

REGULAR MEETING

October 13, 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 Principal/AD Bill Brist, and District Clerk Jennifer Mettler; Associate Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker and Technology Director Scott Anderson were absent. Guests were Hailey Haan, Maranda Hastig, Mollee Stenberg, and Kallie Benter.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60328 to 60385 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT

Ms. Megan McKeighan and Mrs. Erin Nevers report to the board an update on their book study that started on October 1st; they have had about 30 people show up to the last 2 sessions with great participation.

ACTION ITEMS

GRANT REQUEST – LINDA ROST

Mr. Skogen presents to the board the request for grant application by Mrs. Linda Rost. Mrs. Rost is requesting to apply for 2 grants to continue funding her PHAGES program that has lost its grant funding through MT Tech in Butte. The projected cost would be about \$6,600 and she plans to apply for the Mid-Rivers Grant and Grants in Place to continue the program.

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the grant request as presented. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Brist presents to the board the recommendation to hire another middle school wrestling coach for the 2025-26 school year; he recommends to hire Mr. John Michael Bertsch.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire Mr. John Michael Bertsch as middle school assistant wrestling coach for the 2025-26 school year. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT CUSTODIAN HIRING CONSIDERATION

Mr. Skogen presents to the board recommendation to hire a student custodian for the remainder of the school year; Miss Calleigh Schwindt worked for the District as a student custodian last year and would like to continue this year.

Jodi Varner moved to hire Miss Calleigh Schwindt as a student custodian for the 2025-26 school year. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY REVISIONS & UPDATES

Mr. Skogen presents to the board policy revisions for BP 2310, 2310-P(1), 2311-P(1), 2314-P1; these recommended are legal compliances with current law.

Policy 2310
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Baker Public Schools

Selection of Library Materials

The District has libraries in every school, with the primary objective of implementing and supporting the educational program in the schools. It is the objective of these libraries to provide a wide range of materials on all appropriate levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view.

The provision of a wide variety of library materials at all reading levels supports the District's basic principle that the school in a free society assists all students to develop their talents fully so that they become capable of contributing to the further good of that society.

In support of these objectives, the Board reaffirms the principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the School Library Bill of Rights, endorsed by the American Association of School Librarians in 1969.

Although the Superintendent is responsible for selection of library materials, ultimate responsibility rests with the Board. *The Superintendent shall be responsible for recommending library materials for purchase and placement within the District's library. All such library materials are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.*

The Board, acting through the Superintendent, thereby delegates authority for selection of library materials to the principal in each of the schools. The principal further delegates that authority to the librarian in the school.

Baker Public Schools

Selection of Library Materials

Selection of library materials is a professional task initially conducted by library staff. In selecting library materials, the librarian will evaluate the existing collection; assess curricula needs; examine materials; and consult reputable, professionally prepared selection aids. The librarians within the elementary and high school are responsible for submitting a list of recommended library materials, for selection and placement within the District's libraries, to the Superintendent for review. The Superintendent shall review the recommendations and submit a final recommendation list to the Board of Trustees for final review and approval.

Weeding

When materials no longer meet criteria for selection, they will be weeded. Weeding is a necessary aspect of selection, since every library will contain works which may have answered a need at the time of acquisition, but which, with the passage of time, have become obsolete, dated, unappealing, or worn out.

Materials will be discarded in compliance with § 20-6-604, MCA. When the decision to sell or dispose of library materials is made, the Board will adopt a resolution to sell or otherwise dispose of the material because it is or is about to become abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable for the school purposes of the District. The Board will publish a notice of the resolution in the newspaper of general circulation in Baker. The resolution may not become effective for fourteen (14) days after notice is published.

Gifts

Donated materials (gifts) will be accepted if they meet the materials selection criteria and if they may be used in the classroom or library as determined by the teacher or librarian. The placement of gifts within District's libraries is subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees. Material that is outdated or not physically suitable will be tastefully refused. Special gift collection designed to be kept together will be discouraged because space is limited.

Baker Public Schools

Selection, Adoption, and Removal of Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Curriculum committees will generally be responsible to recommend textbooks and major instructional materials purchases. ~~Recommendations will be made to the Superintendent.~~ The function of the committees is to ensure that materials are selected in conformance with stated criteria and established District goals and objectives.

There will be two curriculum committees, one for the elementary school and one for the high school. Each committee should be constructed of one administrator and one representative from each educational department (math, science, English). ~~curriculum committee may consist of only those members in a particular department.~~ The same basic selection procedures should be followed for both committees. Once committees have provided recommendations to the Superintendent, the Superintendent is responsible for presenting a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has final decision making authority regarding the selection, adoptions, and removal of textbooks and instructional materials. ~~as with District-wide committees.~~

Selection and Adoption

Textbooks will ~~shall~~ be selected by each a curriculum committee for recommendation to the Superintendent. ~~representing the various staff who will likely be using the text. An in most, but not all cases an~~ administrator will chair the committee. Each committee should develop, prior to selection, a set of selection criteria against which textbooks will be evaluated. The criteria should include the following, along with other appropriate criteria. Textbooks shall:

Discussion followed.

Jodi Varner moved to approve changes in Board Policy 2310, 2310-P1, 2311-P1 and 2314-P1 as presented.

Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson (absent)

2. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker (absent)

Students of the Month

Lincoln

Robert Bova–Ms. Stenberg's 1st Grade Class

Stella Roeder–Ms. Stieber's 1st Grade Class

Longfellow

Henry Griffith–Mrs. Peter's 6th Grade Class

Erika Rost–Mr. Kendall's 4th Grade Class

Fallon County Mental Health Council: Receives Otto Bremer Grant of \$75,000–Will Provide:

Monthly Social Emotional Learning Instruction in the K-6 Classrooms. Second Monday of every month! Longfellow: AM. Lincoln: PM Monthly Professional Development Sessions for Elementary School Staff to Reinforce and Integrate SEL principles Tuition for Four Staff Members (2 Longfellow & 2 Lincoln) to complete Breath for Change or an equivalent SEL certification program–Stipends will be provided upon completion.

Supplies for the elementary classrooms: Calm Down Kits, Sensory Tools, Educational Handouts
Other Supplies designed to support student and staff self-regulation and mental wellness.

Observations/Evaluation - Formative teacher evaluations and observations will be starting for non-tenured teachers and should conclude by the end of November.

Friday Clubs - We held our 1st Traditional Style Friday Club on October 10th with our 2:00 PM release. It was another huge success! A big thank you to club hosts!

Mrs. Varner: Cheer/Dance Mrs. Fisher: Coloring

Mrs. LaCroix: Halloween Chimes Miss Alysha & Mrs. O'Connor: Soccer
Miss Edie: Fall Craft Mrs. Benter: Corn Hole
Mr. Zenko: Halloween Art/Craft Mrs. O'Donnell: Dodgeball
Miss Liv: Step-by-Step Painting Mrs. Powers: Study Hall / AR Reading
Mrs. Ehret: Outdoor Walk / Lake Park Playground Mrs. Nevers: Monopoly Games
Mrs. Frye, Mr. LaCroix, & Miss Wacker: 5th & 6th Grade Swimming

The next Friday Club will be on November 21, 2025 and we hope to include more community members who will be able to share their talents and abilities with our students.

Fire Safety in Lincoln School: A big thank you to our local Fire Department representatives for visiting Lincoln School! Our K–2 students had an amazing time learning about fire safety and exploring the fire truck. Some highlights from their visit: Practiced Stop, Drop, and Roll, Learned to Stay Low and Go in case of smoke, Learned what to do if there is a fire outside their bedroom door and they are unable to get out: go to the middle of the room and make lots of noise, Made a promise to the firefighters that they would never hide during a fire, Explored the fire truck and learned about firefighters' equipment. We are so grateful for our firefighters' time, care, and dedication in keeping our students and community safe!

Lunch with a Cop: Nearly all 5th graders and the entire 6th grade have had the opportunity to enjoy "Lunch with the Cops"! We're working our way through each class in small groups to allow for more meaningful conversations with our local officers.

MFPE Teachers Convention: October 18th & 19th - No School

Child Find Developmental Screening: (Ages 0-5) - October 21st - Lincoln School

End of Quarter 1 - October 21st

Parent Teacher Conferences - October 24, 2025

HS Fall Music Concert - October 21th at 7:00 - Longfellow Gym

October Student of the Month - October 29th; Longfellow - 8:00 AM, Lincoln - 8:30 AM

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan

Completed Trainings and Events

504 Legal Updates Workshop (PVCC): I participated in a regional workshop focused on the 504 evaluation process and documentation best practices.

State Math Updates: Jay Shumaker and BreElle Wacker attended the PVCC state math updates session in Glendive, gaining insight into upcoming changes to Montana's math standards for next year.

Career Exploration Events: Students attended the Cultivating Career Expo in Glendive and the T4 (Tools, Trades, Torque, Tech) event in Bowman, both offering valuable hands-on exposure to postsecondary and career opportunities.

Spartan of the Month (September): Congratulations to Colton Bruski, Ava Goerndt, Turner Smith, and Karlee Dyke for being recognized for their leadership and positive contributions to our school community.

Book Study – The Anxious Generation: Our community book study has had two engaging sessions so far, held each Wednesday in October. Over 30 participants are taking part, generating thoughtful discussion around supporting student well-being in the age of technology.

Finished MAPs Testing 7-12, thank you Lisa Burdick for organizing all of our test days and ensuring this went smoothly.

Baker High School students (9/10) are performing well above national norms in both Math and Reading. Continued focus on literacy growth could help close the small gap between Reading and Math performance.

Baker Middle School students are performing above national norms in Math and at or slightly above average in Reading. Math scores demonstrate particular strength, suggesting effective instruction and student engagement in quantitative reasoning. Reading data reflects a need for continued focus on literacy skill development to bring achievement more in line with Math outcomes.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

End of Quarter 1: Tuesday, October 21.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Wednesday, October 22 | 4:30–6:30 p.m and Friday, October 24 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Senior Financial Aid Presentation 5:30-6:30 PM ITV Room

College and Career Readiness Testing: SAT and Pre-ACT testing will take place in the coming weeks for designated grade levels.

Ongoing Strategic Plan Update: Continuing to compile data from climate surveys and creating an inventory of CTE courses and community partnerships.

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Fall Sports: HS Football looks to conclude its regular season with games against Huntley Project (10/17 – senior/parents' night) and Joliet (10/24). Depending upon the results of these two games, the Baker team will decide which seed it will earn. Currently, they have a lock on the 4th seed in the Eastern Conference. With each win they likely will move up in the seeding. The top two seeds will host a playoff game; the 3rd & 4th seeds will likely travel for a playoff game.

HS Volleyball continues to have an excellent season. They are 6-0 in the 3B and have won both the Columbus and Shepherd Tournaments. The 3B District Tournament will be hosted by Colstrip High School on Oct. 30-31.

HS Cross Country will race at Culbertson (10/18) and will wrap up the season in Missoula for the State Championship Meet on Oct 25th.

MS Football, MS Volleyball and MS Cross Country all have had eventful seasons. MS Football and MS Volleyball has finished up their seasons. MS Cross Country will finish up at Culbertson (10/18).

MS Wrestling and MS Girls Basketball will begin their practices on Oct. 13.

FFA: The Baker FFA Chapter recently traveled to the Fall Districts (9/29) hosted by Jordan High School. This was a state qualifying event for horse judging, livestock judging, and range career development events (CDEs). They are currently in Billings (Oct. 13-14) for the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE). They will compete in livestock, meats, vet science, horse and sales events.

Speech and Drama: The Speech, Debate & Drama season is underway with Coach Kolleen Gustand at the helm. Eleven students are part of the team. Their first competition will be in Sidney on Nov. 1st.

Music: The High School Fall Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 21st at 7 pm in the Longfellow Gymnasium.

3. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Business Education, Elementary Paraprofessional, Custodian(s) and Head of Maintenance.

Negotiations w/BEA: need to establish Rules Meeting – available dates prior to November are

Wednesday, October 22nd

Monday, October 27th

Wednesday, October 29th

Karen Wang, Jay Quenzer and Dalon Dyke are the negotiation team for the District; all dates would work for the board members at this time.

MCEL: Jodi & Jen – in-person and Aaron – virtual attendance. We will have access to session recordings through October 31st.

Teacher Housing: Final Design is nearing completion and Structural Design has been completed. Civil Design is nearing completion and additional surveys were completed this past week. The permit with the City has been complete as well.

Therapy Dog: BP 8426-NF1 and BP8426. Elementary asked about the opportunity of a therapy dog; not turn key program, but will take some time to get anything in place to review and adopt the policies.

Next scheduled board meeting is November 11, 2025 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman