

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: President Cory Robinson, Zach Morphey-Rapp, Tyler Akins, Ashley Kucera, Ray Hauser, Elementary Principal Zach Hasselbrink, Secondary Principal, Clay Harrold, Superintendent Chris Petersen, and Board Secretary Julie McWhirter.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Atkinson, Yvette Clausen, Chris Clausen

- I. Call to Order:** President Robinson called the regular December meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda:** Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- III. Approval of Consent Items:** Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve the payment of bills totaling \$170,186.07 and minutes of the November 19, 2025 board meeting as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- IV. Correspondence:** None
- V. Public Forum:** Sue Atkinson shared a handout with board members and administration.
- VI. Business Items:**
 - A. Principals' Report:** Each month, principals, Zach Hasselbrink and Clay Harrold, share activities during the past month.
 - B. Board Member Resignation; Process to Fill Vacancy:** Board members accepted a resignation from fellow board member Ashley Kucera, due to a move out of the district. They discussed the two options for filling the vacancy, appointment and election. The board may appoint someone to fill the remainder of the term. District constituents may also bring forth to the board secretary, a petition with 183 district eligible petitioner signatures to warrant a special election within fourteen days of the publishing of the Public Notice, which will be published on Thursday, December 18 in the Jasper County Tribune.
 - C. Board Policy Conversion:** Akins moved, seconded by Morphey-Rapp, to approve the board policy coding changes to align with Iowa Association of School Board's policy coding, as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).
 - D. 2024-25 BCSD ISPP Report:** The Iowa School Performance Profiles were made public this week. Both of our buildings fell in the "Commendable" range, which, generally, is above the state average. Admin will determine areas for improvement.
 - E. SBRC Request:** Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to authorize the administration to request from the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC), a modified supplemental amount (MSA) of \$47,928 for a slight increase in certified enrollment, as presented. Motion carried (4y-0n).

Roll Call:

AYES: Morphey-Rapp, Akins, Hauser, Robinson

NAYS: None

"Teaching for today and tomorrow, one student at a time."

F. AT RISK/DROPOUT APPLICATION: Akins moved to approve the request to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for Modified Supplemental Amount (MSA) and Supplemental Aid for the 2026-27 Dropout Prevention Program in the amount of \$102,587, for expenditures necessary to implement the 2026-27 at-risk and dropout prevention program plans as approved by the Baxter CSD school board. Seconded by Hauser. Motion carried (4y-0n).

Roll Call:

AYES: Mophew-Rapp, Akins, Hauser, Robinson

NAYS: None

G. OPEN ENROLLMENT: Akins moved, seconded by Rapp, to approve open enrollment in applications from Kelsey Reed, guardian for Kaylee McCann, from Colfax-Mingo, after a recent move back into Colfax-Mingo CSD; from Kenny and Dana Poage for their children, Haidenn Poage, Kinnick Poage, Kylah Wignall, and Kenzie Wignall, to continue attending Baxter after a recent move from BCLUW CSD to Collins-Maxwell CSD; from Rick and Ashley Kucera for their children, Luci and Claire, to continue to attend Baxter CSD, after an upcoming move into West Marshall CSD; and from Emily Carpenter for her daughter, Lilly, to attend Baxter CSD, effective immediately, from Bondurant-Farrar CSD, all as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).

Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve an open enrollment out application from Caitlin Neisen and Richard Smithhart II for their son, Richard Smithhart III, to attend Iowa Virtual Academy, effective immediately, as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).

H. PERSONNEL: None

I. FACILITIES/GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION: None.

J. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Petersen informed board members that he will present the annual five-year projection model for the district in next month's meeting. Admin is keeping an eye on the number of student contact hours in light of early outs/late starts due to inclement weather. We still have a number of hours in excess of the state required minimum to use for additional inclement weather. Mr. Petersen, Board President, Cory Robinson, and Business Manager, Julie McWhirter recently met with Representative Jon Dunwell, to voice concerns on hot topic issues expected to be discussed in the 2026 legislative session. In order to keep with the required deadlines to appoint a board member to fill the now vacant seat, the January board meeting will be moved to the second Wednesday, January 14. SRO, Deputy, Josh Britton will give his quarterly report on safety and security in the district. Admin will send a survey to district parents after the New Year regarding the new 4-day school year and how they feel its working.

X. Adjournment: Akins moved, seconded Hauser, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried (4y-0n).

The regular December board meetings minutes will be presented for approval at the regular January board meeting.



Board President

1/14/2026

Date



Board Secretary

1/14/2026

Date