turn West onto the Webster Road and travel to the Substation and Highway 7. Turn North back to Baker

PM: Leave Baker and proceed South on Highway 7 to Substation, turn East and travel to Webster Road corner. Turn North to 101 Road back to Highway 7 and turn North back to Baker for a total of **112 miles per day**.

Jodi Varner moved to approve the bus routes for the 2025-26 school year as presented and discuss pick up/drop off times for route #3 and possibility of an additional route at a later meeting. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

LIFEGUARD SALARY SCHEDULE 2025-26

Mr. Skogen presents to the board the lifeguard salary schedule for 2025-26.

COMPLEX SALARIES 2025-26

	YEARS	2024-25	2025-26
LIFEGUARD/INSTRUCTOR	0	\$14.00	\$14.50
CASHIER/JANITOR	1	\$14.25	\$14.75
	2	\$14.50	\$15.00
	3	\$14.75	\$15.50 \$15.25
WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR (WSI)	0	\$15.25	\$15.75
	1	\$15.50	\$16.00
<i>District will pay the registration fee to become a Water Safety Instructor</i>	2	\$16.00	\$16.50
	3	\$16.50	\$16.75 \$17.00
	4	\$17.00	\$17.50

NO overtime will be paid unless approved previously by supervisors or administration

These wages for the lifeguards will start June 1st.

Jodi Varner moved to approve the 2025-26 lifeguard salary schedule as presented with changes lifeguard step 3 to \$15.25 and WSI step 3 \$17.00. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

4TH QUARTER OIL & GAS ALLOCATION

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the oil and gas allocation for the 4th quarter; revenue received this quarter is \$591,169.76 and it recommended to deposit it as follows: Flex Fund \$250,000 and Building Reserve \$341,169.76.

Jay Quenzer moved to reallocate the oil and gas revenue on or about May 1, 2025 to the funds presented in the total amount of \$591,169.76, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REVISE BOARD POLICY 1230, CLERK

Mr. Skogen presented to the board policy revision BP 1230 to comply with changes in law and allow the district to receive an additional quality employee payment as outlined in HB 252, better known as the STARS Act.

Cody Strandbakke moved to revise BP 1230 as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:**1. COMPLEX, Kristi Burns**

Staying busy and see more usage in the pool.

2. MAINTENANCE, Jason Cornwell

Stadium and Tennis courts water and restrooms have been turned on and are open

Set up/Clean up NHS Inductions Baker High School

Summer project facilities meeting discussing summer's to do's
Set up/Clean up Career/Job Fair Baker High School
Set up/Clean up Knight Ball at Longfellow
Few set up/clean ups for Middle School/High School track meets including Districts
Set up/Clean up Pop's Concert Held at Longfellow Gym
Set up/Clean up various end of year awards assemblies
Set up/Clean up K-3 Music Concert

Thank you to the Staff, Teachers and Students for the on-going support and help around our schools. We currently have 3 student workers that work from 3:45 to 5pm. picking up trash bags, replacing with new, cleaning windows, and sweeping the hallways and gym. They will work until the end of the school year. I would like to suggest that we do this next school year as well.

3. **TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson**

Obsolete equipment will be updated later in the summer.

High School Main Entry Door New Fob, Camera, and Buzz entry system is being installed. There has been justified frustration by staff over timing of the install and future responsibilities of our staff on buzzing people in. I am working on a response for the scheduling frustration and will respond tomorrow. I would like to mention out of respect for our staff and keeping positive morale with our staff, that I highly recommend the facilities committee take time to address these questions and concerns and explain why the committee felt strongly that this was a project that needed to be pushed forward.

Summer Project - Windows 10 goes end of life in October 2025. Working on updating all desktop windows computers to Windows 11 and/or marking them for the obsolete equipment list. We will consolidate downs to two desktop labs (Business Lab and North Lab). South lab will be converted to monitors, keyboards, and mice that can be connected to chromebooks during testing periods.

Working with the admin team and classroom teachers to address any needs for additional TVs or ViewBoards and other equipment. As we have information for new hires and next school year's classroom uses, we will address and staff concerns or requests.

Graduation will be streamed on NFHS.

4. **PRINCIPALS**

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

This is an incredibly busy and exciting time in our Elementary School. With only 5 days left in the year, our staff and students are fully engaged in a wide range of activities and celebrations.

To give you a glimpse into the energy of the building, I created a short video capturing just a few of today's activities.

These are just a few highlights, there are so many more things happening!

Our first-grade wing has transformed into "Dinosaur Central" in preparation for their end of the year themed activities.

Sixth graders spent the morning Monday shooting rockets at the lake park, and the morning today at the fairgrounds participating in agricultural activities through a partnership with the extension office

Our music program wrapped up last night with an outstanding, animal-themed performance by our elementary students.

Elementary classrooms are preparing for a flurry of field trips beginning tomorrow and continuing into next week.

1st Grade to Carter County Museum

Thursday, May 15th - Depart 12:15, Return at 2:45

2nd Grade to Pinnow's

Tuesday, May 13th - Depart 10:15, Return after lunch

3rd Grade - Swimming

Wednesday, May 21st - 1:00-3:00 PM

4th Grade to Trails End

Wednesday, May 21st - Depart 8:00, Return before 3:40

5th Grade to Dickinson Rec Center

Monday, May 19th - Depart 8:00, Return before 3:40

6th Grade to Devils Tower

Tuesday, May 20th - Depart 8:00, Return to Baker at 4:30

Amidst all this, we are also planning our final Student of the Month assembly

b. **HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Dom Vergara (absent but submitted the report)**

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Burdick's. Her dedication was instrumental in organizing and implementing our testing programs for grades 7-12 this year, and she is currently working tirelessly on registering students for classes next year. These efforts are critical to a smooth start to the next academic year, and they often go unnoticed. Please take the time to thank Mrs. Burdick for her dedication to our students.

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

National Honors Society Induction Ceremony

AP Testing / ACT Testing

Scholarships

Graduation Prep Work

April Spartans of the Month

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

(HS Boy) Gage Fuchs-Martinez

(HS Girl) Megan Varner

(JH Boy) Lukas Rost

(JH Girl) Addyson Heiser

Upcoming Events/Meetings

Graduation, May 18th at Longfellow Gym, 2 pm

Staff Check Out

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Music Department competes at District and State Music Festivals

Results from the District Solo and Ensemble Music Festival held in Glendive on April 25 & 26.

Choir Solos: DeeAnna Hess Vocal Solo scored a 1 (Superior)

Band Solos: Chance Follmer Drumset Solo, Jessica Kruger Flute Solo, DeeAnna Hess Piccolo Solo, Tylar Smith Flute Solo, DeeAnna Hess Flute Solo, Jerrick Moser Trumpet Solo all scored 1's

(Superior) Joshua Losing Trombone Solo, scored 2's (Excellent)

Choir Ensembles:

DeeAnna Hess and Jessica Kruger - Vocal Duet scored a 1 (Superior) DeeAnna Hess, Jessica

Kruger, Tylar Smith - Vocal Trio scored a 2 (Excellent)

Band Ensembles:

Taylor Langhus and Natalie Noftsker Duet scored a 1 (Excellent)

Baker Woodwind Quartet – (Ophelia Nacey, Oceania Kretch, Billie Jo Miller & Natalie Noftsker) scored a 1(Superior)

Jerrick Moser, DeeAnna Hess and Tylar Smith Flute & Trumpet Trio, Tylar Smith & DeeAnna Flute Duet both scored 1's (Superior), Jessica Kruger and Tylar Smith Flute Duet, DeeAnna Hess and Jessica Kruger Flute Duet, DeAnna Hess, Jessica Kruger and Tylar Smith Flute Trio all scored 2's (Excellent)

The Baker HS Band scored a 1 (Superior) for sight reading and a 2(Excellent) for performance, while the Choir scored a 2 (Excellent) for both sight reading and performance.

Results from the State Solo and Ensemble Music Festival held in Billings on May 2 & 3.

Choir Solos: DeeAnna Hess Vocal Solo scored a 2 (Excellent)

Band Solos: Jessica Kruger Flute Solo, DeeAnna Hess Piccolo Solo, Tylar Smith Flute Solo, DeeAnna Hess Flute Solo, Jerrick Moser Trumpet Solo all scored 1's (Superior) Chance Follmer Drumset Solo scored a 2 (Excellent)

Choir Ensembles: DeeAnna Hess and Jessica Kruger - Vocal Duet scored a 1 (Superior)

Band Ensembles: Jerrick, DeeAnna and Tylar Flute & Trumpet Trio, Tylar & DeeAnna Flute Duet both scored 1's (Superior)

Other recent Music Department performances and Activiites: The Pops Concert at Longfellow was held at Longfellow on May 6, The Music Department's Awards Dinner was held on May 12th, and the Elementary Music Concert was held on May 13th at Longfellow.

Baker BPA Student Travels to Nationals:

Baker BPA student Brady Graham (8th grade) departed for the BPA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL with Advisor Scott Anderson on May 7th and returned on May 11th. He finished in 25th place at the National Competition.

Spring Sports – Golf, Tennis and Track & Field: Golf - The golf team attended the Divisional Tournament, hosted by Huntley Project, on May 5th, with the boy's team finishing in 7th position out of 12 teams. Camden Coulter, Tristan Barth, Kyson Barth, Jayden Hastig and Chad Griffith represented Baker at the event.

Tennis – The Baker HS girls tennis team will have 4 singles entries and 2 doubles team entries at the Eastern B/C Divisional Tournament (hosted by Forsyth), in Glendive on May 16 & 17. From the results of this event, the top 5 singles and top 5 doubles teams will qualify for the State B/C Tournament to be held in Missoula on May 22-24.

Track & Field – Baker HS recently hosted the district 3B Championships on May 8th, with the Girls team placing 2nd and the Boys team winning the district team title. Four boys – Trevin Lecoe (100, 200), Chase Follmer (110H, 300H), Kane Olsen (SP, Discus) and Jarek Janz (HJ, LJ and Jav) won district titles. The Baker HS Boys also won both the 4x100 and 4x 400-meter relay events.

All athletes that placed in the top six of their events at the district meet have qualified for the Southern B Divisional Championship to be held on May 15 in Laurel. From this meet the top 5 in each event, plus auto qualifiers, will advance to the State B Track & Field Championships to be held in Missoula on May 22-24.

Sports Awards Banquet: The Annual Baker High School Sports Awards Banquet will be held on May 20th at 6 PM at the Longfellow Gym. This event recognizes accomplishments from athletes of all of Baker High School's athletic teams.

5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Business Education, Industrial Arts, Offered Made, Special Education, Interview Scheduled, Elementary(Interview Scheduled), Social Studies (Interviews Scheduled), Elementary Paraprofessionals, Lunch Aid, Custodian

Resignations:

Ms. Ashley Varner, Fall & Winter Cheer Head Coach

Mr. Bo Lingle, Social Science

Mr. Adam Rabe, Custodian

The front lawn will be re-hydrated; 8th grade field trip will be to Bowman this year.

Strategic Planning: tentatively set for July 22nd at 4pm.

Applied for a variance with the City and the hearing is scheduled for June 3rd at 7:00pm.

Next scheduled board meeting is June 24, 2025 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman