

REGULAR MEETING

June 24, 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, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, and Head Custodian Jason Cornwell; Principal Erin Nevers, Associate Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist and Technology Director Scott Anderson were absent. Guests were Pam Beach, Kevin & Molly Losing, Eric Losing, Jennifer Johnson, Kristi Burns, Jaci Swyres and John Geving.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60059 to 60143 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam Beach thanks the board for the retirement reception at the end of the school year.

ACTION ITEMS

Due to the attendance of guests, Chairperson Wang would like to move the agenda item **Bus Route Change – Route #3 PM Time Change**.

CERTIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board recommendation to hire Ms. Cara Willson for elementary special education.

Dalon Dyke moved to hire Ms. Cara Willson as a special education teacher for the 2025-26 school year, hire is contingent upon a successful background check. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

HANDBOOK REVISIONS

A. K-6 STUDENT HANDBOOK

Minor changes made; Cody asked on appendix B, would like to change “shall” to “will” and the section of “following 3 or more absences” what is defined as absence (page 6)– school activity is not counted towards absence.

Questions arose and Chairperson Wang would like table the handbook until Mrs. Nevers and Miss Wacker can be in attendance to

B. 7-12 STUDENT HANDBOOK

Changes were made to eligibility reflects the change to the 4 day week and change in attendance to more of what has been done in the past.

C. ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

Minor changes were made to the handbook by Mr. Brist.

Jodi Varner moved to approve the 7-12 handbook and activities handbook as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

INCREASE HOT LUNCH PRICES 2025-26 - STUDENT & ADULT

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the recommendation to raise meal prices for the 2025-26 school year.

Student:	2024-25	2025-26
Lunch	\$2.50	\$2.75
Breakfast	\$1.25	\$1.50
Snack	\$.60	\$1.00
Adult		
Lunch	\$4.75	\$5.00
Breakfast	\$2.50	\$2.75

Cody moved to increase the meal prices for students

Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

John Geving joins the meeting.

BUS ROUTE CHANGE - ROUTE #3 PM TIME CHANGE

Mr. John Geving stated the longest a student riding the bus is 42 minutes on the north route; no one is over the hour requirements. If the changes do happen for next year it will be listed in the newspaper. Mr. Geving also states we used to have another bus on south route due to the distance to Little Beaver plant and it wasn't feasible to make the loop in one route in the time frame allotted. Change to the route PM pickup times are as follows:

Route Stop	PM Route Times (old/current)	NEW PM Route Times
Johnson	4:29	4:00
Swyres	4:27	4:02
Webster Corner	4:22	4:07
Losing	4:11	4:18
Enos	4:10	4:19
Enos/Beach	4:07	4:22
Bruski	4:05	4:24
Rost	4:00	4:29
Barkley	3:55	4:34

Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer stated he would be willing to make the change as presented for next year with the understanding to re-evaluate the route next year.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the request to change the PM route drop off times for Route #3 as presented.

Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

INCREASE ACTIVITY GATE FEES

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the recommendation to raise gate fees for activities for the 2025-26 school year. Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer stated he would like to see the student prices stay lower and raise the adult price to \$8 and keep student/senior \$5. Chairperson Wang stated she would like to raise activity passes for adults to \$70 and student/senior to \$45.

Discussion followed.

Changes as Proposed from discussion:

Gate fee proposed: adult \$10, student/senior \$5

Activity Pass proposed: adult \$80, student/senior \$30

Middle school gate admission: \$5 adults and students K-12/seniors FREE

Wrestling gate admission will be same as a varsity gate fee.

Jodi Varner moved to raise the gate fees and activity pass fees as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY REVISION – BP 2170

Mr Skogen presented to the board revisions to BP 2170.

We are recommending revisions to Board Policy (BP) 2170. The revisions presented would stipulate that the district is responsible for pay the fees associated with Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) courses that students are required to take for graduation. Sometimes we have scheduling conflicts for a specific student whose schedule prevents them from taking a required course for graduation on campus and thus we enroll them in MTDA courses. The district pays the fees for these courses for the student. However, sometimes a specific student must enroll in credit recovery courses to ensure they have the required credits for graduation. In this case, the district will also pay for the fees associated with the course.

The recommended revisions to this policy state that the district will pay for the 1st enrollment in a course required for graduation. However, if the student does not pass the course, then the student must reimburse the district for the fees paid by the district for the student to take the course. If a student attempts the same course again, after having failed the course during their 1st attempt, the student is responsible for the fees to take the course again.

Recommended revision:

MTDA is authorized by Montana law to charge fees for students to access offered courses. The District shall pay fees for students enrolled in an MTDA class that is required for graduation as specified in District policy or the student handbook or as determined by the Superintendent or designee. **The District will pay for the 1st enrollment in a course required for graduation. If the student fails the course they must reimburse the District for the cost of the course. Students are responsible for paying fees associated with MTDA courses when they are re-enrolling in a course they have already attempted and failed to pass for credit.** The District may charge students a reasonable fee for an MTDA course or activity not required for graduation. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to waive the fee in cases of financial hardship. Any courses the District does not pay for will not be included in the ANB calculation in accordance with Policy 3121.

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the revisions to Board Policy 2170 as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2025-26 INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the transportation contracts for 2025-26. These contracts are for those living farther than 3 miles from the nearest bus stop or school. The following are proposed contracts:

Quinton & Lisa Burdick
Chris & JaNae Crawford
Tina Crawford
Jennifer Johnson
Tanner & Julia Varner

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the Individual Transportation Contracts as presented for the 2025-26 school year. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

DISPOSAL OF RECORDS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board record disposal request per Schedule #7 with the Montana Local Government Records Committee. Jodi Varner moved to request authorization for records disposal as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2025-26 BUSINESS MANAGER & HEAD OF MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Chairperson Wang would like to table the contracts for those positions for now to better evaluate those contracts.

PERMISSION TO PAY BILLS THROUGH JUNE 30TH

Mrs. Mettler requests permission to pay bills through June 30, 2025 to continue paying billing obligations into the new fiscal year and in lieu of a board meeting in July.

Jodi Varner moved to give Mrs. Mettler permission to pay bills through June 30, 2025. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX, Kristi Burns

Pool inspected for the 2nd time this year last week; numbers are staying consistent. Swim lessons started last week and this week for first session. She would like to request a complex committee meeting with the board as well in the near future.

2. MAINTENANCE, Jason Cornwell

Setup and cleanup for many events as school year ended. Lincoln school is done and cleaned and moved on to Longfellow.

3. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Business Education, Industrial Arts, Elementary Paraprofessionals, Lunch Aid, Custodian.

Strategic Planning scheduled for July 22, 2025 at 4pm.

The variance for teacher housing was approved by the City of Baker so will move forward with McKinstry to start designing the apartments.

Next scheduled board meeting is Strategic Planning July 22, 2025 at 4 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman