

REGULAR MEETING

August 25, 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 Megan McKeighan and Erin Nevers, Associate Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist, and District Clerk Jennifer Mettler; Technology Director Scott Anderson was absent. Guests were Rebecca LaCroix, Maranda Hastig, Tyler Bush, Jason Cornwell, and Rebecca Bumgardner.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60143 to 60273 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT

None

ACTION ITEMS

CLASSIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented recommendation to hire paraprofessionals; Ms. Davia Ailport and Ms. Shelby Winkley for the 2025-26 school year.

Dalon Dyke moved to hire Davia Ailport and Shelby Winkley as paraprofessionals for the 2025-26 school year, hires are contingent on a background check. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Brist presented recommendations to hire extracurricular positions.

Mr. Silas Counts—High School Head Boys Wrestling Coach, MS Advisor

Mr. Dale Schmidt – High School Assistant FFA Advisor

Mrs. Cori Enders – High School Freshman Advisor

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the extracurricular positions as presented for the 2025-26 school year. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

1ST READING – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the 1st reading of the strategic plan; the plan itself is based on several years of on-going discussion, in addition to several specific trainings involving the Board of Trustees. The document will be shared with our staff and public with a 2nd reading and final adoption to be recommended in October.

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the draft Strategic Plan for 1st reading as presented. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

DESIGN/BUILD APARTMENT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION – MCKINSTRY

Mr. Skogen presents to the board the design/cost proposal for the apartment complex. It has been discussed for several years now and after the City of Baker approved the variance, we can move forward with the discussion to build more apartments; contract price is \$869,820 and project is expected to get done late May or early June to be ready for move in before the next school year.

Discussion followed.

Jodi Varner moved to approve proposal as presented from McKinstry to build additional teacher housing units. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

OIL & GAS REVENUE ALLOCATION

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the oil and gas revenue from the 1st quarter of 2025. Recommendation is as follows:

General Fund \$40,000

Flexibility Fund \$500,700.38

Jay Quenzer moved to reallocate the oil and gas revenue on or about August 1, 2025 to the funds presented in the total amount of \$540,700.38, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received.

Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2025-26 BUDGET ADOPTION

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the 2025-26 Budgets.

Fund [A]	Adopted Budget [B]	Total Reserves (B1-300) [C]	Reserve Limit [D]	% of Adopted Budget Reserved (C/D x 100) [E]	Unreserved Fund Balance Reappropriated (B1) [F]	Other Revenue [G]	District Property Tax Requirements (B - F - G x H) If < 0, enter 0 [M]	District Mill Levies H / (TV x .001) [N]
01 General	4,685,472.80	143,520.46	10%	3.06%	0.00	2,418,088.63	2,267,384.17	46.90
10 Transportation	477,740.00	43,557.67	20%	9.12%	0.00	92,998.63	384,741.37	7.96
11 Bus Depreciation Reserve	53,169.95	0.00	N/A	0.00%	53,169.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
13 Tuition	125,000.00		N/A		69,231.59	0.00	55,768.41	1.15
14 Retirement	840,000.00	100,000.00	20%	11.90%	125,676.35	714,323.65		
17 Adult Education	150,000.00	52,500.00	35%	35.00%	265,014.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
19 Non-Operating	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28 Technology	225,000.00	23,362.09	N/A	10.38%	221,750.07	3,249.93	0.00	0.00
29 Flexibility	2,500,000.00	3,442,768.20	N/A	137.71%	2,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
61 Building Reserve	4,000,000.00	2,279,734.63	N/A	56.99%	4,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total of All Funds	13,056,382.75	6,085,443.05			7,234,842.60	3,228,660.84	2,707,893.95	56.01

50 Debt Service								
Tax Jurisdiction								
0244	5,000.00	31,631.23	20-9-438	632.62%	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX

Nothing to report tonight.

2. MAINTENANCE

Nothing to report.

3. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson

Updated Obsolete Equipment List - New Items have been added.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PDhwtJXoKWB286nEsJ_3uy8i_3d8-fr_PIm46dHTbi4/edit?usp=sharing

Longfellow Stage equipment currently down. Working with AVI to get a tech on site to troubleshoot and fix.

4. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker

Shout Outs: Best 1st Week Ever! Last week was a GREAT first week of school. Lincoln and Longfellow teams were quick to support each other, offer a helping hand and ensured that everyone was ready to go from day 1! Thank you to all our teachers and support staff for making this the best 1st week ever! Our buildings look amazing, thank you to all of our custodians and extra summer helpers! Thank you Ms. Stenberg for taking on the teacher leader role of planning and organizing summer school again this year. A big shout out and thanks to Mrs. LaCroix, Mrs. Schell, and Ms. Noseep for being a part of this team. Also, thank you Mrs. Ashli Wiedmer for supporting our students throughout the summer!

SAM Administrators Institute 2025: The 2025 SAM conference in Helena at the end of July was fantastic. Not only were there great keynote speakers, but it was a chance to network and collaborate together as an admin team. Some of the main takeaways were:

Every student is an MTSS student. Interventions start @ Tier 1

At Risk vs At Hope

New Teacher Orientation: Monday, August 4th we held our new teacher orientation. This year we welcomed six new teachers and two paraprofessionals to our elementary teams. Our onboarding process is continually evolving and we hope to continue to. We plan to survey our new team members in the upcoming weeks to see what we can do as a district to better support our new staff. Sub Training: Wednesday, August 6th we held our substitute teacher training. We are fortunate to have the number of substitutes we do. This year's training brought in 3 new substitute teachers and several returning.

Beginning of the Year Training: Big Ideas Math - We have adopted a new K-8 Math Curriculum. All staff members attended our in-person training Monday, August 18th. There was a lot of collaboration and hands on opportunities to unpack the new materials and explore the online platform.

Back to School Night

Fall Book Study: The Anxious Generation - We are organizing a community-wide book study on The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt as part of a PIR opportunity for our staff. This book explores the growing mental health challenges among today's youth, linking increased anxiety, depression, and social disconnection to the rise of smartphones and social media use during childhood and adolescence. The hope is that participating in this book study, educators, parents, and

community members can engage in meaningful dialogue around the root causes of these issues and how we, as a school community, can better support the emotional and developmental well-being of our students. This shared learning experience will not only inform classroom practices but also strengthen partnerships between schools and families as we work together to address the challenges facing today's youth.

UPCOMING: No School - September 1st - Labor Day, Homecoming Week - Week of September 8th, Early Release at 2:00 - September 12th.

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan

Completed Trainings and Events

New Teacher Orientation – August 4th

As part of our onboarding process, we conducted a comprehensive New Teacher Orientation to support incoming staff in becoming familiar with key systems, policies, and expectations. The training included:

Overview of our Student Information System (SIS), Instructional and classroom technology tools, District policies and procedures, Leave forms and how to access support

PIR Opportunities: Key calendar dates and school events, Substitute Training- August 6th A Back-to-School Substitute Training session was held to ensure substitutes are confident and informed.

Training covered school policies, classroom expectations, safety procedures, and daily routines—helping maintain consistency and support for students when regular teachers are absent.

K-12 Infinite Campus Behavior Reporting–August 19th: We are implementing a consistent, school-wide system for documenting student behavior and interactions through Infinite Campus. This tool will be used across all grade levels, K-12, allowing staff to log classroom incidents, note communication with families, and submit behavior referrals when administrative support is needed. The goal is to streamline communication, ensure consistent documentation, and better support student growth and accountability.

Schedule Changes and Online Classes: Mrs. Burdick has done an excellent job managing student schedules and ensuring enrollment in appropriate online courses. Her efforts have ensured students are placed in classes aligned with their academic needs and goals.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses: Mrs. Burdick has also ensured our Advanced Placement courses are properly registered and rostered, maintaining the integrity and accreditation of our AP program.

Back-to-School Open House: Our back-to-school open house was a success. Teachers reported an average of 8–10 parents visiting each classroom. Mr. Counts, our new history teacher, incentivized student attendance by offering extra credit for bringing parents—resulting in 18 students visiting his classroom with family members.

Secured Campus Update: Students and staff continue to adjust well to the new secured campus procedures, with all doors remaining locked from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The transition has been smooth overall, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives: Homecoming Week Scheduled for September 8–12th.

