

REGULAR MEETING

November 11, 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, and Jodi Varner were in attendance; Trustee Jay Quenzer was absent. Also present were Superintendent Aaron Skogen, Principals Megan McKeighan and Erin Nevers, Associate Elementary Principal BreElle Wacker, Associate Principal/AD Bill Brist, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, and Technology Director Scott Anderson. Guests were Brez Sander, Gradin Varner, Alison Enos, Rick Enos, Roxie Renner, Harper Renner, Marcella Medearis, Emily Medearis, Val Jones, Ty Jones, Amanda Tunby, Maranda Hastig, Penny Askin, Mandy Varner and Chad Varner.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, additions to the substitute list and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60386 to 60447 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amanda Tunby would like to respectfully ask for the board to record union negotiations meetings.

EDUCATION REPORT – Mrs. Val Jones

Mrs. Jones presents to the board the activities of her students this Veteran's Day.

ACTION ITEMS

GRANT REQUEST – ELEMENTARY PE

Mr. Skogen presents a request from Mrs. Kallie Benter to apply for an equipment grant. Mrs. Benter is applying for the Gopher Physical Activity Equipment Grant, which provides schools with up to \$2500 in Gopher gift certificates to acquire the physical activity equipment they need to advance physical opportunities and programming in their school community. She is seeking approval to apply for the grant to purchase:

Gopher 9 Square in the Air Portable Game Set - \$949.00

4 Spikeball Sets - \$319.80

Team Bowling Set - \$1,199.00

6 Flexy Fly Discs - \$29.70

Total Request - \$2,497.50

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

CLASSIFIED CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation for classified contracts. The recommendation and positions are as listed:

Ms. Heather Labelle – Kitchen Cook

Ms. Jolyn Rost – Paraprofessional

Mrs. Penny Askin – Custodian

Mr. Dave Holness – Custodian

Jodi Varner moved to hire Heather LaBelle as a cook, Jolyn Rost as a paraprofessional, Dave Holness and Penny Askin as a custodian for the 2025-26 school year; all hires are contingent on a background check and if required a pre-employment physical. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR CONTRACT CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Brist presented to the board a recommendation for extracurricular contracts. Recommendation is as follows:

Mr. Deryk Van Zee – Head High School Track

Mrs. Yvonne Skogen – High School Assistant Track Coach

Dalon Dyke moved to hire the stated positions as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

OBSOLETE LIBRARY BOOKS – REQUEST TO DISPOSE

Mr. Skogen presents to the board a list of books to dispose from the elementary libraries.

We Celebrate Easter	A circle of Light	
New Girl in Town	The World of Deer	
Little Miss Twins	Raccoons	
Bad Kitty Puppys Big Day	Cranberry Valentine	
People	Sugaring Time	Comet
What happens when we eat	Grand Teton	If I were an ant
Dona Esmeraldo who ate Everyt	Guinness World Records 2020	
Chimpanzees	Cranberry Mystery	
Halloween Happening	Rock Minerals and Gems	
Crickle-Crack	The Attack of the Grizzlies	
Bad Kitty	Dogman unleashed	
Elephants Cannot Dance	The Foot Book	
Pigeon Wants a puppy	Wee Green Witch	
Attaboy, Sam	Don't be my Valentine	
Black Widow Spider	The Facts and fictions of Minna I	
Wild cats	Animals in Summer	
Condor	Chugga chugga choo choo	
Flying the Space Shuttles	Bumps in the Night	
What if T. Rex Teeth	The magic Beans	
Anastasia at your service	Dragonflies	
Anastasia Krupnik	Hiding Places	
Monster Blood	Eve sees a ghost	
World Record 2020	Its Christmas David	
Spot What	Bad Case of Stripes	
World Records 2024	Grumpycorn	
Know we are six	Tales of Amanda Pig	
Dangerous Creatures	Indian Chiefs	
Cranberry Trip to Dentist	Horses	
	Ocean	

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the obsolete book list as presented. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR ELECTION

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the Resolution to Call for Election.

