REGULAR MEETING
August 11, 1016
7:00 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 Kelli Carlson, Associate Elementary Principal Maranda Hastig, Associate Principal/AD Deryk Van Zee, District Clerk Jennifer Mettler, and Head of Maintenance Yvonne Skogen. Guests were Jennifer Johnson, Brandon Johnson, Amanda Tunby, Kelly Graham, Jasi Swyres, Frank Swyres, Molly Losing, Matthew Losing, Jeannine Losing, Britney Follmer, Chad Follmer and John Geving.

Consent Items:

The bills, investment report, activity account report, journal adjustments, and minutes were reviewed by the trustees; claim checks 60922 to 61028 were reviewed and approved. There being no objections, Chairperson Wang approves the consent items as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EDUCATION REPORT

None

ACTION ITEMS

CLASSIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Skogen presented to the board recommendation to hire as follows:
Mrs. Chelsea Lindsey, Paraprofessional and Ms. Amanda Rost, Personal Care Attendant.
Dalon Dyke moved to hire Mrs. Lindsey and Ms. Rost as positions listed for the 2026-27 school year. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING CONSIDERATION(S)

Mr. Van Zee presented to the board the recommendations to hire for extracurricular positions. Mr. Dustin Erickson as Head Boys Wrestling Coach and Mrs. Linda Rost as HOSA Advisor.
Jodi Varner moved to hire the individuals as presented for the 2026-27 school year. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

GRANT REQUEST(S) – CONTINENTAL RESOURCES

Mr. Skogen presented to the board 3 requests to apply for the grant from Continental Resources. Mrs. Linda Rost is applying for new buzzers for Academic Olympics and also applying for HOSA textbooks to aid in competitions.
Mrs. Rebecca LaCroix is applying for some books and cushions for her classroom.
Mrs. Kelli Carlson and Mrs. Maranda Hastig are applying for literacy packs to be used for special education to help fill gaps in reading and start with K-2.
Jay Quenzer moved to approve each of the above listed grant requests for the Continental Resources Fund the Future Grant. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM PLEVNA – MS FOOTBALL COOPERATIVE

Mr. Van Zee presents to the board a request from Plevna Schools to enter into a cooperative agreement for middle school football. The cooperative would share costs as done in the past but these cooperatives for middle school sports are not required to be approved by MHSA.
Dalon Dyke moved to approve the formation of a middle school football cooperative with Plevna Schools for the 2026-27 school year. Jodi Varner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BUS ROUTE AMENDMENT

Mr. Skogen presents to the board a recommendation to change pickup/drop off times for Route #3. There is a rider that needs to use the handicap ramp on the bus and recommends to drive up to the family's house to pick up the student. Mr. Skogen wants it noted this is a unique situation and the decision to drive to the house shall not set a precedent moving forward. This is an isolated decision and it should also be noted that changes may be needed to the route that would change this decision based on route times, new addition of riders and/or the need to add a stop.
Chad Follmer stated the biggest concern is the turn into the yard and get back out of the yard, it's a hard turn to get out of the yard and on the landowner's grass and don't know if this is the best fit for the route to turn into the yard. Dalon Dyke stated a concern would be if the pickup is past their turn, the student would be loaded and unloaded too many times and would rather try to get the turn into the yard to work if possible. Swyres family stated they would be willing to help make the turn around and yard prepped and ready for the bus to make this work.
Discussion followed.
Jodi Varner would like to leave it like it has been and leave Johnson's as first on in the morning and first off at night.

Mr. Skogen would recommend to table the agenda item for the night to give those other riders a chance to know of the change if it is ran as first on/first off.
Jay Quenzer moved to table the agenda item until the next scheduled meeting. Cody Strandbakke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Mettler presents to the board

The attendance agreements on the agenda tonight are:
24 student that live in Baker wish to attend Plevna Public Schools,
19 students that live in Plevna wish to attend Baker Public Schools,
3 students that live in Baker wish to attend Ekalaka Public Schools,
14 students living in Marmarth, ND wish to attend Baker Public Schoo
2 students state/court placed.

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

1ST QUARTER OIL AND GAS ALLOCATION

Mrs. Mettler presented to the board the recommendation for allocation of 1st quarter of 2026 oil and gas. This quarters payment was $715,484.99 and recommended to deposit as follows:

General Fund $150,000
Flex Fund $265,484.99
Building Reserve $300,000

Jay Quenzer moved to reallocate the oil and gas revenue on or about August 1, 2026 to the funds presented in the total amount of $715,484.99, reserving the right to reallocate the future payments when received. Dalon Dyke seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2026-27 BUDGET ADOPTION

Mrs. Mettler requests to have a little bit more time to complete the budget and would like to table this agenda item for a later date, no later than August 20th. Jodi Varner moved to table the budget adoption and reschedule for August 17, 2026 at 6pm. Jay Quenzer seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. **MAINTENANCE**

   Yvonne Skogen reports on projects finished up during the summer and thanks the staff for all their hard work during all the projects over the summer.

2. **PRINCIPALS**

   a. **ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS, Kelli Carlson & Maranda Hastig**

      Working on the master schedule to get ready for the school year and getting ready for the first days back.

   b. **HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Megan McKeighan**

      Completed Trainings and Events
      New Teacher Orientation – August 4th
      We hosted our annual new teacher orientation on August 4th. This hour was to ensure our new teachers were provided a brief overview of necessary information to prepare them for the first day of school. This included ensuring they had tech access to programs and their Surface Pros, as well as reviewing leave, mandated reporting, BPS essential policies and procedures.
      Substitute Training- August 5th
      A Back-to-School Substitute Training session was held to ensure substitutes are confident and informed. Training covered school policies, classroom expectations, safety procedures, and daily routines—helping maintain consistency and support for students when regular teachers are absent.
      7th Grade Orientation- August 10th
      Shout out to Mrs. Burdick for organizing another successful 7th grade orientation. Students were provided an hour presentation on how middle school differs from elementary school and how to prepare for the upcoming year. They also rotated through their schedule with a 3 minute break between bells to practice how much time they had in the hallways. We would also like to thank the high school secretaries, Amy and Alyson, for creating the 7th grade welcome folders and running the bell system for this orientation.
      SAM Conference July 26th-29th
      Maranda, Kelli, and I attended the School Administrators of Montana Elevate conference in Helena. This year's conference had a lot of wonderful speakers and we learned a lot about new initiatives in education, heard from inspiring keynote speakers, and were able to network with other rural administrators. We are grateful to have had the chance to attend this conference and jumpstart our time back on campus.
      Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

Back To School Nights: August 18th Lincoln & Longfellow Elementary Open House: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. August 20th High School 4:30-6:30 p.m.
First Day of School: August 19th
Homecoming Week: Scheduled for October 5th–10th.

c. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, Deryk Van Zee

I attended the Class "B" AD meetings this summer from June 7th to the 9th in Big Sky. It was a great experience as I got to meet a lot of AD's around the state. A few of the highlights from those meetings were Class B Cross County State prequalifying times were adjusted so that they are the same as all the other classes in Montana. There was a proposal for adding a classification in Football, this was the first time it was proposed. Post Season games will now be held on Friday's at 7 o'clock unless both teams agree to move it earlier or have the game on Saturday. Starting in 2027 Class B Football will move from a 16 team playoff bracket to a 12 team bracket in Football. Volleyball will be moved back to a three-day divisional instead of two.
I also attended the MCA Coaches Clinic in Great Falls at the end of July. The MHSA is now requiring first year AD's to take a 3 hour workshop in which I attended the Tuesday before the Clinic started. I was also fortunate to be able to go watch one of our fellow coaches, Jay Shumaker, present at the clinic. He did a great job and represented Baker very well.
MHSA is now requiring a Pre Medical Huddle for all levels C squad to Varsity. The meeting will take place before the competition begins and will cover introductions, AED location, and EMS access points.
All activities and athletics will be using the SportsYou app for all communication between coaches, players and I.
Lastly, Jarl Nerdrum will be a High School Football volunteer coach.

3. SUPERINTENDENT, Aaron Skogen

Current openings: Paraprofessionals at elementary and personal care attendants at the high school and elementary.

Special Meeting scheduled August 17, 2026
Next scheduled board meeting is September 15, 2026 at 6 pm.
There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

s/ *Jennifer Mettler* — Clerk

s/ *Karen Wang* — Chairman