

REGULAR MEETING

June 9, 2026

6:14 PM

The regular meeting of the Baker School Board was called to order by Chairperson Karen Wang at 6:14 pm 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, Principal Megan McKeighan, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler and Head of Maintenance Yvonne Skogen. Guests were Pam Beach, Lisa Burdick, Cathy Frye, Rebecca LaCroix and Kristi Burns.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60797 to 60852 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT

None

ACTION ITEMS

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation for certified hiring; Mr. Jarl Nerdrum, 7-12 Health and Physical Education and Mrs. Lisa Hamilton, Agricultural Education/FFA Advisor.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire Mr. Jarl Nerdrum for the position of 7-12 Health & Physical Education and Mrs. Lisa Hamilton for the position of Agricultural Education and FFA Advisor for the 2026-2027 school year.

All hires are contingent upon a background check. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation for classified hiring; Mrs. Erika Kramlick and Ms. Trina Bruce for elementary paraprofessionals for the 2026-27 school year.

Dalon Dyke moved to hire Mrs. Erika Kramlick and Ms. Trina Bruce as elementary paraprofessionals for the 2026-27 school year; all hires are contingent on a background check. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendations for extracurricular positions as follows:

Mrs. Hailey Haan – HS Frosh Class Advisor
Mrs. Marnie Moberg – HS Junior Class Advisor
Mrs. Sheila O'Connor – HS Junior Class Advisor
Mrs. Kamiree Chapman – MS Class Advisor
Mrs. Amber Solomon – MS Class Advisor
Mr. Tom Brietbach – HS Head Golf Coach
Mrs. Keli Bertsch – HS Head Tennis Coach
Mrs. Rachel Dargatz – HS Assistant Tennis Coach
Mr. Deryk Van Zee – HS Head Track & Field Coach
Mr. Jay Hoversland – HS Assistant Track & Field Coach
Mrs. Yvonne Skogen – HS assistant Track & Field Coach
Mr. Jeff Hastig – MS Track & Field Coach
Mrs. Shawna Batchelor – MS Track & Field Coach
Mr. Seth Kendall – MS Track & Field Coach

Jodi Varner moved to hire the listed individuals for each stated position for the 2026-27 school year; all hires are contingent upon a background check if applicable. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

NEW POSITION – PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANCE

Mr. Skogen presented to the board for consideration to hire a new position for the 2026-27 school year. The position would be advertised and filled as needed; the main purpose of the position would be to provide dedicated assistance to specific students with individualized needs. These services may be provided utilizing one-to-one assistance or small group assistance if available and appropriate. The position would be hired as paraprofessionals with an additional \$1.25/hour added to the hourly rate.

Jodi Varner moved to authorize the Superintendent to advertise and fill the position of Personal Care Attendant as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT/PERSONAL PROPERTY

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the list of obsolete equipment up for disposal. The list of items will be advertised for 14 days to the public and then disposed.

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the obsolete books/equipment and dispose of the items. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT 2026-28 RATIFICATION

Tabled

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the student attendance agreement from Wibaux Schools.

Student ID	District of Residence	District of Choice
738129634	Baker	Wibaux

Cody Strandbakke moved to approve the 2025-26 attendance agreement for the student listed as presented.

Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS 2026-27

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the individual transportation contracts for the 2026-27 school year. The following families have been sent contracts for the 2026-27 year: Quentin & Lisa Burdick, Chris & JaNae Crawford, Tina Crawford, Jennifer Johnson and Tanner & Julia Varner.

Jodi Varner moved to approve the individual transportation contracts as presented for the 2026-27 school year. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

TUITION RATES 2026-27

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the recommendation for tuition rates for 2026-27 school year. Rates for attendance is set by 20-5-323 MCA but it is recommended to set the rates for those students from out of state (ND) to continue to charge the district of residence at a rate of 20% ANB max; which is estimated \$1757.03 for FY27. It is still recommended to waive tuition for parent placed students from out of state.

Dalon Dyke moved to approve tuition rates for the 2026-27 school year be set at the levels referenced in 20-5-323 MCA and the state maximum for out of state attendance and further move tuition set at \$0 for out of state parent/guardian placements. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

THERAPY ANIMALS BP

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the 2nd reading of Board Policy 8426 and 8426-NF(1), as it outlines procedures and expectations for the request and use of a therapy dog; request was to change the policy and replacing “animal” with “dog”. Discussion followed. Mr. Quenzer voices his concern to the distraction and extra responsibility of administration when adopting the policy. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Wang moved to table the policy to put it on the agenda for next meeting. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; Cody Strandbakke and Jodi Varner voted nay and Jay Quenzer, Dalon Dyke and Karen Wang voted aye. Motion carried to table the policy to next board meeting.

BOARD POLICY 8600 – TEACHER HOUSING UPDATES/PET PROCEDURES

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the revisions to Board Policy 8600 and the lease agreement to accommodate pets. It was discussed in the Facilities/Finance Committee for the last few meetings and the presented is what came out of committee. Jodi Varner requested to add an additional deposit of \$250 for the 2nd animal. Cody Strandbakke feels teacher housing should have priority for teachers being placed into the units before administrators; Pam Beach adds the intention of the housing was for teachers initially. Cody Strandbakke suggested language “Housing will be reserved for teachers under contract with the district. If after July 1st there are no teachers interested in an available unit and it remains vacant, it may be rented to an administrator on a first-come, first-served basis. The primary purpose of district housing shall remain teacher recruitment and retention “or something to that effect so it gives priority to teachers before administrators.

Ms. McKeighan stated with this hiring season, the July 1st deadline would have been hard to place those administrators and some might not have signed contracts without housing secured. Mr. Skogen stated he is not in favor of the timeline of July 1st and that language would turn administrators away.

Discussion followed.

Ms. McKeighan offers a suggestion to add a line in the third paragraph to the intention of the housing is for teachers.

Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer moved to accept the pet policy in the lease agreement with additional changes to the pet deposit of \$250 for the 2nd animal. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Cody Strandbakke moved to table the Board Policy 8600; Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK REVISIONS

Mr. Skogen presented to the board changes to the administrative handbook to better align with the calendar.

Jay Quenzer moved to accept the changes for the administrator handbook as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

7-12 STUDENT HANDBOOK

Ms. McKeighan presented to the board the revisions to the student handbook. Major changes are restriction of backpacks during the day, no cell phones during the day, changing the honor study hall GPA limit from 3.0 to 3.25GPA, and tardies and detentions will be enforced and monitored by an aide before the school day. Discussion followed.

Cody Strandbakke stated he liked the backpack policy but does not think it should be implemented at this time; is there a definition of a backpack and what is the goal? Ms. McKeighan stated it is a safety measure for the students and would help with the restriction of cell phones as well. Discussion followed. Mr. Skogen stated in the concern of the honor study hall change, language could be changed to start in 2nd quarter. Discussion followed.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the handbook as presented. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

K-6 STUDENT HANDBOOK

Mr. Skogen stated the handbook has been updated to reflect all the changes but once the elementary schedule is finished it will be brought before the board again in August.

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

ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the revisions to the athletic handbook; no major changes are presented but minor language updates.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the changes to the activity handbook as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

PERMISSION TO PAY BILLS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Mrs. Mettler requests permission to pay bills through June 30, 2024 to continue paying billing obligations in lieu of a board meeting in July. Jodi Varner moved to give Mrs. Mettler permission to pay bills through June 30, 2026. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. COMPLEX

Updated the board on happenings and traffic has increased with school being out.

2. TECHNOLOGY

All three district facilities have successfully passed recent Fire Marshal inspections, achieving 100% compliance. Additionally, we hosted ADA consultants from Helena to strategize future accessibility upgrades at BHS, gaining highly encouraging preliminary plans.

The department has fully transitioned to our comprehensive summer deep-cleaning schedule across all three school sites. Sanitization: We are currently utilizing high-temperature 200°F water extraction for deep carpet cleaning to ensure maximum germ eradication from Pioneer Carpet Cleaning. This process is complete at Lincoln Elementary on all school owned rugs and carpets and is currently underway at Longfellow Elementary. BHS will be completed next week and Longfellow will be completed later in the summer after we finish classroom floors. Repairs: Maintenance staff are actively addressing routine building repairs, including doors, windows, window screens, paint, ceiling tiles, cabinets, shades etc.

Grounds: Our grounds crew (Bruce and Sophia) continue to maintain all campus and teacher housing exteriors to a high standard, ensuring excellent curb appeal and safety!

Housing: Our maintenance team has made excellent progress preparing the older building for new tenants. The new building is on track and looks great! Here are the latest updates:

Unit Renovations: Carpet, padding, tack strips, and baseboards have been removed from two apartments.

Repainting and routine repairs are complete across three apartments and the building itself.

Occupancy Status: Only one unit remains occupied in the older building for the rest of the month.

Upcoming Flooring: New flooring installation will begin in the older building next week.

Readiness Timeline: Three units are fully refreshed and on track to be ready for incoming teachers in July!

Asset Management & Storage Optimization: In response to building-wide moves and limited storage availability, we have audited our current storage space. We are collaborating with building administrative teams to identify and declare obsolete materials. This process is successfully freeing up valuable storage space for active district equipment and curriculum. On June 2nd, the team completed a comprehensive, OSHA-compliant Hazard Communication training and updated the Montana Safety Culture Act guidelines.

Mandated by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, this proactive session covered task-specific school environment hazards to ensure our operations meet current health and safety standards. [1, 2, 3, 4]

To maintain our strong safety culture, the updated training session included:

Hazard Communication: Instruction aligning with federal OSHA standards for handling chemicals and materials.

School Safety Hazards: Reviewing specific risks, risk assessments, and best practices encountered in educational environments.

State Compliance: Fulfilling ongoing refresher training mandates set by the Montana Safety Culture Act and the DOLI Safety Bureau. This initiative guarantees that our team is fully equipped to handle workplace hazards while remaining strictly aligned with both state and federal safety regulations.

Acknowledgements: Special recognition goes to Complex Director Kristi for her invaluable assistance in resolving time consuming restorative effort at Longfellow Elementary. Her cross-departmental support is greatly appreciated!

3. PRINCIPALS

a. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan

Gave the board a flyer and reported confiscated student products for the year and wanted to press the importance of our tobacco awareness.

4. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

All certified hiring positions have been filled and just need a few more paraprofessionals at the elementary to start next year. Thanked Mrs. Brook Collins for her years at the district and they are big shoes to fill going into the next year and she will be dearly missed.

Teacher housing is moving along and is on track for turnover to the District after July 4th.

Negotiations are nearing the end and if have a quorum in the next few weeks to ratify the contract.

Building Secretaries: Mrs. Lineback will be coming to the high school and the elementary secretaries will be staying at their assigned buildings throughout the day and not switching.

July meeting is planned to be a campus tour and apartments at the request of Chairperson Wang.

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

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

s/ Jennifer Mettler

Clerk

s/ Karen Wang

Chairman