Monday 8th-6:30 Coronation on the Football Field, Parade, Bonfire

Saturday 13th-Homecoming Dance, Location TBD

PIR Opportunity & Joint Book Study – The Anxious Generation: Mrs. Nevers and I are organizing a community-wide book study on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt as part of a PIR opportunity. This book explores the growing mental health challenges among today's youth, linking increased anxiety, depression, and social disconnection to the rise of smartphones and social media use during childhood and adolescence. The hope is that participating in this book study, educators, parents, and community members can engage in meaningful dialogue around the root causes of these issues and how we, as a school community, can better support the emotional and developmental well-being of our students. This shared learning experience will not only inform classroom practices but also strengthen partnerships between schools and families as we work together to address the challenges facing today's youth.

Donation from Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center (EMCMHC): We are grateful to EMCMHC for donating toiletry items for student use throughout the year. Items include shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, mouthwash, body wipes, and lip balm. Baker High School will receive these items on Wednesday.

Meeting with Youth Probation: Mr. Skogen and I will be meeting with Sarita Fenner, Chief Probation Officer, on Wednesday to discuss the potential for utilizing a grant through Youth Probation. The goal is to fund after-school tutoring provided by our teachers outside of their contracted time.

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Fall Sports: HS Football - 1st practice – 8/15, 1st game @ Columbus 8/29 (32 boys out – grades 9-12); HS Volleyball – 1st practice – 8/18, 1st game @ Columbus Tournament 8/30 (28 girls out – grades 8-12)
HS Cross Country – 1st practice – 8/15, 1st meet @ Bowman 8/29 (13 out – grades 8-12)
HS Cheer – will open up during the winter season this year
MS Football – 1st practice – 8/18, 1st game at home against Glendive 9/4 (27 boys out – grades 7-8)
MS Volleyball – 1st practice – 8/25, 1st game at home against Harding County 9/16 (25 girls out – grades 6-8)
MS Cross Country - 1st practice – 8/19, 1st meet @ Hardin Invitational 9/5 (7 out grades 6-7)
Activities: FFA – 1st event of the school year – District Leadership School @ Rosebud HS (event is intended to help students develop their leadership and teamwork skills through a series of interactive workshops facilitated by the Montana: FFA State Officers. (47 students out – grades 7-12)
Homecoming Week - Early September this year; Homecoming games this year are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 12 against Roundup for football (7 pm) and Saturday, Sept. 13 against Huntley Project (12, 1:30 & 3 pm).
SAM Conference – Helena: The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) Administrators Institute was held in Helena from July 28-30 with several key speakers and many presentations for the large group in attendance. Several Principals/Associate Principals and the Tech Advisor/Administration from Baker were among those to benefit from attendance at this event. Of the keynote presentations, Recharge – Fostering Compassion Resilience in School Leadership by Dr. Tina Barrett provided helpful information. Another outstanding presentation included Dignity, Hope and Resilience: What about the Staff by Dr. Barbara-Jane Paris. Listening and learning from these, and many other speakers provided much information and enthusiasm for the upcoming school year. It was also great opportunity to get together with Mrs. Nevers, Miss Wacker and Scott Anderson and begin planning for the new school year.
MCA Coaches Clinic - Great Falls: The Montana Coaches Association (MCA) hosted its annual summer coaching clinic in Great Falls (July 30 – Aug 1) with several Baker Coaches in attendance: Jay Shumaker and Brittany Hoversland (HSGBB), Sheila O'Connor (HSVB), and Kallie Benter (HSGTN). The clinic offered presentations from several of Montana's top coaches, along with many that were brought to Great Falls from around the United States to share motivation and expertise.

5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current openings: Business Education, Elementary Paraprofessional, Custodian. Breakfast with the Spartans was hosted again in the courtyard by Spartan Sports Boosters. Want to thank the board for the staff lunch on the 2nd PIR day. A letter to the union will be presented to the BEA to request ground rules be set for the upcoming negotiations this year; board intends to get started in September to set ground rules.
Supaman is coming to the district on September 16, 2025.

Next scheduled board meeting is September 17, 2025 at 6 pm.
There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman