

THE MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of Bigfork Elementary School and Bigfork High School, District No 38, Flathead and Lake Counties, was called to order by Chairperson Sandry on January 15, 2025, at 4:02 pm in the high school library.

Trustees in attendance: Carol Field, Deb Johnson, Ben Woods, Paul Sandry, Dan Elwell, Zack Anderson and Julie Kreiman

Trustees absent: none

Also in attendance were Superintendent Tom Stack, Business Manager Lacey Porrovecchio, Principals Mark Hansen, Brenda Clarke and Charlie Appleby, Special Education/Activities Director Matt Porrovecchio, staff members and community members.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were no comments on non-agenda items.

Board Chair Sandry explained the union would have 15 minutes to present, public comments would be taken and limited to 3 minutes followed by board discussion.

BOARD WORKSHOP

A. Four Day School Week

Teachers Cynthia Wilondek, Amber Britt and James Meyers presented the advantages of a 4-day school week, including sample 4-day calendars and options for Flex Fridays.

Dawn May asked for clarification regarding Flex Fridays.

Bridget Martel expressed concerns for students if the district went to a 4-day school week.

Amy Frentzen said a 4-day school week would work for her family but had concerns for other children in the community.

Amber Britt said she had the same concerns and there are many solutions. She listed the number of schools systems in the state with 4-day school weeks.

Britt Carlson asked if lunch time could be extended with longer days and said longer days may be harder for some students.

Dan Lovell spoke against 4-day school weeks.

Whitne Doneen cited the University of Montana report showing lower academic achievement scores and higher costs in schools with 4-day school weeks.

Andrea Ross asked for clarification on Flex Fridays. Discussion followed.

Aubrie Kallenberger said elementary teachers are open to 4-day school weeks but worried about the intervention piece.

Shane McDonough said he used AI to summarize the studies on 4-day school weeks and it could be argued either way. He expressed his concerns with 4-day school weeks.

Principal Clarke said she is against 4-day school weeks because it is not in the best interest of students.

Principal Appleby listed pros and cons and said the middle school is in the middle.

BOARD WORKSHOP

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Principal Hansen thanked the teachers for their research and work. He listed pros and cons and said there are still things to figure out.

Board discussion followed in which it was determined there was not enough trustees support to continue looking into a 4-day school week.

At 4:59 pm Board Chair Sandry said a board workshop may be planned in the future to discuss the remaining agenda items.

B. Academic Nonprogress and Attendance K-12

C. Future of Bigfork School District

Adjourned: 4:59 pm

District Clerk

Chairperson