TRUSTEE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees for School District No. 12, Fallon County, State of Montana, will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, 5th day of May, 2026, which date is not less than 145 days after the passage of this resolution.

The election will be conducted by **mail ballot** election. Voting will end at 8:00 pm on Election Day. The designated place of deposit will be located at Baker Public Schools Boardroom, 1015 S 3rd St W, Baker, MT.

The purpose of the election is to:

1. Elect **two(2)** trustees for a three-year term each.
2. Approval of additional levies to operate and maintain Baker Public School for the 2026-27 school year.

If it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required, the Board of Trustees authorizes Jennifer Mettler, election administrator, to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313 MCA.

Three electors of this district who are qualified to vote at such election are hereby appointed to act as judges of the election: Elaine Stanhope, Candace Mettler, and Therese Thompson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of this school district is hereby directed to notify the above-named election judges of their appointment and to notify the county election administrator of the date of holding said election, and request the clerk to close regular registration and to prepare and furnish election materials as required by law. If any of these judges should not be able to serve, the election administrator will choose a replacement from certified judges.

No further proceedings were conducted relating to the election.

Jodi Varner moved to adopt the resolution as presented for election set for May 5, 2026. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

OIL AND GAS ALLOCATION – 2ND QTR 2025

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the recommendation for allocation of the oil and gas revenue.

It is recommended to deposit the revenue into the Flex Fund in the amount of \$539,250.67.

Dalon Dyke moved to reallocation the oil and gas revenue on or about November 1, 2025 to the funds presented in the total amount of \$539,250.67, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX

Nothing to report at this time.

2. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson

Updated Obsolete Equipment List -

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PDhwtJXoKWB286nEsJ_3uy8i_3d8-fr_Plm46dHTbi4/edit?usp=sharing

KnowBe4 Training - Last call for all School Board Members to go to www.knowbe4.com and use their district issued email account and the forgot password option to login and complete KnowBe4 Training required for all district employees with an active district email account. (Training is 11 Minutes)

Call for Judges - BPA Regionals on December 8th, 2025. 14th year Baker has hosted.

3. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Williams

Elementary Book Fair - Thank you Mrs. Lesh for hosting this annual event during Parent Teacher Conferences! She had over \$3,000 in sales which provides credit for her to purchase new books for our elementary libraries. It is a lot of work to transform the library into a book store and we appreciate her extra time and energy.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - Friday, 10.24.2025- Conferences this year went really well. Many of our teachers were incredibly flexible with their time, scheduling meetings in the evenings and throughout the week to accommodate parents. I know that was incredibly helpful. As we look ahead to next year, we may want to reevaluate how we schedule conferences to ensure we can continue offering flexibility for families while making the best use of our teachers' time.

Red Ribbon Week - October 23rd- 30th - This year's theme was "Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free." In Mrs. Frye's K-6 classroom counseling lessons, students solved puzzles and escape room games that focused on the importance of making healthy choices in their lives. These discussions and activities were led by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) members.

A big thank you to the following SADD students for their time and effort: Avery O'Connor, Addy Menger, Madison O'Connor, Karlee Dyke, Pyper Mettler, Ambreigh Morris, Kenadi Croy, Iva Setinc, Ashlee Burdick, Maddox Moser, Jerek Moser, Ailey Bettenhausen, Jayda Staker, Ashley Stanhope, Kaydee Dyke, Justice Croy, and Kaine Kendall.

Veterans Day Celebrations - Happy Veterans Day - Fun fact: Last year's board meeting was held on this same day! Many of our elementary classes participated in activities to honor Veterans Day. Several created decorations that will once again be used to honor our veterans this weekend at the annual dinner hosted at the Legion. Thank you to Diane Van Gorden for collecting these projects and ensuring that they are displayed for the veterans in our community.

No Desk November - Mrs. Williams and I are continuing what we started last year with our No Desk November initiative, though we're taking a more flexible approach this time. Last year, we worked to schedule specific times with teachers, but this year we plan to be in classrooms as much as possible, using mobile workstations whenever we can.

October Students of the Month

Lincoln - Jed Parks and Madisyn James

Longfellow - Dawson O'Donnell and Leighton Anderson

Attendance - Our new attendance policy is in effect. We are continuing to communicate with parents when attendance concerns arise. At the midterm of Quarter 1 (on September 24), we sent out 50 letters to parents, notifying them that their student had missed two or more days of school and providing information about the importance of regular attendance. By the end of Quarter 1, we had 23 students in grades K-6 with four or more absences. Letters were sent home to update parents as well about Q1 attendance.

Strategic Planning for the Elementary:

We will hold voluntary building meetings to break down our district's strategic plan and align it with the specific needs of our schools and students.

Longfellow - Monday, November 17th at 3:45 PM

Lincoln Tuesday, November 18th at 3:30 PM

Friday, November 21, 2025

Friday Clubs - 12:25-1:45 PM

Chase Mielke "The Burnout Cure" Staff Professional Development 2:20-4:00 - Longfellow Gym

November Student of the Month Assemblies - Wednesday, November 26th

Longfellow 8:00 AM

Lincoln 8:30 AM

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan

Completed Trainings and Events: Spartan of the Month (October): Congratulations to Rider Kloetzke, Brooklyn Halmans, TK Enders, and Kenadi Croy for being recognized for their leadership and positive contributions to our school community.

Pre-ACT Testing was completed for 9th and 10th grade students. Thank you Mrs. Burdick for organizing this.

Linda Rost was awarded a plaque and presentation as a 2025 Montana PAEMST (Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching) Finalist. A representative came to the school on Oct. 29th to present the award. These finalists can be chosen to travel to Washington DC as representatives on STEM committees and for additional workshops. Congratulations Dr. Rost!

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Fall Sports wrapped up, Winter Sports underway The HS Volleyball team ended their regular season as the 3B Champions and they began the post season with a 3B Tournament Championship and recently concluded the Southern B Tournament as the 2nd place team. They will now travel to Bozeman to compete in the State B Volleyball Tournament (11/12-14). They begin tournament play against the Anaconda Lady Copperheads on Wednesday at 4 PM. The HS Football team wrapped up its season with a first-round playoff game against Three Forks. They ended their regular season with victories against Roundup, Joliet, Colstrip, and Shepherd to earn third place in the Eastern B Division. The Cross-Country teams finished their season at the State Championship meet held in Missoula. The Baker team had six girls and two boys compete at the event and the girl's ended up in 19th place in the team scoring. Winter sports are currently underway with MS Wrestling traveling to their third competitive tournament this weekend. The MS Girls Basketball team has completed the first third of their season. The High school Wrestling and Basketball teams will hold their first practice on Thursday, Nov. 20th. Season openers will be the Sidney Invitational Tournament for wrestling (Dec. 5 & 6), while the Boy's and Girls' Basketball teams will begin at the Lewistown Tipoff Tournament on the same weekend. The Speech and Drama team has competed in Sidney (2nd place Class B) and Miles City (1st place Class B) will attend it's third event of the season at the Plentywood Tournament on Saturday (Nov. 15th) and the Winter Cheerleading team will have their tryouts in the beginning of December. Winter Sports Parents Meeting to be Held on November 17th at 6 PM in the Baker High School Gymnasium.

FFA – John Deere Ag Expo in Bozeman FFA will travel to compete in the John Deere Ag Expo in Bozeman (11/13-15).

Music Department's Fall Concert a Success – District Honors Festival, Christmas Concerts upcoming The Music Department's Fall Concert, held at Longfellow school on Oct. 21st was a success with students showing their early form. Baker High School's Honor Band & Choir will travel to the District Honors Music Festival, held in Glendive, on Nov. 24 & 25.

4. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Business Education, Scheduling Interview, Elementary Education, Head of Maintenance.

Resignations: Mrs. Val Johnson – Elementary

Negotiations w/BEA, 1st Session will be Wednesday November 19, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Maintenance: Teacher Housing (on schedule)

Therapy Dog: Draft Policy Considerations (December Board Meeting)

Next scheduled board meeting is December 10, 2025 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman