

**BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 20, 2026**

The Board of Trustees held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday April 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the East Middle School Library with Chairperson Ann Boston presiding. Trustees present were Tom Billteen, Patti Hepola, Henry Klobucar, Mike Kujawa Kelly Lee and Kathy Milodragovich. Trustee Thatcher was absent. Also present were Judy Jonart, 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 – Special Board Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2026

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

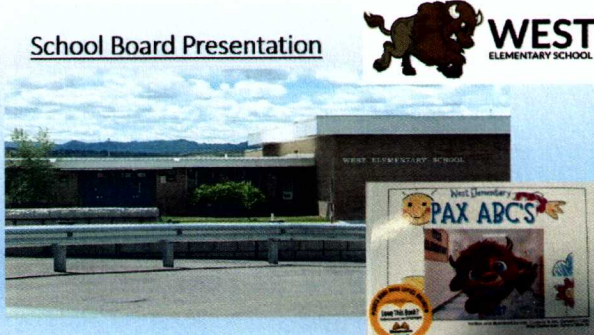

Item 3.2 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2026

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Item 4.1 – West Elementary School Presentation

Eric Zahler, West Elementary Principal, went over her presentation with the Board of Trustees:

<p><u>School Board Presentation</u></p> 	<p><u>Let's Celebrate Reading Gains!</u> <u>Dibels DATA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten through 2nd grade were 66% proficient in the Fall, and we can't wait to see how much they have progressed when we complete our Spring Dibels assessments. • West's 3rd through 6th grades are at 76% proficient. • The 6th graders are leading the Buffalo stampede with 89% proficient. 
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West Student Activities (**Looking Ahead**)

- Young Athletes - April 22nd
- County Hall of Fame Championship - May 7th
- Elementary Track Meet - May 13th
- Little Feet Track Meet - May 27th
- End of the Year Carnival - June 1st
- 6th Grade Graduation - June 5 @ 9:00am
- Pre-K Graduation - June 5th @ 10:30am

Item 4.2 – Highland Meadows Residential Subdivision

Judy Jonart, Superintendent stated she was approached by WET Technologies to write a letter to the Butte Silver Bow Planning Department regarding the Highland Meadows residential subdivision, which is planned for right across the street from Margaret Leary on the south side off of Four Mile Road. There will only be access from Warren Ave., so there will not be a large amount of traffic in front of the school during the school year. This has not been approved but is going to the planning board. In order to do that they need a letter from the Butte School District to confirm that our schools have the capacity to serve additional students.

Item 4.3 – Election Update

Kevin Patrick, Business Director, updated the Board regarding the election stating the ballots have been delivered to the Post Office, they will go to Billings and then hopefully will be delivered on Wednesday. Kevin wanted to publicly thank Cindy Sherman and her staff at the County for all their help. It is a big lift for the District to get those ballots stuffed and mailed out and we appreciate all the help.

Item 4.4 – 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 (February 2026 & March 2026)

Date	Memo	Reference	Bank Account	
	Please transfer from the funds listed below into the			
	3/31/2026 PAYROLL CLEARING FUND	Transfers		
Account	Description	Debit	Credit	
7761.000.2120.30.000	101 - ELEM GENERAL FUND	\$1,691,935.82		
7761.000.2120.30.000	110 - ELEM TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$81,073.90		
7761.000.2120.30.000	112 - SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE FUND	\$84,357.41		
7761.000.2120.30.000	113 - ELEM TUITION FUND	\$36,101.72		
7761.000.2120.30.000	114 - ELEM RETIREMENT FUND	\$280,996.68		
7761.000.2120.30.000	117 - ELEM ADULT EDUCATION FUND	\$7,472.59		
7761.000.2120.30.000	119 - MEDICAID	\$29,363.94		
7761.000.2120.30.000	121 - ELEM SICK LEAVE RESERVE	\$2,017.91		
7761.000.2120.30.000	124 - ELEM METAL MINES	\$27,300.81		
7761.000.2120.30.000	131 - TITLE I	\$49,440.65		
7761.000.2120.30.000	141 - TITLE IV, PART A	\$18,169.26		
7761.000.2120.30.000	142 - TITLE VA,SSAE	\$887.62		
7761.000.2120.30.000	144 - SCHOOLWIDE	\$37,647.98		
7761.000.2120.30.000	149 - RSVP	\$6,811.29		
7761.000.2120.30.000	153 - IDEA B 47-0840-7711	\$87,729.92		
7761.000.2120.30.000	155 - IDEA PRESCHOOL	\$2,773.61		
7761.000.2120.30.000	162 - 21ST CENTURY	\$12,125.86		
7761.000.2120.30.000	165 - FACILITY USE	\$2,831.64		
7761.000.2120.30.000	189 - COBRA	\$4,419.75		
7761.000.2120.30.000	186 - PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT		\$2,463,458.36	
7761.000.2120.30.000	201 - H S GENERAL FUND	\$905,629.62		
7761.000.2120.30.000	210 - H S TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$42,341.33		
7761.000.2120.30.000	213 - HS TUITION	\$35,342.58		
7761.000.2120.30.000	214 - H S RETIREMENT FUND	\$339,189.20		
7761.000.2120.30.000	217 - H S ADULT EDUCATION FUND	\$8,549.27		
7761.000.2120.30.000	224 - HS METAL MINE RESERVE	\$22,908.96		
7761.000.2120.30.000	225 - AGGREGATE-INDIRECT COSTS	\$18,576.69		
7761.000.2120.30.000	231 - TITLE I	\$24,040.87		
7761.000.2120.30.000	238 - GRADUATION COACH	\$5,731.86		
7761.000.2120.30.000	241 - TITLE II	\$9,963.37		
7761.000.2120.30.000	248 - ADULT BASIC ED (ABLE)	\$4,016.16		
7761.000.2120.30.000	253 - IDEA B	\$9,427.50		
7761.000.2120.30.000	265 - FACILITY US H.S.	\$1,625.36		
7761.000.2120.30.000	268 - MT DIGITAL ACADEMY	\$2.36		
7761.000.2120.30.000	275 - ACTMITY BUS SERVICE FUND	\$11,067.68		
7761.000.2120.30.000	282 - INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FUND	\$3,625.84		
7761.000.2120.30.000	284 - HS COCURRICULAR	\$1,955.09		
7761.000.2120.30.000	186 - PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT		\$1,443,993.74	
	Please transfer from the funds listed below into the			
	3/31/2026 CLAIMS CLEARING FUND	Transfers		
Account	Description	Debit	Credit	
7761.000.2120.30.000	101 - ELEMENTARY GENERAL FUND	142,755.16		
7761.000.2120.30.000	110 - ELEMENTARY TRANSPORTATION FUND	19,292.90		
7761.000.2120.30.000	112 - SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE FUND	136,165.08		
7761.000.2120.30.000	113 - ELEM TUITION	400.00		
7761.000.2120.30.000	117 - ELEM ADULT EDUCATION FUND	75.76		
7761.000.2120.30.000	119 - MEDICAID	5,026.65		
7761.000.2120.30.000	128 - ELEM TECHNOLOGY FUND	7,008.51		
7761.000.2120.30.000	131 - TITLE IA	2,955.52		
7761.000.2120.30.000	138 - CSCT	7,746.02		
7761.000.2120.30.000	143 - RSVP GRT LOCAL FUNDS	100.70		
7761.000.2120.30.000	149 - RSVP	5,485.68		
7761.000.2120.30.000	151 - MT READS	25,198.01		
7761.000.2120.30.000	153 - IDEA B 47-0840-7711	5,291.10		
7761.000.2120.30.000	154 - SPECIAL OLYMPICS	450.00		
7761.000.2120.30.000	177 - VOC-REHAP REIMBURSEMENT	273.90		
7761.000.2120.30.000	184 - ELEM CO-CURR ACTIVITY FUND	4,454.00		
7761.000.2120.30.000	187 - CLAIMS CLEARING ACCOUNT		362,678.99	
7761.000.2120.30.000	201 - HIGH SCHOOL GENERAL FUND	148,047.58		
7761.000.2120.30.000	210 - H S TRANSPORTATION FUND	9,504.46		
7761.000.2120.30.000	213 - H S TUITION FUND	240.00		
7761.000.2120.30.000	228 - H.S. TECHNOLOGY	550.56		
7761.000.2120.30.000	229 - FLEXIBILITY FUND	1,750.00		
7761.000.2120.30.000	230 - HOME ECONOMICS	2,190.42		
7761.000.2120.30.000	231 - TITLE IA	1,455.70		
7761.000.2120.30.000	233 - TECH ED	922.55		
7761.000.2120.30.000	245 - CARL PERKINS 47-1212-8111	4,380.35		
7761.000.2120.30.000	248 - ADULT BASIC ED	478.66		
7761.000.2120.30.000	255 - HEALTH OCCUPATIONS	3,406.04		
7761.000.2120.30.000	261 - H.S. BUILDING RESERVE FUND	6,056.25		
7761.000.2120.30.000	264 - TRACK FACILITY	65,423.00		
7761.000.2120.30.000	268 - MT DIGITAL ACADEMY	1,024.00		
7761.000.2120.30.000	270 - JOBS FOR MONTANA GRADUATES (JMG)	231.80		
7761.000.2120.30.000	271 - MCKINNEY VENTO GRANT	8,249.50		
7761.000.2120.30.000	275 - ACTIVITY BUS SERVICE FUND	790.25		
7761.000.2120.30.000	284 - CO-CURR ACTIVITIES FUND	90,988.07		
7761.000.2120.30.000	187 - CLAIMS CLEARING ACCOUNT		345,689.19	

DATE:	4/10/2026	
LETTER:	#3	
RE:	ADJUSTING JOURNAL ENTRIES RECAP March 2026	
TO:	Brandy Garner Treasurer's Office Butte-Silver Bow County	
FROM:	Kevin Patrick Director of Business Affairs	
<u>PUT INTO THESE FUNDS:</u>		
101	Elem General	\$ 10,961.88
110	Elem Transportation	\$ 8,938.49
112	Food Services	\$ 1,098.84
114	Elem Retirement	\$ 474.59
149	RSVP	\$ 2,114.44
210	HS Transportation	\$ 4,402.55
275	Activity Bus Service	\$ 45,562.66
TOTAL		\$ 73,553.45
<u>TAKE FROM THESE FUNDS:</u>		
131	Title IA	\$ 0.01
134	Indian Ed	\$ 3,737.70
135	Bus Barn UST Release	\$ 13,671.17
143	RSVP Local	\$ 2,114.44
154	Special Olympics	\$ 280.00
201	HS General	\$ 10,479.54
248	Adult Basid Ed	\$ 333.08
284	Co-Curricular	\$ 41,823.23
999	Warehouse	\$ 1,114.28
TOTAL		\$ 73,553.45

NOTE: A complete and detailed listing of the Payroll and Claims Warrants, Budget Transfers and Revenue Reports is on file in the Clerk's Office and by the reference is made part of these minutes.

- **Student Activity Fund Report from Butte High School (March 2026)**
- **Student Activity Fund Report from East Middle School (March 2026)**

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

PERSONNEL

Item 6.1 – Approval of the PAR, April 20, 2026

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

**Butte School District No. 1
Personnel Action Report
Regular Board Meeting April 20, 2026**

Certified Personnel

*Pending Paperwork and Background Check

Appointments:

Denise Bordeleau	5/15/26-8/1/26	Drivers' Education Instructor, District
Milo Coladonato	5/15/26-8/1/26	Drivers' Education Instructor, District
Patty Sayler	5/15/26-8/1/26	Drivers' Education Instructor, District

John Stenson	5/15/26-8/1/26	Drivers' Education Instructor, District
Eric Zahler	7/1/2026	Assistant Principal of Academics, BHS

Resignation:

Emily Buschini	6/8/2026	5th Grade, Emerson
Alex Carey	6/8/2026	Math Teacher, BHS
Melissa Johnson	6/30/2026	Principal, Pathways Academy
Jennifer Luoma	6/30/2026	Principal, Margaret Leary
Eric Zahler	6/30/2026	Principal, West

Retirement:

Joana Benach Salas	6/10/2027	Spanish Teacher, BHS
Mike Kenison	6/10/2027	Industrial Arts Teacher, EMS

Leaves of Absence:

Keeley Pochervina	9/2/26-10/1/26	Early Literacy Teacher, West
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Classified Personnel**Appointments:**

Winter Muramoto	4/21/2026	Substitute Student Cleaner, District
Frank Schmidmeister	4/21/2026	Substitute Cleaner, District
Roy Wiedenmeyer*	5/4/2026	Cleaner, Whittier

Resignations:

Jack Luoma	4/15/2026	Substitute Engineer, District
Tina Radcliffe	4/10/2026	Food Service, EMS
Frank Schmidmeister	4/7/2026	Cleaner, Whittier
Christin Vetter	5/7/2026	Attendance Secretary, BHS

Retirement:

Deloris "Sue" Gustavsen	6/5/2026	Bus Driver, District
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Removal:

Phillip Cotton	4/21/2026	Substitute Bus Driver, District
Heather Johnson	4/21/2026	Substitute Food Service, District

Supplemental Personnel**Appointments:**

Kaitlyn Becker	3/18/26-5/30/26	Volunteer Softball Coach, BHS
Ethan Cunningham	3/26/26-5/30/26	Volunteer Baseball Coach, BHS

Resignation:

Timothy Amundson	4/13/2026	Substitute Teacher, District
Jack Luoma	4/15/2026	Event Worker, District
Jenna Maroney	4/7/2026	Substitute Teacher, District

Rochelle Ryan	6/8/2026	Student Council Advisor, EMS
Eddy Stewart	3/24/2026	Assistant Basketball Coach, BHS
Cathleen Templeton	3/23/2026	Substitute Teacher, District

Removal:

Jacqueline Morrow	4/21/2026	Substitute Teacher, District
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Trustee Billteen made motion to approve, second by Trustee Kujawa. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6.2 – Approval of the 2026-2027 Staffing Projection

Karen Alley, Human Resource Director, is requesting approval of the following 2026-2027 staffing projection for approval.

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

Item 6.3 – Approval of the Adult Community Education Supervisor Contract

Karen Alley, Human Resource Director, is requesting approval of the Adult Community Education Supervisor Contract.

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

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**Item 7.1 – Approval of the Montana School Board Association Membership Dues for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Judy Jonart, Superintendent, is requesting approval of the Montana School Board Association Membership dues for the cost of \$21,164 for the 2026-2027 school year. Judy stated this is about a 3% increase and as noted in the handouts that Trustee Billteen has provided showing the programs, professional development and legislative work they provide on behalf of the School District.

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

Item 7.2 – 2nd Reading and Approval of Policies 5303P/5303/F1-F5 Staff Evaluation and 5304P Evaluation of Non-Tenured Certified Staff

Keith Miller, Assistant Superintendent, is requesting approval of policies 5303P, 5303F1-F-5 and 5304P as presented last month.

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

Item 7.3 – Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit Report

Kevin Patrick, Business Director, is requesting approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit Report. Kevin stated the District received an unmodified opinion, which is a clean opinion. Judy Jonart thanked Mr. Patrick and his entire staff for their wonderful audit and their due diligence.

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

Item 7.4 – Approval to Adopt the New K-5 Core Reading Curriculum using the Multi-District Agreement

Judy Jonart, Superintendent, is requesting to approve and utilize the multi-district agreement funds to support the purchase of the K-5 reading program explaining that this would be a five-year adoption for the overall cost of the textbooks. Judy stated they would also use approximately \$200,000 of the Montana Reads Grant money and approximately \$400,000 from the multi-district agreement to purchase the K-5 literacy textbook from Open Court. Judy stated she and Mr. Ricketts went through the adoption process of choosing the textbooks they would use, so it has been a huge vetting process. Judy stated they also received approval from the Montana Reads director making sure their choice was going to be evidenced based and be compliant with the science of reading criteria that is needed for the textbooks. Ron Ricketts went over the checklist of requirements from the Montana Reads Grant that is needed to complete the reviewing of curriculum. Ron explained that the program will come with training and that the selection committee who helped put this all together will get trained before the teachers do in August. All materials and training guides will be sent to all the teachers before they leave for summer break. Ron stated is that some of this new program includes some of the programs we use with reading mastery as tier 2, tier 3 intervention and corrective reading for the tier 3. The whole package will include tier 1, 2 and 3 materials for five years. The negotiation with the vendor McGraw Hill in doing a five-year package saved us almost \$1.4 million as it would have been closer to \$2 million doing it one year at a time.

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

Item 7.5 – Approval to Advertise and Hire Instructors for the 2026-2027 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Summer Jumpstart Program

Ron Ricketts, Curriculum Director, is requesting approval to advertise and hire instructors for the 2026-2027 Early Literacy Jumpstart summer program that will start June 15th through August 4th and will go Monday through Thursday for four hours a day. Ron is requesting to hire two kindergarten, two first grade, two second grade and two third grade early interventionists. These students must be screened and found to be delinquent in one or more literacy skills to participate in the program.

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

Item 7.6 – Approval of the Partnership Memorandum of Understanding between Butte School District #1 and Western Governors University

Ron Ricketts, Curriculum Director, is requesting approval of the MOU with Western Governors University to allow the District to enter into an agreement to host student teachers in our District. This year they have requested one student teacher for our District in art.

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

Item 7.7 – Approval to Advertise and Hire for High School Credit Recovery

Melissa Johnson, Principal of the Butte Pathway Academy/Director Adult Basic Ed., is requesting approval to advertise and hire four summers school positions in English and Math. Each teacher will work 45 hours to get to the 90 accredited hours for each subject area.

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

Item 7.8 – Approval to Advertise and Hire for the Pathway Summer Program

Melissa Johnson, Principal of the Butte Pathway Academy/Director Adult Basic Ed., is requesting approval to hire three teachers to run the first ever Pathways elective work community-based summer program. Students will earn 60 hours of community or work-based learning and 12 hours of classroom services to earn the elective semester credit for the summer. Students will need to be enrolled at the Pathway Academy to receive the credit.

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

Item 7.9 – Approval to Advertise and Hire for One (1) Adult Basic Education Teacher for Summer School

Melissa Johnson, Principal of the Butte Pathway Academy/Director Adult Basic Ed., is requesting approval to advertise and hire one adult basic education teacher for summer school. The teacher will work 16 hours a week through the month of June to get them through the fiscal year with the Department of Labor. They can work some mornings or afternoons to meet our community's needs to provide the services through June to earn their high set or different work-based learning opportunities. The teacher must be TABE certified to teach through the grant.

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

Item 7.10 – Approval of the Sponsor to School Food Service Agreement for Butte Central Elementary 2026-2027

Kurt Marthaller, Food Service Director, is requesting approval of the agreement for school nutrition services to provide meals, administrative services, and reimbursement claims for Butte Central for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Item 7.11 – Approval of the Sale of Existing Equipment in the Butte High School Weight Room

Jeremey Whitlock, Transportation, Building and Maintenance Director, is requesting approval for the sale of the existing weight room equipment at Butte High School, which is being replaced by the generous donation by the Butte High Athletic Council.

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

Item 7.12 – Approval of the Renaming of the Butte High School Weight Room

Travis Johnson, Athletic Director, is requesting approval to name the weight room the Colt Anderson Strength and Conditioning Center. The renaming will take place this year during the Dream Big Camp.

Trustee Hepola made motion to approve, second by Trustee Kujawa. 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 5:51 p.m.



 District Clerk/
 mke



 Chairwoman of Board of Trustees