

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 6, 2026

The Beaverhead County High School Board of Trustees met in regular session on May 6, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the High School, room 106. In attendance were Cole Cottom, Roxanne Engellant, Gary Love, Mike Richardson, Chris Rieber, Lori Smith and Phil Willett. Also in attendance were Superintendent Josh Patterson, Assistant Principal Rob Hankins, Activities Director Brock Myllymaki and District Clerk Susanne Valach. A quorum was determined as being present.

Chairman Love called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mike Miller led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Their first order of business was to reorganize the board. Superintendent Patterson said our expectations for the coming year are to continue the progress and items we've been working on during this current year. We would like to increase the graduation rate and make sure every student is college or career ready and prepared for whatever path they choose. Additionally, we have projects to finish, such as the ASIT building.

Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller swore in Cole Cottom (District 7), Roxanne Engellant (District 10) and Phil Willett (District 10) who were elected by acclamation.

Roxanne nominated Gary Love for chairman of the board. There were no other nominations. Mike seconded and it passed 6-0. Mike nominated Roxanne Engellant for vice-chair. There were no other nominations. Cole seconded and it passed 6-0.

Roxanne nominated Susanne Valach as District Clerk. There were no other nominations. Mike seconded and it passed 7-0. Mike Miller swore in Susanne as the District Clerk.

Mr. Hankins introduced the visitors: BCHS staff member Ellie Currey, BCHS coach Jess Henckel, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, Casey Elliott from the Dillon Tribune and community members Shannon Maness and Ryan Vega. Owner's Representative Dan McGee attended online.

BCHS bus driver Jean Bergeson arrived at 7:12 pm.

Phil moved to approve the minutes from the April 13 regular board meeting. Mike seconded and it passed 7-0.

Superintendent Patterson reviewed some of the claims. Roxanne moved to approve the claims totaling \$59,767.93. Chris seconded and the motion passed, 7-0.

For public comment, Gary read a letter from Lindsay Buhr thanking the teachers and staff for all they do for her son. Shannon Maness spoke about item 7.6, the required number of courses for part-time students. As a legislator, he is working on a draft on a bill where they would add a line to the existing MCA to add funding for schools at 1/8 of their schedule. As the legislature doesn't meet until January, he asked if the board would consider allowing part-time students to only take one class until that gets put into place. Jean Bergeson said it may have been relayed already but when they were in Great Falls for the state basketball tournament, they had to stay an extra night unexpectedly. Brock did an incredible job getting the hotel rooms back and coordinating between drivers, coaches, kids and parents.

Dan McGee has been in contact with Sean Scott from NCLOSE, the building envelope specialist. He is very detailed and very knowledgeable. Sean asked us to install three humidity sensors in the ASIT building, which has been done. They have talked about the three options for fixing the building and the one that was thrown out early (EIFS solution: exterior insulation with stucco finish) has been brought back to the table. Dan wasn't a big proponent of it at first but is leaning more towards it after learning more in the last week or so. He thinks it would solve more of our problems, as a better, longer-term solution. The facilities committee will meet on Thursday, May 14th at 4:00 to discuss things further.

For his Superintendent's report, Mr. Patterson went over the negotiation agreement with the BFT, accepted a letter of resignation from Jason Ferris as a football assistant coach and said the new activity bus has been put to use already. Additionally, he is proposing a transition to co-ed Health Enhancement courses. This would be for 2026-27 school year. Both PE teachers are on board and have previous experience teaching this at other districts.

Nicole Thuotte at OPI told Superintendent Patterson that students can take a minimum of 1.5 classes and the school can receive ANB funding. He also mentioned some flexibilities within our policies, which include MTDA and dual-enrollment classes, because they can be taken remotely. One drawback of MTDA is that they do cost the students money. Gary asked if we could allow what Shannon was asking the school to do and keep it at one class for the fall. Mr. Patterson said we have to follow our policy to protect ourselves and he thinks 1.5 classes is a good compromise.

Mr. Patterson also went over the second and final reading of policy 7220 Title I Supplement Supplant as well as his May schedule. Lastly, he mentioned the dueling piano fundraiser for the YMCA; they are selling tables for \$400 for 8 seats. It is Friday, May 15 and the board agreed to donate \$300. Roxanne donated \$50 on the board's behalf.

Mr. Hankins reported that attendance has been up. Today was community service day. In the past it has just been juniors and seniors but we did all students this year. Discipline has remained pretty constant – tardies, a few cell phones and some defiance. Additionally, Mr. Hankins said Graduation plans are all made. There are five valedictorians, one salutatorian and Andrew Zitzer will be the speaker. We also had the Honor Society induction ceremony this afternoon. About 25 new students were inducted and there are 50-60 total in the program.

