

Hot Springs School  
[School Board Meeting](#) Minutes  
11/13/2024  
7:00 PM

## Attendance


### Present:

Members: Gerald Chouinard, Jennifer Christensen, Mandie DePoe, Ricky DePoe, Lynette Ek, Carmen Jackson, Julie White

Justin Silva, Brady Ovitt, Allan Shafer, Tammy McAllister, Rena Hanson, and Michele Bangen

1. CALL TO ORDER (7:00 pm)
  - 1.1. Roll Call
  - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.3. Trustee Explanation of Procedures
  - 1.4. Public Participation  
None
  - 1.5. Correspondence  
None


## 2. Approve/Disapprove of Minutes

- 2.1. October 9 2024  
 [Minutes 10-9-24.pdf](#)

### Motion:

Move to approve the October 9, 2024, meetings as presented.

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Julie White.  
Passed

- 2.2. October 23, 2024  
 [Minutes 10-23-24.pdf](#)

### Motion:

Move to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2024, board meeting with the correction of removing Justin Salmi from the visitor list and adding Justin Silva.

Motion moved by Julie White and motion seconded by Mandie DePoe. Passed

### 3. Warrant's Report

#### 3.1. Approval of Claim Warrants

 [10-24 CLAIMS.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Move to approve the warrants for claim #20527-20583 (\$112,242.12) as presented.

Motion moved by Lynette Ek and motion seconded by Jennifer Christensen.  
Passed

#### 3.2. Approval of Payroll Warrants

 [11-7 PAYROLL.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Move to approve payroll ACH and warrants #43942-43955 (\$156,381.96) as presented

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Mandie DePoe.  
Passed

#### 3.3. Approval of Extracurricular Activity Checks

 [ACTIVITY 10-24.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Move to approve October activity checks and balances as presented.

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Julie White.  
Passed

### 4. Reports/Discussion/Information

#### 4.1. Maintenance Report (5 minute report)

- Multi-Purpose room HVAC system repair has been completed.
- Attended a Boiler Certification conference last week

#### 4.2. Superintendent Report (5 minute report)

 [11-13-2024-Superintendent's Report \(1\).pdf](#)

#### 4.3. Athletic Director Report (5 minute report)

 [November 13th 2024 Board Meeting.pdf](#)

4.4. Budget Review

 [CASH BALANCE REVIEW 10-24.pdf](#)

 [10-24 GF BUDGET.pdf](#)

 [2026 Preliminary Budget 11-24.pdf](#)

5. New Business

5.1. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Substitute & Volunteers, Pending Background Check

5.1.1. Volunteer Approval

5.1.1.1. Charlie Scott

5.1.1.2. Kandra Crane

**Motion:**

Mr. Choinard recommended the approval of Charlie Scott and Kandra Crane as volunteers for the 2024-25 school year. Move to approve Charlie Scott and Kandra Crane as volunteers for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Lynette Ek. Passed

5.1.2. Substitute Hire

5.1.2.1. Katelyn Christensen

**Motion:**

Mr. Choinard recommended the approval of Katelyn Christensen as a substitute for the 2024-25 school year. Move to approve Katelyn Christensen as substitute for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion moved by Julie White and motion seconded by Lynette Ek. Passed, Christensen Abstained

5.1.2.2. JoAnna Stover

5.1.2.3. Blayne Metz

**Motion:**

Mr. Choinard recommended the approval of JoAnna Stover and Blayne Metz as substitutes for the 2024-25 school year, pending the background check results. Move to approve JoAnna Stover,

and Blayne Metz as substitutes for the 2024-25 school year pending results of a background check.

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Julie White. Passed

5.2. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Bereavement Leave

 [Policy 5321 Leaves of Absence.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Mr. Chouinard requested bereavement leave for the previous week. Policy 5321 allows for up to five days to be granted to employees who have suffered a death in the immediate family.

Move to approve five days of bereavement leave to Mr. Chouinard.

Motion moved by Julie White and motion seconded by Mandie DePoe. Passed

5.3. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove 8th Grade participation in High School Basketball (Boys and Girls)

The request is based on expected high school basketball participation numbers for the 2025 season. The option will be offered to all 8th graders; it will be up to the individual athletes and their parents to decide whether to participate.

**Motion:**

Mr. Chouinard recommended the approval of 8th grade participation in boys and girls high school basketball. Move to approve 8th grade participation in boys and girls high school basketball.

Motion moved by Mandie DePoe and motion seconded by Jennifer Christensen. Passed

5.4. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Changes to Board Policy 1400

The proposed change to Board Policy 1400 is the location of board meetings. The meetings will now be held in the high school math room.

 [Draft -Policy 1400 Board Meetings.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Mr. Chouinard recommended the approval of the change of meeting location made to Board Policy 1400. Move to approve the change of meeting location to Board Policy 1400.

Motion moved by Jennifer Christensen and motion seconded by Lynette Ek.  
Passed

- 5.5. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Jesse Uski as the Assistant High School Wrestling Coach and Driver

**Motion:**

Mr. Chouinard recommended Jesse Uski as the Assistant High School Wrestling Coach and Driver for the 2025 season. Move to approve Jesse Uski as the Assistant High School Wrestling Coach and Driver for the 2025 season

Motion moved by Lynette Ek and motion seconded by Julie White. Passed

- 5.6. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Snow Plowing & Removal Bid

Bangen Fencing submitted a three-year bid for snow plowing and removal services. Chairman DePoe inquired about the length of the contract, expressing concerns over the rising cost of fuel and maintenance. Michele Bangen stated that Bangen Fencing has been providing snow removal services for the district over the past few years and would like some stability regarding the bid and the services they continue to provide the district. She expressed that this is a small community and several businesses have relatives on the board or working within the school system. Her concerns over having to go through the bidding process for every little job that needs to be done discourage businesses. Trustee Christensen stated that requesting the bid was exclusively for transparency purposes.

 [Snow Plow & Removal Bid #1.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Mr. Chouinard recommended accepting Bangen Fencing's three-year bid to provide snow plowing and removal services. Move to approve the bid.

Passed, White Abstained.

- 5.7. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove the 2026 Montana Advanced Opportunity Application

 [MTAOAppFY26\(2\).pdf](#)

 [FY26 MTAO Strategic Plan.pdf](#)

 [2024 MTAO Annual Report.pdf](#)

 [MTAO .pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Move to approve the 2026 Montana Advanced Opportunities Grant Application as presented.

Passed

6. Old Business

6.1. Recommend to Approve/Disapprove Second Reading of Board Policy

 [3101-Non-resident Acceptance Letter \(2\).pdf](#)

 [3100 - Non-Resident Acknowledgement Letter \(1\).pdf](#)

 [3102-Non-resident Denial Letter \(1\).pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Move to approve the second reading of Board Policies 3101, 3100, and 3102 as presented.

Passed

7. December Agenda Items

8. Adjourn

Adjourn 8:34 Ek/M DePoe