

REGULAR MEETING

May 13, 2026

6:17 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, and Head of Maintenance Yvonne Skogen. Guests were Pam Beach, Melissa Rost, Brittany Hoversland, Karlee Dyke, Kim Lesh, Kristi Burns, Jocelyn Graham, Megan Varner, Brooklyn Miller, Kelly Graham, Mary Alice Havens, Amanda Tunby, BreeAnn Schell, Kallie Benter, Katie Hanson, Anthony Hanson, Jenny Dukart, Kevin Dukart and Jill Shelhamer.

EDUCATION REPORT – Close-Up

Advisor Brittany Hoversland, Karlee Dyke, Brooklyn Miller, Jocelyn Graham, and Megan Varner presented to the board their trip to Washington, DC.

ACTION ITEMS

NATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL ASSISTANCE – HOSA

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board the travel assistance request for HOSA.

Jay Quenzer moved to provide travel assistance to Rye Rost as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presents to the board recommendations for hire; Mrs. Shae Peplinski and Mrs. Rebecca LaCroix to be hired as elementary teachers for the 2026-27 school year.

Jodi Varner moved to hire Mrs. Peplinski and Mrs. LaCroix as elementary teachers for the 2026-27 school year; hires are contingent on a background check. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED CONTRACT RENEWALS FOR 2026-27

Mr. Skogen presented to the board classified contracts for 2026-27.

Employee	Position	Years
HENSLEY, APRIL	Custodian	3
EDWARDS, LLOYD	Custodian	4
HALMANS, FAYE	Custodian	1
HOLNESS, DAVE	Custodian	1
LIMING, LINDA	Custodian	0
DAVIS, SONYA	Head Cook	17
KLOETZKE, KAYLA	Cook	1
LABELLE, HEATHER	Cook	1
UECKER, LOVEDEN	Cook	5*
EHRET, PAT	P/T Kitchen Aide	3
POWERS, LEEANN	Paraprofessional	8
O'DONNELL, KIM	Paraprofessional	19
DAHL, SHELBY	Paraprofessional	1
CLARK, KIM	Paraprofessional	0
GILMORE, FAYTH	P/T Paraprofessional	2
ROST, JOLYN	Paraprofessional	1
COLLINS, BROOK	Building Secretary	29
LINGLE, AMY	Building Secretary	22
LINEBACK, ALYSON	Building Secretary	13
EHRET, KRISTIN	Asst. Elementary Secretary	2
BURNS, KRISTI	Complex Manager	2

In addition to contract renewals, it is recommended to hire Harveanna Lee as a full time custodian for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year and the 2026-27 school year; Ms. Lee has successfully passed her physical and background check at this time.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve the classified contracts as presented for the 2026-27 school year and further move to offer a contract to Harveanna Lee for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year and 2026-27 school year. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE HIRING CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendations for summer maintenance hiring; the following are recommended for the positions listed:

Sophia Harris, part-time
Kim Clark, 2 days/week
Shelby Dahl, 4 days a week
Loveden Uecker, 4 days a week
Bruce Brown, outside maintenance

Summer hires will work at a max of 32 hrs/week working 4 days a week. No overtime for seasonal (summer workers).

Cody Strandbakke moved to hire the summer custodial help as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

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

Mr. Jay Shumaker—High School Head Girls Basketball Coach
Mr. Aaron Skogen – High School Head Boys Basketball Coach
Mr. Darick Gorder – High School Head Girls Wrestling Coach
Mr. Deryk Van Zee – High School Assistant Football Coach
Mr. John Nowak – High School Assistant Football Coach
Mr. Lane Staub – High School Assistant Football Coach
Mrs. Sheila O'Connor – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach, MS Girls Basketball Coach
Ms. Halle Burdick – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach
Mr. TC Shelhamer – High School Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
Mrs. Brittany Hoversland – High School Girls Basketball Coach, Senior Class Advisor, Spartanettes Advisor, Close-up Advisor
Mr. Allan Barth – Middle School Football Coach
Mr. Austin Braun – Middle School Football Coach
Ms. Alivia Schultz – Middle School Volleyball Coach
Mr. Tom Breitbach – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach
Mr. Seth Kendall – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach, 4/5th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Ms. Marisa Varner – Middle School Girls Basketball Coach
Mr. John Bertsch – Middle School Boys Wrestling Coach
Mrs. Shawna Batchelor – 4/5th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Mrs. Cori Enders – Sophomore Class Advisor, FCCLA Advisor
Mr. Dale Schmidt – FFA Assistant Advisor
Mrs. Cathy Frye – Academic Olympic Advisor
Mrs. Linda Rost – Academic Olympic Advisor
Mrs. Alyson Lineback Student Council Advisor, Concessions Advisor
Mrs. Jen Mettler – Concessions Advisor
Mrs. Lisa Burdick – Concessions Advisor, Student Union Advisor
Ms. Michelle Anderson – National Honor Society Advisor
Mr. Dan Kucera – Business Professionals of America (BPA) Head Advisor

Dalon Dyke moved to hire the listed extracurricular positions for the 2026-27 school year as presented. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT CONSIDERATION – VICE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation to hire for the 2026-27 school year.

Jay Quenzer moved to hire Mr. Deryk Van Zee as Vice Principal/Activities Director for the 2026-27 school year. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; Cody Strandbakke voted nay, Jodi Varner voted yea, Karen Wang voted yea, Dalon Dyke voted yea, and Jay Quenzer voted yea; motion carried.

LIFEGUARD AIDE HIRING CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the recommendation to new hires for the complex. It is recommended to hire lifeguard aides for the summer are Kael Gorder and Pyper Mettler.

Jodi Varner moved to hire Kael Gorder and Pyper Mettler as lifeguard aides for the Baker Recreation Center. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2026-27

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the professional development that was set in the calendar; Mrs. Rost has sent out a survey to staff for the August specific trainings.

August 3rd-14th

Specific training opportunities are available to staff in one (1) hour increments. Staff must inform their building Principal of training(s) they plan to attend (attendance will be taken). Any hours accumulated beyond six (6) hours between August 3rd-14th may be counted for FLEX hours for MFPE days in October.

Teachers must schedule at a minimum six (6) hours with their building Principal to fulfill required contract hours. These hours may be spent in the classroom preparing for the school year.

August 17th (Full Day)

- Breakfast – Longfellow Cafeteria (all staff)
- Schedule TBA
 - CPR & First Aid Training (all staff)

August 18th (Full Day)

- Lunch – BHS Courtyard (all staff)
- Schedule TBA
- Back to School Night Open House Lincoln & Longfellow (4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.)

August 20th

- 7-12 Back to School Night Open House (4:30 p.m.--6:30 p.m.)

October 2nd (Friday, NO SCHOOL)

- AI Training and Integration – Montana Digital Academy (all staff)
 - 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

October 15th-16th (NO SCHOOL)

- Montana Teachers Convention (MFPE)
 - Teacher FLEX Days

November 6th (Friday, NO SCHOOL)

- Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Elementary, 8:00 a.m.--12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - 7-12, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

December 11th (Friday, 2:00 p.m. Release)

- TBD – Student Behavior & SEL, Motivational Speaker

February 19th, 2027

- Assessment Analysis
 - 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

April 30th, 2027

- Department Meetings, Vertical Alignment, Planning for 2027-2028 School Year
 - 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Jodi Varner moved to approve the professional development for the 2026-27 school year. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

SET BUS ROUTES FOR 2026-27

Mr. Skogen presented to the board the bus routes for 2026-27 school year; there has not been a request made to change the routes for next year so they will stay the same.

ROUTE 1:

Leave Baker and proceed North on Highway 7 to the Cabin Creek Road. Turn West and proceed 6 ½ miles past Battleship Butte Trail, then turn around at Hadley's stop and continue back South to Highway 7. Travel South to Johnny Creek Trail, turn East and travel to the-Selle Home, turnaround and then turn South on School House Road to the junction with Shell Oil Road. Then turn West back to Highway 7 turn South-and proceed to Baker twice daily for a total of **110miles per day**. Bus capacity minimum 36

ROUTE 2:

Leave Baker and proceed North on Highway 7 to Ollie Road to Sanders turnaround and head south to Trolley Road. Go to the junction of Trolley Road and Big Hill Road, turn west onto Big Hill Road and go back to Highway 7. Turn south on Highway 7, drive to Pennell Road, go west to Valley View Trail, turn around back to Highway 7 and turn right to Baker twice daily for a total of **112miles per day**. This route will reverse from AM to PM. Bus capacity minimum 36

ROUTE 3:

Leave Baker and proceed South on Highway 7 to junction of Highway 7 and the 101 Road. Turn onto 101 Road and proceed to the Webster Road. Turn West onto the Webster Road and travel to the Substation and Highway 7. Turn North back to Baker for a total of **112 miles per day**

Dalon Dyke moved to approve the 2026-27 school year as presented. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; County Transportation Meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 1pm in the courthouse. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL CALENDAR REVISION

Mr. Skogen presented to the board a revision to the 2026-27 school year. There were some athletic scheduling conflicts with our adopted calendar and ensuring Homecoming would work for our activities. Revisions are homecoming from the week of September 14th to October 5th.

Jay Quenzer moved to approve revisions to the 2026-27 school calendar as presented. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

4TH QUARTER OIL AND GAS ALLOCATION

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the oil and gas allocation for 4th quarter; this quarters revenue is \$510,288.75 and recommended to deposit into the Flex Fund.

Jay Quenzer moved to reallocate the oil and gas revenue on or about May 1, 2026 to the funds presented in the total amount of \$510,288.75, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. TECHNOLOGY

Russ Anderson and Lindsay Williams with K12 Montana will be the Districts MSP (managed service provider) moving forward; they inform the board of services provided to the District.

2. COMPLEX

The lazy man triathlon finished up and had good participation.

3. MAINTENANCE

Hosted many events and getting ready to finish up the end of the school year and ramping up for summer.

4. PRINCIPALS

a. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Erin Nevers & BreElle Wacker

This is an incredibly busy and exciting time in our Elementary School. With only 5 days left in the year, our staff and students are fully engaged in a wide range of activities and celebrations.

These are just a few highlights, there are so many more things happening!

Our first-grade wing has transformed into “Dinosaur Central” in preparation for their end of the year themed activities.

Sixth graders spent the morning Tuesday shooting rockets at the lake park. All Longfellow classes and 1 Lincoln class joined, making a great audience!

Our music programs wrapped up last night with a fun, 80’s themed concert.

Mrs. Johnson was honored in a retirement party hosted at the Longfellow Library earlier this evening.

Elementary classrooms are preparing for a flurry of field trips beginning today and continuing into next week.

1st Grade to Carter County Museum, Thursday, May 14th - Depart - 12:00, Return - 3:00

2nd Grade to Moore’s Farm, Tuesday, May 19th - Depart - 10:00, Return - 1:00

3rd Grade - Bowman Jump Park, Tuesday, May 19th - Depart - 9:00 Return - 2:00 PM

4th Grade to Trails End, Tuesday, May 19th - Depart- 8:00, Return before 3:40

5th Grade to Dickinson Rec Center, Wednesday, May 13th - Depart 8:00, Return before 3:40

6th Grade to Devils Tower, Monday, May 18th - Depart 8:00, Return to Baker at 4:30

Amidst all this, we are also planning our final Student of the Month assembly which will be held on the morning of May 20th.

b. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan

Completed Trainings and Events: Thank you to Mrs. Burdick for organizing and proctoring AP tests over the last few weeks. Thank you to our BHS teachers who prepare students for these tests and teach advanced classes. We had our seniors last day today and they wrapped up with graduation practice at Longfellow, and then had a graduation walk in their caps and gowns at Lincoln.

Congratulations to all of our students recognized at our Academic Award Assembly on Monday, May 4th. We were able to recognize students who achieved perfect attendance, high standardized test scores, and who excelled in different content areas this school year. Students have completed registration for classes for next year and we are working on finalizing a schedule for the 26-27 school year. We have students continuing to work on the Smithsonian project through the county museum, with their final project coming together nicely.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

Graduation Sunday at 2 PM at the Longfellow Gym

6th Grade Orientation on Tuesday, May 19th at 2 PM

8th Grade Graduation Wednesday, May 20th at 5:30 PM

May 21st is our last day of school

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Bill Brist

Results from the District Solo and Ensemble Music Festival held in Glendive on April 10 & 11.

Choir Solos: DeeAnna Hess Vocal Solo scored a 1 (Superior) Band Solos: DeeAnna Hess Piccolo

Solo, Tylar Smith Flute Solo, DeeAnna Hess Flute Solo, Jerrick Moser Trumper Solo all scored 1's (Superior) Wiley Thielen Trombone, Nathan Kruger Snare Drum Solo, scored 2's (Excellent) Choir Ensembles: DeeAnna Hess and Tatem Miller - Vocal Duet scored a 2 (Excellent) Band Ensembles: DeeAnna Hess and Tylar Smith Flute Duet scored a 1 (Superior) Jerrick Moser, DeeAnna Hess and Tylar Smith Flute & Trumpet Trio scored a 1 (Superior) Nathan and Lukas Duet scored a 2 (Excellent) Nathan Kruger, Lukas Rost and Wiley Thielen Trio and the Baker Flute Trio scored 2's (Excellent) The Baker HS Band scored a 1 (Superior) for sight reading and a 2 (Excellent) for performance, while the Choir scored a 2 (Excellent) for both sight reading and performance. Results from the State Solo and Ensemble Music Festival held in Billings on May 1 & 2. Choir Solos: DeeAnna Hess Vocal Solo scored a 1 Band Solos: DeeAnna Hess Piccolo Solo, Tylar Smith Flute Solo, DeeAnna Hess Flute Solo, Jerrick Moser Trumper Solo all scored 1's Band Ensembles: DeeAnna Hess and Tylar Smith Flute Duet scored a 1 Jerrick Moser, DeeAnna Hess and Tylar Smith Flute & Trumpet Trio scored a 1 Other recent Music Department performances and Activities: The Pops Concert at Longfellow was held at Longfellow on May 12, The Music Department's Awards Dinner was held on May 11th, and the Elementary Music Concert (K-3, 5-6 Volunteer Choir) was held on May 5th at Longfellow.

Baker BPA Student Travels to Nationals: Baker BPA students Caden Barth (Advanced Accounting), Michael Hanson (SQL Database Fundamentals), Turner Smith (Advanced Spreadsheet Applications) and Ashley Stanhope (MS Prepared Speech) departed for the BPA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL with Mrs. Dena Kirschten on May 6th and returned on May 10th. Micheal Hanson finished in 28th place in his event to lead Baker Participants at the National Competition. Spring Sports – Golf, Tennis and Track & Field, Golf - The golf team attended the Divisional Tournament, hosted by Huntley Project, on May 11th, with the boy's team finishing in 7th position out of 14 teams. Camden Coulter (10th), Tristan Barth (28th), Kyson Barth (24th), Miles O'Connor (36th) and Chad Griffith (54th) represented Baker High School at the event. The State Championship will be held at the same location May 19th and 20th. The top 3 teams and top 20 individuals qualify for the State Tournament. Tennis – The Baker HS girls tennis team will have 4 singles entries and 2 doubles team entries at the Eastern B/C Divisional Tournament (hosted by Baker), on May 21 & 22. From the results of this event, the top 5 singles and top 5 doubles teams will qualify for the State B/C Tournament to be held in Missoula on May 28-30. Track & Field – Baker HS will the district 3B Championships on Thursday, May 14th. The Divisional Championship meet will be held at Laurel on Thursday, May 21st and The State B Championships will be held in Missoula on Friday and Saturday, May 29th and 30th. All athletes that placed in the top six of their events at the district meet will qualify for the Southern B Divisional Championship to be held on May 21st in Laurel. From this meet the top 8 in each event, plus auto qualifiers, will advance to the State B Track & Field Championships to be held in Missoula on May 28-30.

Sports Awards Banquet. The Annual Baker High School Sports Awards Banquet will be held on Tuesday evening, May 19th at 6 PM at the Longfellow Gym. This event recognizes accomplishments from athletes of all of Baker High School's athletic teams. 8th Grade Field Trip – Bowman Activity Center on May 20th. The Baker Middle School 8th grade students will travel to the Bowman "Edge" Activity Center on Wednesday, May 20th for an opportunity so spend their final day participating in activities with their classmates. They will follow this activity with their graduation ceremony to be held at the Longfellow gymnasium at 5:30 pm that evening.

5. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current Openings: World Languages, VoAg Education, Music, 7-12 Health & Physical Education, Paraprofessional(s) elementary.

Resignations: Edie Peters and Alysha Mendenhall, both elementary paraprofessionals.

Negotiations: Mr. Weldon and Mr. Philips, representatives of both parties will meet on Friday and after that the committee will meet with Mr. Weldon at a later date.

Teacher housing:

Certified Hiring: it was missed to hire Mrs. Sheila O'Connor for this month and will have a special meeting in the next few weeks to hire.

Personal Care Attendant: a draft job description is listed for discussion by the next months meeting to advertise

Truancy Plan: an update to the student handbook will be presented to the board when the handbooks are adopted in June meeting.

For the record, the head of maintenance is the superintendent's wife and when he assists the position has nothing to do with his wife but assisting the position.

Special meeting to hire certified teachers on Monday, May 18 2026 at noon.

Next scheduled board meeting is June 9, 2026 at 6 pm.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

s/ *Jennifer Mettler*

Clerk

s/ *Karen Wang*

Chairman