Mr. Myllymaki said that the band and choir firetruck ride will be tomorrow at noon; he's very proud of what they have achieved this year. Tennis will head to the Divisional tournament May 19-21 in Ronan, state is in Hardin. Softball is currently in 4th and would have to travel for a state play-in game. Baseball is in 1st and will get a bye to state in Polson if they stay in first. Track will head to their Divisional tournament May 22-23 in Frenchtown, state is in Laurel.

Consent Agenda

Phil made a motion to move Chellie Matson from a Title Paraprofessional to a Title I certified Teacher for the 2026-27 school year. Roxanne seconded and it passed 7-0.

Roxanne made a motion to approve the list of bus drivers for the 2026-27 school year (Roy McQuiston, Kirk Bergeson, Craig Christopherson, John Briggs, Steve Scott, Jean Bergeson, Roy Sevalstad, Sherry Sanders, Kenny Smith, Rita Roder, John Campbell and Mark Boka). Lori seconded and it passed 7-0.

Lori made a motion to approve the list of fall and winter coaches as well as activity sponsors for the 2026-27 school year as presented in the board packets. Chris seconded and it passed 7-0.

Mike moved to approve Jessica Henckel as Head Girls Volleyball Coach for the 2026-27 school year. Phil seconded and it passed 7-0.

Phil moved to approve Casey Ebel as JV Girls Basketball Coach for the 2026-27 school year. Mike seconded and it passed 7-0.

Roxanne moved to approve the hire of returning summer maintenance workers Jackson Bergeson, Taylor Bergeson, Abigail Eason and Guy Holt. Mike seconded and it passed 7-0. Roxanne amended her motion to also hire the additional two summer workers based on Jack Bergeson's recommendation. Lori seconded and it passed 7-0.

Action Agenda

Table 11.1 ASIT building repair

Table 11.2 early graduation

Phil moved to approve a one-year contract with Pacific Source as our health insurance carrier for 2026-27. Cole seconded and it passed 7-0.

Roxanne made a motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Beaverhead Federation of Teachers (BFT). Mike seconded and it passed 7-0. On behalf of the board, Gary thanked Ms. Currey, the negotiating team and the entire group of teachers for the job they all do and how much the board appreciates working with them.

Chris moved to approve the Resolution for the County Election Administrator to conduct our school elections during the 2026-27 school year (in accordance with MCA 20-20-417). Mike seconded and it passed 7-0.

Lori made a motion to approve a new requirement for a minimum enrollment of 1.5 courses per school year for part-time students (in accordance with MCA 20-5-101 and 20-9-311). Cole seconded and it passed 7-0. Gary thanked Shannon for his work on this topic.

Roxanne made a motion to update the high school course offerings for 2026-27 by consolidating single-gender Health Enhancement courses into a unified co-educational format. Phil seconded and it passed 7-0.

Lori made a motion to allow the District Clerk to destroy any records that have met or exceeded the required retention period (in accordance with MCA 20-1-212). Cole seconded and it passed 7-0.

Mike made a motion to approve the 2nd Semester TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claim. Chris seconded and it passed 7-0.

Roxanne made a motion to approve a resolution to dispose of two travel buses (in accordance with MCA 20-6-604). Phil seconded and it passed 7-0.

Mike made a motion to approve adding Josh Patterson, the Superintendent/Principal, as an authorized user on the Southwest Montana Community Federal Credit Union account (formerly High Peaks Federal Credit Union). Cole seconded and it passed 7-0.

Chris made a motion to approve the second and final reading of policy 7220 (Title I Supplement Supplant). Cole seconded and it passed 7-0.

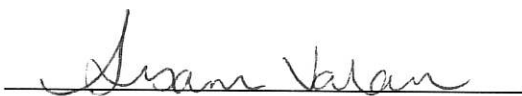
Table 12.1 Litigation Strategy

Gary thanked everyone for trusting him to be the chairman, this will be his 38th or 39th year. He also thanked Susanne as well as Cole, Roxanne and Phil for running again. The board agreed to not make any changes to their current committees.

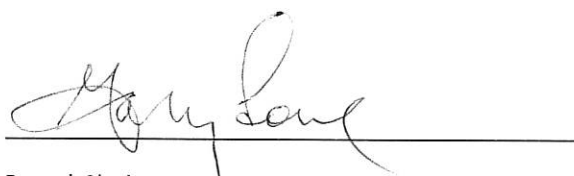
Jean did say that John Campbell is an amazing mechanic. She said he's incredible, knows more about those buses than anyone and he works his butt off.

The next board meeting will be Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Phil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. Mike seconded and it passed, 7-0.



Clerk



Board Chair