

REGULAR MEETING

September 17, 2025

6:02 PM

The regular meeting of the Baker School Board was called to order by Chairperson Karen Wang at 6:02 pm in the Boardroom of Baker High School. Trustees Dalon Dyke, Cody Strandbakke, and Jodi Varner were in attendance; Jay Quenzer was absent. Also present were Superintendent Aaron Skogen, Principal Erin Nevers, Associate Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist, and District Clerk Jennifer Mettler; Principal Megan McKeighan and Technology Director Scott Anderson were absent. Guest was Amanda Tunby.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60273 to 60327 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 HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presents to the board a recommendation for classified hires.

Mrs. Rorie Piil – Lunch Aid

Mr. Bruce Brown – Part-time Custodian

Mr. Treven Ralls – Student Custodian

Jodi Varner seconded by Dalon Dyke; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Brist presents to the board the recommendation to hire for extracurricular positions; Macy Varner – Concessions Advisor and Seth Kendall – 4th/5th Boys Basketball Coach and Jr. High Boys Basketball Coach. Dalon Dyke moved to hire the extracurricular positions as presented for the 2025-26 school year. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2025-26 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

The principals presented to board the substitute teacher list for the 2025-26 school year.

Traci Bruha (secretary)	Heather Havens	Jacob LaCroix
Yvonne Skogen	Alison Enos	Laura Presley
Jason Coulter	Shye Coulter	Lindsey Thompson
Ashlee Moore	Brandee Hester	Danielle Fisher
Pam Beach	Robin Menger	Randi Selle
Sheila O'Connor	Karlene Kloetzke	Shianne Beach
Janalee Ferrell	Betty Jagiello(secretary)	
Hallie Flint(seasonal)	Owen Stieg(seasonal)	Walker Hadley(seasonal)

Jodi Varner moved to approve the substitute teacher lists as presented for the 2025-26 school year. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF STATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the final plan for our strategic plan. He also stated it is a working plan that will be amended as we go through school years.

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY REVISIONS & UPDATES

Mr. Skogen presented to the board policy revisions upon completion of legislative session from Montana School Boards Association.

HB745: This bill requires adoption by school districts of a student safety policy requiring a fingerprint criminal history check prior to any individual (employees, volunteers, chaperones, etc.) having unsupervised contact with students. In order to comply with the bill, we are recommending adoption of a new Policy 3655, as well as amendments to Policies 5120P, 5122, and 5430NF.

HB471: This bill amends the requirements for mandatory notices to parents regarding human sexuality instruction and adds requirements related to identity instruction. In order to comply with bill, we are recommending amendment of Policy 2335.

HB819: This bill prohibits the display of flags or banners on District property other than specific types of flags identified in the bill. In order to comply with the bill, we are recommending adoption of a new Policy 8560.

HB400: This bill prohibits adverse employment action or student disciplinary action against an individual that declines to provide their own pronouns or declines to address another person by a name other than their legal name or by using a pronoun inconsistent with the person's sex. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendments to Policies 3310 and 5255.

HB600, SB211, and SB502: These bills collectively address emergency administration of asthma medications and opioid antagonists. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendments to Policy 3416.

SB278: This bill provides funding in the form of advanced opportunity aid and the quality educator payment for an advanced opportunity facilitator position of employment. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendments to Policy 1015FE.

HB338 & SB35: These bills collectively add math to early targeted intervention, exceptional circumstances, and revise out of district student requirements for children enrolled in a jumpstart early intervention program. In order to comply with these bills, we are recommending amendments to Policies 2158, 2165, 2165NF, 3110, and 3121.

HB631 & SB297: These bills collective amend definitions for the pupil online protection act. In order to comply with these bills, we recommend amendment of Policy 3650.

HB226: This bill requires confirmation of citizenship or work authorization status. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending adoption of a new Policy 5123.

HB250: This bill revises provisions related to out-of-district attendance. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendments to Policies 2050 and 3141.

HB567: This bill generally amends provisions related to multi-district agreements and provides an incentive for county-wide multi-district agreements. In order to comply with the bill, we are recommending amendment of Policy 1007FE.

HB602: This bill specifies that nonrenewal of a nontenured teacher for financial reasons is nonrenewal without cause and requires the matter to be placed on a Board meeting agenda before June 1. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending adoption of a new Policy 5252.

HB359: This bill amends the requirement for hiring a recently retired teacher to allow for hiring a retired teacher who is employed to mentor a newly hired teacher. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendment of Policy 1009FE.

HB651: This bill permits installation of temporary door locking devices for use during shelter-in-place or emergency lockdown situations with violation of fire codes. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendment of Policy 8301.

HB343: This bill requires districts to allow for release of students from school for religious instruction at the written request of the parent and allows districts to award academic credit for completion of religious instruction under certain circumstances. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendment of Policy 2334.

HB381: This bill allows for students to earn credits towards graduation for working in congregate-care facilities, child-care facilities, or school-age programs under certain circumstances. In order to comply with this Policy, we recommend amendment of Policy 2600.

HB591: This bill adds "Freedom Week" to the list of commemorative days set forth in § 20-1-306, MCA, in order "to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of the United States and the values on which the United States was founded." In order to comply with this bill, we recommend amendment of Policy 2100.

SB181: This bill revises provisions related to Indian Education for All. In order to comply with this bill, we are recommending amendment of Policy 2450.

SB369: This bill revises provisions related to suicide training and prevention. In order to comply with this bill, we recommend amendment of Policy 2150.

Mr. Strandbakke had inquired about BP8301 in regards to installation of temporary door locking devices to be used for shelter in place and why not deadbolt on doors? Mr. Skogen stated he called the Fire Marshall and policy says it has to be engaged and then removed; the Fire Marshall stated it can't be deadbolts on the doors because emergency personnel have to be able to access from both sides of the door. The Fire Marshall said, once confirmed with his supervisor, they could be keyed deadbolts as long as it was a master key throughout the entire district that local law enforcement all had and were able to access. However, those keys to the deadbolt cannot be duplicated and not given out to anyone at any time. Will be working with local contractor to work on doors to comply with the policy change and have master locks on all the doors and be universally accessed. Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the policy revisions and updates as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the scholarship applicants for this year.

This year we have received four applications (3 Seniors & 1 Junior). The candidates meet the qualifications of the scholarship.

The fund has plenty of money and it has been recommended last couple of years to offer \$500 to the applicant(s) but can change from year to year based on the number of applications received.

Junior – Hallie Flint

Seniors – Alex Williams, Anika Ploeger, and Bryce Shelhamer

Jodi Varner moved to award the Alumni Scholarship to all applicants in the amount of \$500. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the list of student attendance agreements for the 2025-26 school year.

Student ID	District of Residence	District of Choice
368749761, 569614265	State/court	Baker
535486211, 865829916, 188355738, 729184289, 584542614, 986149056, 167717312, 751125236, 449084971, 992431254, 162055103, 415455964, 267270741, 979142940, 690712581, 462943751, 462943751	Plevna	Baker
113334, 241282884, 553641654, 148037346, 366523938, 408070447, 305122863, 516278423, 765540523, 417140668, 710092010, 926842989, 872290678, 109168572, 918547696, 298270771, 373601818, 930147501, 721138593, 638550338, 331791696	Marmarth, ND	Baker
145921807, 687140779, 707877148, 294322045, 321816427, 312387899, 864397263, 804.06, 635176590, 653593809, 567221507, 489600091, 637468330, 536169900, 443555020, 390743734, 847935842, 429951971, 637798110, 674269777, 234210751, 578482884, 458482884, 727821218, 472091647, 559617994, 668484872, 702315351, 625397286, 198241008	Baker	Plevna

Currently, we have 30 student going to Plevna, 17 students from Plevna, 21 students from Marmarth, ND and 2 state/court placed.

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the attendance contracts for the 2025-26 school year as presented. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. **TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson (absent)**
2. **PRINCIPALS**

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

Shout Out: We would like to take a moment to recognize our school secretaries. Thank you Alyson Lineback, Kristin Ehret, Amy Lingle, and Brook Collins for all you do each day! They take on an incredible number of tasks every day. Their flexibility, problem-solving, and constant support keep our schools running smoothly. We are grateful for their dedication, patience, and kindness. We could not do what we do without them.

K-6 District Assessments:FastBridge - Universal screening tool for grades K-6, identifies academic strengths and struggles and helps map a course of intervention for individual students. We will wrap up these assessments next week, September 25th.

Homecoming 2025

Mrs. Benter organized a poster contest for 3-6. Keep an eye for the posters that are hung up amongst all of the schools! The winner of each grade level earned a \$5 gift certificate to the concessions stand! Thank you, Mrs. Mettler, for making that possible!

3rd–Mesa Varner

4th–Anndria Adams

5th–Harper Renner

6th–Ariah Havens

Dress Up Days

Monday–Formal Day

Tuesday–Red, White, & Blue Day

Wednesday–Black Out Day

Thursday–Class Color Day

Friday–Maroon & Gold Day

High School Spartan athletes welcomed and played with Longfellow and Lincoln students as they arrived at school on Friday the 12th. We thank the teachers and coaches whose support has made this possible. Homecoming Friday Extravaganza–Thank you Miss McKeighan and all High School Staff & Students for making this possible. This will be a day our elementary kiddos remember forever!

12:30-1:40

K-12-20 Groups of 22 Students

4-15 Minute Stations

Relay Race

Collaborative Banner & School Song Activity

Heads/ Tails

Balloon Tower Challenge

Friday Clubs: The Friday Clubs aim to enhance student engagement and attendance on early-release Fridays, align teacher preparation time, and foster enrichment opportunities through a structured and collaborative framework. They are a strategic response to optimizing scheduling, incorporating enrichment activities, and streamlining teacher collaboration. Our first official Friday Club will be October 10th.

Attendance - Per our new attendance policy letters will be sent home with midterm reports.

Quarter 1 & 3 Midterm: If a student has missed 2 or more total days, a letter will be sent home with their mid-term report card notifying parents/guardians of absences and the importance of their child's attendance.

Lunch with a Cop - Our 6th grade students have had the opportunity to have lunch with a cop already this year, next will be 5th grade starting next week.

Constitution Day-9/17/25-Thank you, Mrs. Jones, for organizing a patriotic gathering at the Longfellow flagpole, where our students had the opportunity to hear a short message from Officer Nevers about the Constitution and recite the Preamble together!

UPCOMING: Anxious Generation Book Study, Every Wednesday in October 5:00-6:00 PM

Location - TBD

Early Release at 2:00 - Friday-October 10th - First Friday Clubs

Student of the Month/Attendance Assembly Wednesday, September 24th 8:05 – Longfellow, 8:30 – Lincoln.

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan (absent)

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Fall Sports:

The High School Football team has completed three football games thus far. Their overall record sits at 1-2 with their recent homecoming game win against Roundup (53-14). The Spartans will travel to Shepherd on Friday followed by a non-conference game against Jefferson on Sept. 26th. The Baker Varsity Volleyball team opened their season by winning the Columbus Tournament. They have won matches against Bowman, Colstrip, St. Labre, and Huntley Project for a record of 4-1 against all opponents. They play Lame Deer and Lodge Grass in a double header on Friday and then will travel to Worden for the Huntley Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 13th. The Cross Country teams have competed in three meets (Bowman, Hardin and Belle Fourche). The Baker Invitational will be held at the Lakeview Country Club on Saturday, Sept. 20th. MS Football team has competed in two games and a jamboree while the MS Volleyball teams opened their season yesterday against Harding County and will travel to Glendive on Thursday, Sept. 18. The Pep Band has performed at home games for both the HS Football and Volleyball teams.

Homecoming Activities: Coronation was held on Monday evening in the stadium in front of a large crowd of supporters. Emily Enos was crowned Homecoming Queen, with Daniel Schmidt crowned as Homecoming King. This was followed by the Homecoming Parade and the bonfire and car bash. The Bank of Baker Tailgate dinner was hosted on gameday (Friday) at 5 PM with the HS Football game at 7 PM. The HS Volleyball team won their match against Huntley Project on Saturday and the Spirit week ended with the Homecoming dance later in the evening. A big thank you to Brittany Hoversland and her Spartanettes for all the work they do for the annual homecoming events at Baker High School.

FFA: The Baker FFA Chapter traveled 47 participants to the District Leadership School in Rosebud on Sept. 10th.

3. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Business Education, Elementary Paraprofessional, Custodian(s).

Negotiations w/BEA: 1st Meeting Anticipated in October.

Next scheduled board meeting is October 14, 2025 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman