

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2025
6P.M.**

PRESENT: President Cory Robinson, Jon Northrup, Tyler Akins, Ashley Kucera, Ray Hauser, Superintendent, Chris Petersen, Elementary Principal, Zach Hasselbrink, Secondary Principal, Clay Harrold, and Board Secretary, Julie McWhirter.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Atkinson; Sheriff Brad Shutts

- I. Call to Order:** President Robinson called the February meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. Approval of Agenda:** Akins moved, seconded by Northrup, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- III. Approval of Consent Items:** Northrup moved, seconded by Akins, to approve the payment of bills totaling \$202,313.83 and minutes of the January 15, 2025 regular board meeting as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- IV. Correspondence:** The district received a thank you from the April Kearns family on behalf of her mother who passed away recently. The district received a thank you from a student athlete's grandparent who fell while attending a game in the east gym. She thanked athletic trainer Travis Henderson and Mr. Vaughn, as well as a female bystander, for their assistance. The district received a very generous donation of \$2800 from Baxter Food Pantry for negative meal accounts. On behalf of those families with negative accounts, we appreciate their generosity very much.
- V. Public Forum:** Sue Atkinson shared info regarding her previous email sent to board members.
- VI. Business Items:**
- A. Principal Reports:** Each month, principals, Zach Hasselbrink, and Clay Harrold, share activities during the past month.
- B. 4 Day Instructional/School Week:** After reviewing the final results of the latest survey, an astounding 76% were in favor of, or neutral about, the district going to a 4-day school week beginning in the 2025-26 school year.
Hauser moved, seconded by Akins, to approve the 4-day school week for the 2025-26 school year, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- Roll Call:
AYES: Northrup, Akins, Kucera, Hauser, Robinson
NAYS: None
- C. Board Policy Code 204.24 Long Range Needs Assessment Annual Review:** Northrup moved, seconded by Kucera, to approve and waive the second reading of Board Policy Code 204.24 Long Range Needs Assessment, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- D. Resolution to approve 101% Budget Guarantee:** Northrup moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve the Resolution to approve 101% Budget Guarantee, as recommended by industry leaders.

The actual resolution reads: “*RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of BAXTER community school district, will levy property taxes for fiscal year 2025-26 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa.*”

Roll Call:

AYES: Northrup, Akins, Kucera, Hauser, Robinson

NAYS: None

- E. Approve Title I Program for the 2025-26 school year:** Kucera moved, seconded by Akins, to approve the 2025-26 Title I Program, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- F. Approve Payment Structure for SRO Pending Further Terms Agreement:** Jasper County Sheriff, Brad Shutts clarified funding sources, logistics to scheduling, and additional information regarding an SRO position. Admin will review current budget numbers, further discuss district financial commitments and the needs of the district for an SRO.
- G. Resolution of the Board of Education Approving the Application for Applying for a Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant:** Hauser moved, seconded by Akins, to approve the Resolution of the Board of Education approving the application for Applying for a Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant, as requested by Dr. Wendy Anderson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Motion carried (5y-0n).

“RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVING THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANTS FROM PRAIRIE MEADOWS:

WHEREAS, Prairie Meadows has Community Betterment grant funds available that target Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Education and Health and Human Services, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is supportive of these applications for the betterment of their district, and

WHEREAS, all applications from the School District will be submitted to Prairie Meadows by the February 28, 2025 deadline,

‘NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Baxter Community School District Board of Education that the following Community Betterment Grant Applications are to be submitted to Prairie Meadows for the February 28, 2025 deadline.’”

Roll Call:

AYES: Northrup, Akins, Kucera, Hauser, Robinson

NAYS: None

- H. Open Enrollment:** Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve an open enrollment in application from Ryan and Danielle Van Manen for their daughter, Peyton, for the 2025-26 school year from Newton CSD, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- I. Personnel:** Northrup moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve the resignation and Voluntary Early Retirement Application for Dennis Vaughn as instructional coach and cross country coach; from Kristin Luther as middle school English language/reading teacher; and from Anna Messelie as Voc Ag teacher, FFA sponsor, and middle school basketball coach, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Kucera moved, seconded by Akins, to approve a contract for Danyelle Myers as MS English language/reading teacher; and for Robert Yeltman as middle school softball coach, pending proper certification, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

J. Facilities/Grounds/Transportation: None.

K. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Chris Petersen informed board members of the approval for the academic decathlon team to stay overnight in Cedar Falls on March 7, 2025, while attending the previously qualified for state competition to be held in Waterloo. He also updated board members on the status of student contact hours after recent school closings and late starts/early outs due to extreme weather conditions. The state minimum contact hours is 1080. Mr. Petersen updated board members on current legislation that, if passed, would increase the number equal to student FTE's (Full Time Equivalent) from two to four for the SRO (School Resource Officer) as well as legislation that would allow districts to pay for SRO's from the Management fund. Both of these pieces would provide a great positive impact to this district. He anticipates the SSA (State Supplementary Aid) rate will likely pass at 2%. Significantly, less than all districts need to operate, thus requiring local property tax levies to fund the difference. There is also a bill trickling through legislators to prohibit SBG (Standards Based Grading), which many districts, including Baxter, use for assessment of current student understanding of educational standards.

VII. Adjournment: Hauser moved, seconded by Kucera, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:23pm. Motion carried (5y-0n).

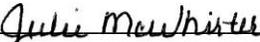
At the regular February board meeting, board members will approve the January board meeting minutes.



Board President

3/26/2025

Date



Board Secretary

3/26/2025

Date