

REGULAR MEETING

December 10, 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 Kristi Burns, Amanda Tunby, and Lisa Burdick.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60448 to 60504 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT

None

ACTION ITEMS

BPA GRANT REQUEST

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a request from BPA to apply for a grant. The local BPA chapter has an opportunity to apply for a grant for funding assistance as they host regional competitions every year. The grant is expected to be \$500 to help offset costs of hosting the regional competition that was hosted here on December 8, 2025.

Dalon Dyke moved to allow BPA to apply for the grant. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Brist presents to the board recommendations for hire; it is recommending to hire fall head coaches at this time along with some winter assistant coaches.

Mr. Hunter Grover—High School Assistant Wrestling Coach (2025-2026 school year)

Miss Tai Setinc – High School Assistant Winter Cheer Coach (2025-2026 school year)

Mr. Jay Hoversland—High School Head Football Coach (2026-2027 school year)

Mrs. Jessica Boggs – High School Head Volleyball Coach (2026-2027 school year)

Mrs. Yvonne Skogen – High School Head Cross Country Coach (2026-2027 school year)

Mrs. Makenzie Noseep – High School Head Fall Cheer Coach (2026-2027 school year)

Jodi Varner moved to hire the extracurricular positions as presented for the respective years. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Mr. Skogen presented to the board recommendation to hire a maintenance assistant as we transition into possibly hiring a head of maintenance. It is being recommended to hire Mardi Brown and contract her for monthly salary of \$2500 beginning January 2026 to June 2026; additionally, it is recommended to pay her a one-time stipend of \$4000 to serve as our licensed boiler technician. At this time, we do not have any employees with a boilers license to get us through the winter.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire Mrs. Mardi Brown as a maintenance assistant at the contract price recommended for January 2026 to June 2026. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATION, BP8426 – THERAPY ANIMALS

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the revisions to BP 8426; it is recommended to table the policy but would like it to be discussed at this meeting. Discussion followed. Board would like to visit with those that have applied it to their school, how it works in their setting and how it doesn't disrupt their school day.

The board agrees to table the policy to research the use/application of the therapy animals in our schools.

Jay Quenzer moved to table the board policy 8426 and 8426-NF(1) to be reviewed at the next regular board meeting. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX – Kristi Burns

Continue with cleaning and getting into busy season.

2. TECHNOLOGY, Scott Anderson (absent)

3. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker

K-12 Christmas Programs - Tuesday, 12.9.2025 and 12.16.2025 - The Spartan 4-12 Christmas program is under our belt with the K-3 one coming up next Tuesday at 6:00.! A huge thank you to

Mrs. Hess and Mrs. LaCroix for their hard work in putting together all the musical pieces. We had a wonderful turnout from our community and parents, and the kids do an amazing job showcasing their talents and abilities. Thank you to Mrs. Cathy Frye for accompanying our choir students at both programs!

SEL Classroom Lessons: Revamp Schedule to accommodate Classroom Schedules Lincoln 2nd Monday of the Month, Longfellow Tuesday, Staff activity/reflection to follow both days at each respective building.

Teacher Observations - Official teacher observations for non-tenured teachers are on the books—some prior to winter break and some shortly after.

Strategic Planning Update - Over the last month staff from each building met to discuss the progress toward our 5 year goals as outlined in our district strategic plan. We decided that this year we would focus on building school climate and culture with events designed to invite parents and students into the building in the spring at the end of 3rd quarter.

Assessments - A huge thank you to Mrs. Frye for her dedication to ensuring that all of our students in grades 3-6 complete the MAST testing as required by the state. This seems to be more and more tedious every year with varying regulations, this is a huge undertaking and we are so grateful for her efforts in facilitating this.

District Screening - FastBridge Winter window runs Dec. 8 – Jan. 30.

UPCOMING:

November/December Spartan of the Month—Full Day of School

December 12, 2025

Early Release @ 2:00

December 19, 2025

High School Carolers Before School

Longfellow 12/18

Lincoln 12/19

No School - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

December 19th-January 5th

Thursday, January 8th

End of 2nd Quarter/Sem

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan

Completed Trainings and Events:

Spartan of the Month (November): Congratulations to Jerrick Moser, Kynlie Moore, Owen Harris, Haddie Barkley on earning Spartan of the Month for November. These students enjoyed breakfast with the principal this morning and received Spartan shirts.

Chase Mielke PD was well received and staff enjoyed learning about school culture and how to cure burnout.

Student Concern Meetings: We have been meeting once a month at BHS to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students. Teachers are invited to submit the names of students who may benefit from additional support, academically, behaviorally, socially, or emotionally. These meetings provide a collaborative space to share observations, identify concerns early, and coordinate support. Teachers who currently work with the identified student(s) will meet for approximately 30 minutes after school to discuss strategies, interventions, and next steps to best support student success.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

The Festive Season: There are Christmas trees up at BHS, doors decorated, and fun holiday projects occurring in classrooms.

ASVAB Testing on December 18th

We are working on a continued partnership with Mental Health Counsel to bring more SEL materials to the high school after the New Year.

Mental Health Screener January 6th and 12th

End of Semester 1 is January 8th

Sportsmanship Assembly January 8th

Friday Detention Make-Up January 9th

Continuing work on our Strategic Plan to create a master list of CTE and work study opportunities.

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

HS Wrestling teams begin their season at Sidney Tournament: HS Girls (10) – Sidney Inv: 6 girls place in the top 5 of weight class – Jayda Harbough, Kylie Schwartz – 1st place HS Boys (10) – Sidney Inv: Chris Brawley 8th. Home mixer is scheduled for Dec. 16th with Hettinger in the High School Gymnasium (senior recognition/parents' night). The Middle School Wrestling program will wrap up its season next Friday at the Wolf Point MS Tournament.

High School Basketball teams began their season at the Class B Tipoff Tournament HS Girls (20) – Class B Tip-off Tournament (V & JV Lewistown) v. Red Lodge (W 88-24) Florence (W 74-60) HS Boys (26) – Tip-off tourney v. Red Lodge (W 72-54), Shepherd (L 50-61) Upcoming: 12/19 Friday – Ekalaka in Baker.

The Middle School (MS) and 4/5 grade Girls teams concluded their basketball season on Dec. 2nd. The MS Boys will open their basketball season with a game against Miles City here in Baker on January 10th.

High School Volleyball Team Repeats State Tourney Sportsmanship Honor: The HS Girls Volleyball Team has earned the Stockman Bank Team Sportsmanship Award at the 2025 MHSA Class B State Volleyball Tournament! This recognition is a testament to the teams' exemplary conduct and sportsmanship throughout the State VB Tournament. The Lady Spartan volleyball team won this same honor at last year's state tournament.

BHS Business Professionals of America (BPA) hosts Region 7 Leadership Competition

On Dec. 8th, participants from Baker, Forsyth, Custer, Plevna, Hardin, St. Labre, and Lodge Grass came together at Baker High School to compete in the Region 7 BPA Leadership Competition.

Speech & Drama and Debate team continues to Improve Completed: Sidney, Miles City, Plentywood, Frazer, Wolfpoint. Upcoming: Culbertson, Glendive, and Shepherd.

Plentywood results: Grace Gunderson and Micheal Hanson (humorous theater) 1st, Sidney Swanke and Delilah Downing (dramatic theater) 1st, DeeAnna Hess (dramatic solo) 4th, Javayah Hirst (dramatic solo) 8th, Ava Goerndt (humorous solo) 5th Baker Public Schools Frazer results: Grace Gunderson and Michael Hanson (humorous theater) 1st, Emalynn Fisher and Tatem Miller (dramatic theater) 2nd, Sidney Swanke and Delilah Downing, (dramatic theater) 3rd, Javayah Hirst (dramatic solo) 7th Wolf Point results: Sidney Swanke and Delilah Downing (dramatic theater) 2nd, Micheal Hanson and Grace Gunderson (humorous theater) 2nd, Ava Goerndt (humorous solo) 5th, DeeAnna Hess (dramatic solo) 3rd.

Music Department performs at Honors and Christmas Concerts: Nov. 24-25 – Honors Band and Choir performed at the district 11 Honors Music Festival in Glendive. December 9 at 7 pm – HS/MS Students performed at the annual Christmas Concert at Longfellow Gym. The K-3 and volunteer choir will perform on Dec. 16th at 6pm.

Sportsmanship Assembly: In a continuing effort to help further educate students to choose behaviors that exemplify exceptional sportsmanship at Baker HS/MS sporting events, a school Assembly has been scheduled for Thursday, January 8th in the HS Gymnasium at 11:45 am.

Montana High School Association: The MHSA Annual Meeting will be held in Helena on January 18 & 19. Proposed additions and amendments to bylaws will be covered at the January School Board Meeting. Proposals may be viewed at one of the two links provided.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen**

Current Openings: Business Education (Position Offered to Applicant), Elementary Education, Head of Maintenance, Head High School Tennis, Assistant High School Tennis, Middle School Track

Resignations: Mrs. Kallie Benter – High School Tennis Head Coach

Negotiations w/BEA: 2nd Session, Wednesday December 17, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Chase Mielke: professional development speaker in November.

Maintenance New Hires: Penny Askin and Dave Holness; continue working on snow and ice; Boiler #3 Install @ High School has started.

Cell Phone Use: (in the news) Bozeman Schools to be Cell Phone Free 2026. Our current policy is cell phone use may only be authorized by administration and cell phones may be used before school, during passing time and after school but as larger schools restrict usage, might be the time to revise our policy as well.

Next scheduled board meeting is January 14, 2026 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman