

**BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

The Board of Trustees held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday November 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the East Middle School Library with Chairperson Ann Boston presiding. Trustees present were Tom Billteen, Patti Hepola, Kelly Lee, Mike Kujawa, Kathy Milodragovich and Henry Klobucar. Trustee Thatcher was absent. Also present were Judy Jonart, Superintendent, Keith Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alley, Director of Human Resource and Kevin Patrick, Business Director.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME AND DIRECTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 3.1 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes, October 20, 2025

Trustee Hepola motion to approve, second by Trustee Klobucar. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comment

Rody Holman with Marsh McLennan Agency was pleased to present a dividend check to the Butte School District in the amount of \$66,000. The dividend is for the policy period ending in 2024. Rody explained that this represents about a 23% return on the District's policy. Rody thanked the Trustees for allowing him to speak on behalf of the dividend.

Item 4.1 – Margaret Leary Elementary School Presentation

Jennifer Luoma, Margaret Leary Elementary Principal went over her presentation with the Board of Trustees. Jennifer stated that we are all aware students are different than they were 20 years ago, even 10 years ago. The introduction of electronics, especially handheld at your fingertips devices has changed attention spans. Jennifer explained that five-year-old students coming to school do not have much of an attention span and twelve-year-old students coming to school are less. It is very hard to compete with a screen because it is so entertaining to students. Last year Jennifer wrote a grant focusing on partnering with families and she thinks that is they key. We need to bring back families into the conversation about education and so every kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grader in the District will get a book. The book is about Principal Finnegan and he has a super special guest who is coming to school, so they need everyone's help to plan the party for the guest. Jennifer went on to explain the book and stated it is read to the students and then they decide what they should do. After the book is read then each student will take one home, then there will be an event day to get community members into our schools to see what wonderful

things we do and read to students so that they can see we are invested in their education and what is best for them. On that day then they will reveal the last page of who is the super special guest and if you look it is everybody because it takes a village to educate kids. Jennifer stated that is what the message to our community needs to be, it is not all on us, it is everyone. Jennifer will be contacting everyone once she knows the date and people are welcome to volunteer. Jennifer stated that Town Pump's Charitable Foundation is great in sponsoring so there is about 1200 books.

Jennifer also included a brochure that is sent home that has information on how Margaret Leary involves parents, test scores, goals, expectations, their vision and positives. Jennifer stated that Town Pump's Charitable Foundation is great in sponsoring so there is about 1200 books.

Item 4.2 – Bridged Health Alliance Update

John Doran, Chief Strategy Officer for Bridged Health Alliance stated they are the new trust that is forming as a result of House Bill 332 for two Legislative Sessions ago. Things are going incredibly well and we just had a meeting with some of the staff. John stated they are here for one reason and one reason only, public education. The three goals of the organization are to improve health outcomes for all the staff and their loved ones, redirect resources to school district budgets and importantly put money back in teachers and staff members pockets. Bridged is an entirely different entity then you have probably come to know in health insurance today. The partners that we have selected, the strategies that we are deploying on behalf of public education are almost the antithesis of what you find in the marketplace today and that is one of the big benefits that we can provide to public schools. Since launching cost proposals back in September of this year we have been going around the state. Since last March we have driven 29,000 miles across the state, visited more than 300 schools and we have put together a structure for this new organization unlike anything that has been done in Montana. All this is based on the feedback from schools, which our entire organization is driven by schools. We have to earn signed commitments from at least 150 school districts across the state covering 12,00 employees. Once that is done then we have the opportunity to take advantage of the \$40 million incentive payment from the Legislature. Jed Wagner went over cost proposals and they have delivered a 2.9% decrease and added an additional plan. Every plan they offered which is four now instead of three had a significantly better benefit. The \$6900 deductible is nothing they offer; the lowest cost benefit would be \$5000. That means for a single employee a \$1900 swing in deductible and for a family \$3800. \$5 co-pay for a mental health visit, but this does not work for high deductible plans as they are not allowed to have co-pays; they will have access to zero-dollar telehealth visits. Trustee Kujawa asked what Bridged is doing with retirees and if the plan is composite or tiered. Bridged is not changing how you approach retirees. You can vote on composite or tiered rates as we can administer both. Trustee Billteen asked if there was a deadline to access the \$40 million, where do we need to be at to be prepared for the next session? John Doran explained the next steps the teachers will visit with themselves, Lindsay Kambich, who is working really hard, will put it out to vote. We are asking for a commitment by December 19th. We can access the \$40 million upon validation. John Doran explained how they operate and that they will have 11 representatives, which have to be members of participating school districts and participating district elect board. Superintendent Jonart asked about the process of state licensing. John explained they have partnered with Allegiance Benefit Plan Management out of Missoula and they have 100% of the hospitals in the network and 97% of all physicians. All hospitals they are

having discussions with are very favorable and want to see them validate and get the contracts negotiated.

Item 4.3 – Recognition of the Community Action Team Food Drive

Judy Jonart, Superintendent wanted to recognize the Community Action Team, Mr. Jim O'Neill and his committee, Chief Executive Gallagher, Bill Melvin at the Civic Center, Father Baretta and the volunteers all of whom were instrumental and worked really hard to get food to the food bank and help the families who are really struggling. Judy stated 1 out of 4 Montanan's that are food deprived are kids, which really impacts our students. Judy stated how much she appreciates everyone's effort in providing food to our community and kids.

Item 4.4 – Recognition of Sunrise Kiwanis

Judy Jonart, Superintendent wanted to recognize Todd Case and the Sunrise Kiwanis as they purchased 1800 lbs. of potatoes in 5 lb. bags. This was about 356 bags that were delivered to Kennedy, West and Emerson last week during parent teacher conferences. Judy stated she cannot thank Todd and the Kiwanis Club for doing this as it was awesome.

Item 4.5 – Recognition of the Butte High Student Council Food Drive

Judy Jonart, Superintendent wanted to recognize the Butte High School Student Council Food Drive that is led by Kotie Dunmire and her group at Butte High School. Every Thanksgiving they do a food drive and the last couple of years they have partnered with the Thompson Food Drive. This significantly helps add more food to the food bank and they have been phenomenal having all our schools participate. Judy said this is huge and they do it year after year and she wants to make sure everyone knows how much she appreciates it and how much the community appreciate our schools and student council at Butte High.

Item 4.6 – Election Update

Kevin Patrick, Business Director, stated there have been some changes last Legislative Session in election laws. Kevin stated he has a resolution on tonight's agenda that we usually do in February, but it is now required that we do it 145 days before the election, which would put us at December 11th. From December 11th through February 9th is when Trustee candidates can file for election. Another important date is February 24th, that is 70 days before the election so at that point the resolution we have on the agenda for approval we could amend that motion if we would like. March 26th is the date we would be certifying ballots, so the Trustees at that time would pass a resolution stating the exact levy amounts. May 5th is Election Day. The three Trustees who can run again are Ann Boston, Tom Billteen and Patti Hepola.

Item 4.7 – Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

None.

CONSENT AGENDA**Item 5.1 – Approval of Claims, Budget Transfers, Revenue Reports, Budget vs. Actual Reports, Travel Requests and School Activity Fund Reports (August 2025 & September 2025)**

Please transfer from the funds listed below into the			
10/31/2025 PAYROLL CLEARING FUND			
Account	Description	Transfers Debit	Credit
7761.000.2120.30.000	101 - ELEM GENERAL FUND	\$1,717,371.95	
7761.000.2120.30.000	110 - ELEM TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$93,560.04	
7761.000.2120.30.000	112 - SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE FUND	\$102,151.49	
7761.000.2120.30.000	113 - ELEM TUITION FUND	\$26,624.05	
7761.000.2120.30.000	114 - ELEM RETIREMENT FUND	\$285,181.84	
7761.000.2120.30.000	117 - ELEM ADULT EDUCATION FUND	\$6,342.09	
7761.000.2120.30.000	119 - MEDICAID	\$28,075.51	
7761.000.2120.30.000	121 - ELEM SICK	\$52.26	
7761.000.2120.30.000	123 - FLEX PLAN DISBURSEMENT/REIMBURSEMENT	\$500.00	
7761.000.2120.30.000	124 - ELEM METAL MINES	\$11,771.69	
7761.000.2120.30.000	131 - TITLE I	\$49,638.45	
7761.000.2120.30.000	141 - TITLE IV, PART A	\$17,322.03	
7761.000.2120.30.000	144 - SCHOOLWIDE	\$36,696.02	
7761.000.2120.30.000	149 - RSVP	\$6,811.97	
7761.000.2120.30.000	153 - IDEA B 47-0840-7711	\$125,596.78	
7761.000.2120.30.000	155 - IDEA PRESCHOOL	\$6,096.66	
7761.000.2120.30.000	162 - 21ST CENTURY	\$1,290.04	
7761.000.2120.30.000	165 - FACILITY USE ELEMENTARY	\$647.91	
7761.000.2120.30.000	189 - COBRA	\$5,352.64	
7761.000.2120.30.000	186 - PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT		\$2,521,083.42
7761.000.2120.30.000	201 - H S GENERAL FUND	\$905,377.89	
7761.000.2120.30.000	210 - H S TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$48,714.40	
7761.000.2120.30.000	213 - HS TUITION	\$27,797.73	
7761.000.2120.30.000	214 - H S RETIREMENT FUND	\$152,548.49	
7761.000.2120.30.000	217 - H S ADULT EDUCATION FUND	\$7,609.36	
7761.000.2120.30.000	221 - HS SICK LEAVE RESERVE	\$0.16	
7761.000.2120.30.000	224 - HS METAL MINE RESERVE	\$28,462.83	
7761.000.2120.30.000	225 - AGGREGATE-INDIRECT COSTS	\$20,581.83	
7761.000.2120.30.000	231 - TITLE I	\$23,974.43	
7761.000.2120.30.000	238 - GRADUATION COACH	\$5,502.75	
7761.000.2120.30.000	241 - TITLE II	\$9,726.21	
7761.000.2120.30.000	248 - ADULT BASIC ED (ABLE)	\$5,766.73	
7761.000.2120.30.000	265 - FACILITY US H.S.	\$398.97	
7761.000.2120.30.000	275 - ACTIVITY BUS SERVICE FUND	\$18,039.70	
7761.000.2120.30.000	282 - INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FUND	\$26,564.75	
7761.000.2120.30.000	284 - HS COCURRICULAR	\$5,909.55	
7761.000.2120.30.000	186 - PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT		\$1,286,975.78

[illegible]

- **Student Activity Fund Report from Butte High School (September 2025)**
- **Student Activity Fund Report from East Middle School (September 2025)**

Trustee Kujawa made motion to approve, second by Trustee Hepola. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Billteen made a motion to amend the agenda to move 7.7 to the current action prior to the personnel report. Trustee Hepola seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.7 – Approval to Hire a Certified Teacher

Judy Jonart, Superintendent is requesting approval to hire a certified teacher for long term leaves that we have coming up. This will be a temporary teacher position.

Trustee Hepola made motion to approve, second by Trustee Klobucar. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

Item 6.1 – Approval of PAR I, November 17, 2025

Karen Alley, Human Resource Director, presented the following PAR I for approval.

Butte School District No. 1 Personnel Action Report I Regular Board Meeting November 17, 2025

Certified

Personnel

**Pending a successful background check.*

Appointment:

Bethanney Foley	12/1/2025	Teacher, District
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Retirement:

Tamara Campbell	6/8/2026	1st Grade Teacher, Kennedy
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Classified

Personnel

Appointment:

Alycia Buerger	11/18/2025	Food Service, BHS
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Kaylee Casebolt*	11/18/2025	Substitute Cleaner, District
Jordan Clairmont	12/1/2025	Cleaner, District
Thomas Davis	11/18/2025	Substitute Engineer, District
Jenel Recore	11/18/2025	Food Service, Kennedy
Christopher Simon*	11/18/2025	Substitute Cleaner, District
Melissa Vann	11/18/2025	Food Service, West
Elizabeth Walsh*	12/1/2025	Secretary, Kennedy

Retirement:

Margaret McHugh	12/31/2025	Playground Monitor, District
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Resignation:

Jordan Clairmont	11/30/2025	Substitute Cleaner, District
Ashlee Hanson	11/4/2025	Substitute Monitor, District
Patrick O'Brien	11/7/2025	Mechanic, District
Jaylynn St. Pierre	10/21/2025	Food Service, District

Supplemental Personnel**Appointment:**

Amoreena Bercier	11/18/2025	Substitute Teacher, District
Casey Briggs	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, West
Taryn Calderon*	11/18/2025	Substitute Teacher, District
William Callaghan*	11/18/2025	Substitute Teacher, District
Kaedon Caprara	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, West
Kody Carver	11/11/25-6/8/26	Volunteer Coach, EMS
Amy Clary	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Hillcrest
Mark Dennehy	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Marg. Leary
Robert Edwards	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, West
Shaela Evenson	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Emerson
Chad Godbout	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Hillcrest
Megan Graham	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Hillcrest
Joshua Huckleby	11/20/25-2/14/26	Volunteer Swim Coach, BHS
		Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Margaret Leary
Mark Killoy	11/12/25-1/15/26	
Kenley Leary	11/20/25-3/14/26	Volunteer Basketball Coach, BHS
Nichole O'Neill	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Emerson
Kaitlyn Simpson	11/20/25-3/14/26	Volunteer Girls' Basketball Coach, BHS
Hallieann Thompson*	11/18/2025	Substitute Teacher, District
Josh Wold	11/12/25-1/15/26	Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, Whittier

Resignation:

Andrew Huckleby	10/22/2025	Substitute Teacher, District
Onna Maesar	10/20/2025	Substitute Teacher, District

Katie Merrifield	11/3/2025	Volleyball Coach, EMS
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Inactive Removal:

Shelby Philipps	10/28/2025	IT Intern, District
Tracy Simon	10/28/2025	Event Worker, District

Trustee Kujawa made motion to approve, second by Trustee Billteen. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6.2 – Approval of PAR II, November 17, 2025

Karen Alley, Human Resource Director, presented the following PAR II for approval.

**Butte School District No. 1
Personnel Action Report II
Regular Board Meeting November 17, 2025**

Classified Personnel**Termination:**

Eric Lane	11/17/2025	Cleaner, EMS
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Trustee Kujawa made motion to approve, second by Trustee Milodragovich. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**Item 7.1 – 2nd Reading and Approval – Policy 1009FE-Recruitment and Retention**

Judy Jonart, Superintendent is requesting approval of policy 1009 FE as presented last month.

Trustee Billteen made motion to approve, second by Trustee Klobucar. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.2 – 2nd Reading and Approval - Policy 2334 - Release Time for Religious Instruction

Judy Jonart, Superintendent is requesting approval of policy 2334 as presented last month.

Trustee Hepola made motion to approve, second by Trustee Milodragovich. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.3 – 2nd Reading and Approval - Policy 3141 - Nonresident Student Enrollment/3141F-1 Application for Out of District Attendance/3141F-2 Out of District Attendance Agreement/3141F-3 Foster and Group Home Student Attendance

Judy Jonart, Superintendent is requesting approval of policy 3141, and forms 3141F-1, 3141F-2 and 3141F-3 as presented last month.

Trustee Hepola made motion to approve, second by Trustee Milodragovich. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.4 – 2nd Reading and Approval - Policy 3612 - District -Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, Equipment, and Networks/3612P District -Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, Equipment, and Networks/3612F Internet Access and Equipment Use Conduct Agreement

Judy Jonart, Superintendent is requesting approval of policy 3612, 3612P and 3612F, as presented last month.

Trustee Milodragovich motion to approve, second by Trustee Kujawa. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.5 – 2nd Reading and Approval – Policy 3650 – Pupil Online Personal Information Protection

Judy Jonart, Superintendent is requesting approval of policy 3650 as presented last month.

Trustee Kujawa motion to approve, second by Trustee Klobucar. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.6 – Approval of the Contract with the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

Judy Jonart, Superintendent is requesting approval of the contract with the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. This contract will allow the Deaf and Blind School to provide support for our blind students.

Trustee Billteen made motion to approve, second by Trustee Hepola. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.8 – Approval of the Elementary and High School Election Resolutions

Kevin Patrick is requesting approval of the Butte Elementary Resolution calling for an election and the Butte High Resolution calling for an election. Both resolutions will call for a mail ballot, the elementary will call to elect 3 Trustees for a three-year term and then also approval of additional levies to operate and maintain the general fund for FY27. Student safety and Security Building Reserve Fund and the Technology Fund will also be requested. There are no Trustee positions open at the high school. Kevin stated as far as the resolution goes, we have to list them all, but he stated that he is not necessarily going to go to the voters, that can be decided at a later date. We just need to list them so we have the option to do that.

Trustee Kujawa made motion to approve, second by Trustee Hepola. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.9 – Approval of the Contract with the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Home Support Services

Melissa Johnson, Director/Principal of the Butte Pathway Academy is requesting approval of the contract with the YBGR, which she is bringing back due to some changes in funding. During COVID they increased the rate of Medicaid so there was a match for services. They now lowered the rate so this will cost the District money, not sure how much. We are bringing the CSCT contract again as they will do their own billing like AWARE does under their contract and they will be responsible for all those services. We did have to adjust a little because it is not under school based anymore and so they will have to do some home support or some more parent involvement in these services. We are going to work with the schools on this adjustment at a slow rate, but enough so that these kids do not just get dropped, which is our concern.

Trustee Hepola made motion to approve, second by Trustee Klobucar. Motion carried unanimously.

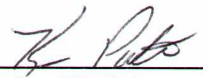
Item 7.10 – Approval of the Native American Student Club

Travis Johnson, Athletic Director, is requesting approval to add a new club at Butte High School, the Native American Student Club. Colleen Fogarty volunteered to be the club advisor.

Trustee Kujawa made motion to approve, second by Trustee Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Hepola moved to adjourn, second by Trustee Kujawa. Motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Boston adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.



 District Clerk/
 mke



 Chairwoman of Board of Trustees