

REGULAR MEETING

November 11, 2024

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, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, Head of Maintenance Yvonne; Technology Director Scott Anderson was absent. Guests were Amanda Tunby, Rae Losing, Maranda Hastig and Rebecca LaCroix.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60680 to 60710 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rae Losing would like to have the board consider hiring an unbiased exit interviewer for staff leaving the district since there seems to a lot of staff leaving the district this year.

EDUCATION REPORT

No report at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION FOR TERMINATION OF CLASSIFIED CONTRACT

Mr. Skogen stated there is not a recommendation at this time.

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation for certified hires for 2026-27 school year. It is recommended to hire Mr. John Wright, Social Science and Mrs. Kamiree Chapman, Middle School Science. Jay Quenzer moved to hire Mr. John Wright and Mrs. Kamiree Chapman as certified teachers for the 2026-27 school year. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board recommendations for classified contracts. It is recommended to hire Ms. Kimberly Clark, paraprofessional and Ms. Linda Liming, custodian.

Jodi Varner moved to hire Ms. Kimberly Clark and Ms. Linda Liming for the 2025-26 school year; hires are contingent on a background check and the passage of a pre-employment physical if required for the position. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board student attendance agreements for 2025-26 school year.

Student ID	District of Residence	District of Choice
848845216, 28192304	Baker	Plevna

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

OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST(S), BP 2320

Mr. Skogen presents to the board the elementary field trip requests for the end of the year. These are the out of state requests:

3rd Grade – Bowman, ND
5th Grade – Dickinson, ND
6th Grade – Devils Tower, WY
8th Grade – Bowman, ND

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the out of state field trips in accordance with BP 2320 as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN RENEWAL CONSIDERATION FOR 2026-27; BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MONTANA AND BRIDGED HEALTH ALLIANCE

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board health insurance quotes for 2026-27 plan year. A quote was received from Bridged Health Alliance at an average 9.9% decrease; the renewal from Blue Cross Blue Shield was presented as a rate pass for the 2026-27 year. If the quote from Bridged Health Alliance is accepted, the district would sign a multi-district agreement and commit to 5 years of health insurance with them as provided in MCA 20-3-366. Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the multi-district agreement with Bridged Health Alliance, beginning July 1, 2026. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY 3630 CELL PHONE & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES – 2ND READING

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation from administration for a change to the cell phone policy, beginning with the 2026-27 school year. The following are recommended changes:

Students may use cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic signaling devices on campus before school begins, during passing time and after school ends. Cell phones must be secured in a student's locker or vehicle and not carried on their person. Unauthorized use of such devices disrupts the instructional programs and distracts from the learning environment. Therefore, unauthorized use is grounds for confiscation of the device by school officials, including classroom teachers.

- First Offense – students will receive a warning and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day.
- Second Offense – students will receive a detention and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day.
- Third Offense – the device will be confiscated, the student will receive a detention and the phone will remain with administration until the parents/guardians of the student meet with administration.
- Fourth Offense – the phone will be confiscated, the student will serve in-school suspension (ISS) the phone will only be returned to the parents/guardians of the child.

Building-level administrators may grant permission for individual students or classes to use and/or possess cellular phones, if, in the sole discretion of the administrator, such use is necessary to the safety and/or welfare of the student.

Students who choose to register their privately-owned device as required by Board Policy #3620, "Bring Your Own Device," will be allowed to utilize their registered devices as long as they follow guidelines as outlined in that policy as well as follow all requirements of Board Policy "3612, Technology Acceptable Use Policy."

Cell phones will NOT be allowed in classrooms, restrooms, or locker rooms at any time. Cell phones will remain out of sight for the duration of class. Cell phones will only be allowed before school, at lunch, during passing times, and after school. Cell phones must be secured in a student's locker or vehicle and not carried on their person.

No cell phone use while in ISS. Any time a student is sent to the main office – cell phones must be given immediately to administration.

If a student is found in violation of the cell phone policy, the following steps will be taken:

- First Offense – students will receive a warning and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day.
- Second Offense – students will receive a detention and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day.
- Third Offense – the device will be confiscated, the student will receive a detention and the phone will remain with administration until the parents/guardians of the student meet with administration.
- Fourth Offense – the phone will be confiscated, the student will serve in-school suspension (ISS) the phone will only be returned to the parents/guardians of the student.

Jodi Varner moved to adopt the changes to BP 3630 after 2nd reading. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, BP 8426 – THERAPY ANIMALS – 2ND READING

Mr. Skogen stated the policy has been modified to change it from animals to only dogs as discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Quenzer stated he is still up in the air about this policy and would like to table the reading for more time to review the policy.

Jay Quenzer moved to table the policy until next month for adoption. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; Cody Strandbakke would like to move forward with the policy; Jodi Varner and Cody Strandbakke vote nay and Jay Quenzer, Dalon Dyke and Karen Wang vote aye; motion carried to table the policy for another month.

REPORTS:

1. MAINTENANCE – Yvonne Skogen

Reported to getting acclimated with contractors and events being handled over the last few weeks.

2. TECHNOLOGY – Scott Anderson (report submitted)

New equipment quotes & purchasing is underway: Kindergarten iPads, 3rd Grade & 7th Grade Chromebooks, Staff Surface Tablets.

Track Meet Equipment Setup and Testing underway

3. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Williams

Thank you Alyson Lineback and Kristin Ehret: We want to take a moment to express our appreciation for our school secretaries. Kristin and Alyson are the face of our schools. They are often the first people a new student or parent meets, and they consistently greet everyone with warmth, kindness, and a welcoming presence. Their roles are fast-paced, demanding, and often thankless, yet they handle it all with professionalism, patience, and care. They manage countless problems, questions, and unexpected challenges, often all at the same time, while answering phones, making copies, tending to student needs, and somehow always knowing exactly what needs to be done next. Our schools do not function without them, we are fortunate to have them on our team, and are grateful for all that they do every day.

Little Beaver Conservation District – 4th & 5th Grade: The Little Beaver Conservation District visited Longfellow Elementary to provide engaging, educational presentations for our students. They met with the 4th grade on one day and the 5th grade on another, tailoring their discussions to each group. During their visit, they shared valuable information about various types of trees and fruit, helping students better understand plant identification, growth, and the importance of conservation.

Kindergarten Registration: Today's Kindergarten registration was very successful. We had 20 students and parents attend today's readiness screenings conducted by Mrs. Dukart and Mrs. Shelhamer. All together we 25 students are set to enter Kindergarten in our district next year.

Spring Music Concerts: May 5th - K-3 & Elementary Volunteer Choir - Longfellow Gym at 6:00 PM, May 12th - 4-12 Spring Pops Concert - Longfellow Gym at 7:00 PM.

5th Patriotic Play: The 5th graders will be performing their patriotic play on May 6th in the Longfellow Gym @ 10:00 & 2:00. Parents & Public are invited to come and join!

March Students of the Month: Congratulations to our student of the month winners for March!

Lincoln Students - Waylon Teter (1st Grade - Mrs. Strandbakke) and Remie Dolph (1st Grade - Ms. Stieber), Longfellow Students - Trey Kono (4th Grade - Mrs. Hastig & Mr. Kendall) and Wren Hastig (3rd Grade - Ms. Varner & Ms. Noseep).

Museum Partners with Mrs. Johnson's 6th Grade Class

The Museum is partnering with the Smithsonian Institution on the Democracy in Dialogue program (through May). Students will create a project on Baker / Fallon County's role in America's 250-year history. 6th grade students are proposed participants (high schoolers may mentor) due to scheduling conflicts. The program aligns with the current curriculum and builds on topics already covered.

Time commitment: ~1 hour/week through May (flexible). Includes a \$1,500 budget and strong creative flexibility for student projects.

Wednesday, April 29th: Spartan of the Month Assemblies - Longfellow - 8:05 AM, Lincoln - 8:30 AM

Friday, May 1st: 2:00 Dismissal-Final Friday Club

Tuesday, May 5th - Elementary Spring Concert

K-3 and Volunteer Choir - Longfellow Gym, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, May 6th: 5th Grade Patriotic Program - Longfellow Gym, 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Tuesday, May 12th - 4-12 Pops Concert: 4th Grade Recorders, 5th & 6th Grade Band, MS/HS Band and Choir -Longfellow Gym, 7:00 PM

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan

Completed Trainings and Events:

National Honor Society Inductions Today: Thank you Mrs. Anderson for organizing this event and the interview process for new inductees. We had six new members inducted today. Congratulations to Kayla Afrank, Kaydee Dyke, Sophia Harris, Morgan Hurley, Oceania Krech, and Bree Straub.

Shout out to Mrs. Enders who has been organizing career exploration guest speakers in her Empower class. So far, they have had presentations from medical professionals, a game warden, and a sign language interpreter.

