

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: President Cory Robinson, Zach Morphew-Rapp, Tyler Akins, Ray Hauser, Elementary Principal Zach Hasselbrink, Secondary Principal, Clay Harrold, Superintendent Chris Petersen, and Board Secretary Julie McWhirter.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Atkinson, Yvette Clausen, Alyssa Plunkett

- I. Call to Order:** President Robinson called the regular January meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda:** Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (4y-0n).
- III. Appointment of Board Member to Fill Vacant Seat:** Akins moved, seconded by, Morphew-Rapp, to approve Alyssa Plunkett as the appointed board member to fill the recently vacated seat. Motion carried (4y-0n).
- IV. Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Board Member:** Board Secretary, Julie McWhirter, administered the oath of office to Alyssa Plunkett.
- V. Approval of Consent Items:** Hauser moved, seconded by Akins, to approve the payment of bills totaling \$92,913.69 and minutes of the December 17, 2025 board meeting as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- VI. Correspondence:** None
- VII. Public Forum:** Sue Atkinson shared a handout with board members and administration. Yvette Clausen requested that board members visit Marshalltown CSD regarding ABA therapy in the school facility.
- VIII. Business Items:**
 - A. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS:** Each month, principals, Zach Hasselbrink and Clay Harrold, share activities during the past month.
 - B. SAFETY AND SECURITY REPORT:** SRO, Deputy Josh Britton updated board members on safety and security in the district buildings, which includes adopting the "I Love You Guys" program. This program is a crisis response training for students and staff, and guidance for crises in the school district and reunification after the crisis. He thanked the PTO for their generous donation towards the updating of the classroom "to go" bags which include necessary items for crises.
 - C. ANNUAL BOARD WORK SESSION** The annual work session dates are tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 4, 5-8 pm and Wednesday, March 6, 5-8 pm. Superintendent, Chris Petersen, shared last year's agenda for reference.
 - D. OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Akins moved, seconded by Morphew-Rapp, to approve open enrollment applications from Shawn and Britney Schnathorst for their children, Liv and Tate, to continue to attend Baxter CSD after a recent move from Newton CSD to East Marshall CSD, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

"Teaching for today and tomorrow, one student at a time."

- E. PERSONNEL:** Hauser moved, seconded by Akins, to approve a 2026-27 teaching contract for Nathan Liston as secondary Spanish teacher, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n). This hire will allow Spanish classes to be taught in house rather than online as has been done for the past six years. The 4-day school week contributed to the applicant’s decision-making process.
- F. FACILITIES, GROUNDS, AND TRANSPORTATION:** Mr Petersen, updated board members on the conversion of HVAC controls over to Woodman’s. Due to the nature of the conversion, some significant end of life repairs have been uncovered. Therefore, admin will review, and may recommend adjusting upcoming summer projects.
- G. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Mr. Petersen updated board members on the recent calendar committee meeting regarding the 2026-27 district calendar. Admin will be sending out a survey to students, staff, and parents about the 4-day school week. Mr. Petersen shared that the governor proposed a 2% Supplementary State Aid (SSA) for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Initially, admin will build 2026-27 district budget documents around the 2% increase. Now that 2024-25 financial numbers have been certified, Mr. Petersen shared the annual 5-year projections for the district. He also shared additional tentative dates with the board members.
- H. CLOSED SESSION** (as allowed by Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(i), To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session.). Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to enter into closed session at 7:01pm. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Hauser moved, seconded by Akins, to exit closed session. Motion carried (5y-0n). The closed session ended at 8:05pm.

- VII. Adjournment:** Akins moved, seconded Hauser, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried (5y-0n).

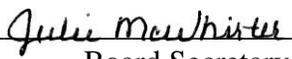
The regular January board meetings minutes will be presented for approval at the regular February board meeting.



 Board President

_____ 2/18/2026

 Date



 Board Secretary

_____ 2/18/2026

 Date