Thank you to Mrs. Burdick for organizing all of our standardized testing. We finished MAPS testing and ACTs for juniors.

I was able to attend an administrator's tour day at Montana Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon. It was great to learn more about this program and the services they offer.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

CloseUp Trip April 10th

High School Music Festival April 10th/11th for Districts

April 20th Smithsonian Project Day at the Museum

Prom April 24th

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Baker FFA returns from State Convention with list of Accomplishments: Cade Huft, Clyde Brown & Tegan Croy are State Champions in the Junior Ag Mechanics Show - Livestock Division with their portable tub and alleyway Lukas Rost is the Plant Systems Division Agriscience State Champion Morgan Sonsalla placed third in the state in the Jr Creed Speaking LDE Jaxyn Lyson, Casey Koenigsfeld & Daniel Schmidt and Morgan Hurley - Ag Communications team placed fourth Jaxyn Lyson, Casey Koenigsfeld & Daniel Schmidt have officially received their State FFA Degrees. To earn the State FFA Degree, these members demonstrated significant commitment through earning and investing income in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), completing hundreds of hours of agricultural work, actively participating in FFA events and leadership activities, and showcasing strong growth in skills, responsibility, and community involvement.

State Science Fair Results Stockholm Junior Water Prize (Regional Prize Award) – Michael Hanson 7th Grade Biological Science 3rd place – Rye Rost Best Freshman Project – Lukas Rost Gold Award – Rye Rost, Lukas Rost Silver Award – Grace Gunderson, Michael Hanson, Ophelia Nacey, Natalie Noftsker, Izzy Moberg

State HOSA Results Ophelia Nacey – 1st place for Nursing Shelby Barnett – 1st place for Dental Science Rye Rost – 1st place for Clinical Lab Science Tylar Smith – 3rd place for Occupational Therapy All 4 qualify for the International HOSA competition.

National Honor Society Induction set for April 9th The NHS Induction Ceremony for Baker High School is set for 11:45 AM on April 9th in the Baker HS Gymnasium.

Music Department prepares for Solos and Ensembles at upcoming Music Festivals Upcoming Music Events: - District Music Festival in Glendive on April 10 & 11 - - - State Music Festival in Billings on May 1 & 2 Elementary Music Concert on May 5 (Lincoln at 10 AM, and Longfellow at 7 PM). Music Department's Award Dinner (6:30 PM) on May 11 Pops Concert at Longfellow (7 PM) on May 12.

National Closeup Trip April 11& 12 departure - Washington DC: Tegan Croy, Madison O'Connor, Brooklyn Miller, Karlee Dyke, Jocelyn Graham, Chad Griffith, Jerrick Moser, Riccardo Carra, Caden Barth, Megan Varner.

National BPA – Nashville, TN May 6-10 – Departure (Caden Barth, Turner Smith, Michael Hanson and Ashley Stanhope).

Spring Sports – Tennis, Golf and Track & Field. Tennis has participated in Matches at Miles City and Glendive (on two occasions), with two of their events cancelled due to weather. The bulk of their season remains in front of them. Golf has traveled to Broadus, but lost their Colstrip event due to poor weather. They head to Forsyth and Huntley Project Tournaments next week. Track had their opening meet (Bowman) cancelled by bad weather; however, both the HS and MS teams were able to open their season with meets at Bowman this past Monday and Tuesday. Baker will host a MS meet on April 16th and a HS meet on April 17th. The Baker Invitational will be on Thursday, April 23rd.

4. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: Business Education, Elementary Education, World Languages Library, Vo-Ag Education, Elementary Principal, Associate Principal/Activities Director, Elementary Associate Principal.

Resignations: Mrs. Abbey Wolenetz – Agricultural Education and Mrs. Penny Askin – Custodian.

Negotiations w/BEA: Mediation, Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 4pm.

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting: happened yesterday with Jay Quenzer and Jodi Varner part of the meeting to discuss the insurance quotes. Boiler #4 at the high school will be finished this summer; pool floor will be repaired over the summer as well. Boilers will be replaced at Longfellow over the summer as well. Classroom flooring for the last few classrooms will be either done this summer or next. Housing will be empty over the summer so will be cleaning, painting and maybe replacing flooring in June and July. The housing policy will come before the board in the next few months to modify the lease to allow pets in the apartments.

Next scheduled board meeting is May 13, 2026 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman