



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees – Facilities & Maintenance Committee Meeting

May Butler Center | 55 S. Rodney Ave
Monday November 4, 2019 – 12:00pm

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee:

Terry Beaver, Committee Chair
Jeff Hindoin, Committee Member
Siobhan Hathorn, Committee Member

Others:

John McEwen, Trustee
Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Kalli Kind, Facilities Director

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 12:02pm by Committee Chair, Terry Beaver.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None was offered.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

No changes were requested.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Demographic Study Updates and Timeline

Dr. Ream said that Jerome McKibben, who conducted the last demographic study, owed the district a follow up report on the 2016 demographics study based on a previously agreed upon contract. Dr. Ream said he would send Dr. McKibben enrollment data from the October pull date, along with the loss of enrollment due to the East Helena high school information, to use in

the follow up report. He said the results from the report would be shared with the committee at the December meeting.

Based on his conversations with Dr. McKibben, Dr. Ream said he anticipated the results of the new study prior to the January 14, 2020, board meeting. Mr. Hindoien asked for clarification that the presentation in January was separate from the follow up report. Dr. Ream confirmed, adding the follow up report was part of a previous contract. Ms. Hathhorn requested clarification that Dr. McKibben could complete both the follow up report and the new demographic study would be complete by January. Dr. Ream clarified that the follow up report would be completed by December, and the demographic study would be complete by January.

Dr. Ream referenced the previous Budget and Programs Committee meeting, in which the current attendance in the high schools was discussed. Dr. Ream noted that attendance at the high schools has remained relatively static since 2002. He added that while the East Helena high school has reported 124 students enrolled, the Helena district was unsure what percentage were from East Helena and which percentage were from other feeder schools for Helena High. Mr. McKay said he pulled data for the enrollment sheet from several sources, but enrollment has remained consistent around 7,900-8,100 for the last 20 years. He continued that the district will start rolling attendance forward, taking natural increases and declines into consideration. Mr. McKay said that when anticipating attendance at the high schools, the district will need to match enrollment at both middle schools to ensure similar enrollment, which may result in adjusting the boundaries between CR Anderson and Helena Middle School. Dr. Ream asked for an estimated capacity for Helena Middle School. Mr. McKay answered 800-850, but that would mean additional and smaller classrooms.

Mr. McKay said he would next look at projections by school, by grade, by year to determine demographics as far as possible with the existing data. Mr. McKay said future steps needed to address enrollment projections would include matching the number of full-time educators and the curriculum to the projected number of students. Dr. Ream requested confirmation that without a boundary change, Helena High School attendance was projected to dip below 1,000 students, affecting the number of full-time educators needed. Mr. McKay noted the number of variables affecting projected attendance at Helena High School.

Dr. Ream confirmed that the district would receive the new demographic study from Dr. McKibben prior to presenting it to the board and community at the January board meeting. Mr. Hindoien asked if the elementary school boundaries were aligned with the middle school boundaries. Mr. McKay answered that they were except in the "tree streets." He added that the number of students in those streets would not be enough to significantly affect the anticipated discrepancy in high school enrollment. Ms. Hathhorn asked how many students lived in the "tree streets." Mr. McKay said approximately 10 kids/grade level.

Dr. Ream referenced the potential shift in financing for Access to Success. He said current attendees in the program must drop out of high school to attend, but the district was looking at the financial repercussions of changing that. Mr. McKay clarified that attendees in Access for Success, preschool, and Explore School had not been included in the enrollment document. Mr.

Beaver asked if most of the participants in Access to Success would have been Helena High School attendees, and Dr. Ream said they would have been.

Mr. Beaver asked for an estimate of the number of students from Montana City enrolled this year versus last year. Mr. McKay estimated a decrease of 25 students.

Ms. Hathhorn asked if the district could obtain data on whether students within the Helena school district were attending school elsewhere. Ms. Ridgeway answered that surrounding school districts hadn't been providing that information.

Ms. Hathhorn asked how many elementary students attended school in East Helena, voicing a community perception that a lot of Helena students were transferring to East Helena. Dr. Ream answered that a few students from Warren probably do based on the geographic proximity. Ms. Ridgeway added that the enrollment numbers were not supporting that perception. Mr. McEwen suggested the perception may be based on the students in the Mountain View Estates subdivision who were within Helena city limits but in the East Helena school district.

B. Bond Update

Ms. Kind said the facilities department was finishing and fine-tuning items at the new schools. She said the department was coordinating with CWG on the safety and security updates scheduled for next summer at Kessler, Hawthorne, Jefferson, and Ray Bjork. She said the district will be bidding those projects in January/February and will award the bids in April. Ms. Kind listed the updates at the four schools as:

- new phone systems and integration
- front entry security
- reader boards

Ms. Kind addressed the projected security updates to Hawthorne, saying there was a classroom directly under the current office. She recommended moving the existing classroom to a vacant classroom down the hall and creating an ADA accessible path to the classroom. She also recommended a covered area that would act as a first vestibule. She continued that the second vestibule, the front office, the principal's office, and a small nurse's office would be in the newly vacated classroom. Ms. Kind described this solution as being more cost-effective and more environmentally sound. Dr. Ream asked for clarification that the public entrance would be on the north side of the school, and Ms. Kind confirmed, adding it would bring visitors directly to the office. Dr. Ream asked if the east and west playground could be fenced off so visitors wouldn't have to walk through the playground. Ms. Kind answered the department could fence a walkway between the two playgrounds. Ms. Kind confirmed that parking would remain in the same area.

Ms. Kind said she plans on discussing the current bond with the District's Business Services Administrator to reconcile bond funds. She stated an estimate of \$800,000-\$1,000,000 left in the bond not attached to a project, some of which will be used for miscellaneous projects, including additional technology investments.

Mr. Hindoien asked if the IT learning components of the bond commitment had been fulfilled. Dr. Ream said the language in the bond was written in a way to provide flexibility of technology upgrades to benefit each school's needs, not just the three new schools.

Ms. Kind said the district has been repurposing furniture for schools across the district and those deliveries will continue next week. Mr. Beaver asked if all the designated FF&E had been encumbered. Ms. Kind replied that the district spent about 80% in the first round, and she had been worked with the three principals to determine what was still needed. Mr. Beaver asked for the dollar amount corresponding to the remaining 20%. Ms. Kind answered \$4,400,000.

Mr. Beaver referenced the design of the volleyball courts at Central School and Jim Darcy and said the middle pole connecting the two nets prevented the curtain from lowering completely to the floor. Ms. Kind said the gyms were designed to be elementary school gyms not to host simultaneous competitive games.

Mr. Beaver asked if the district was still interested in purchasing property around the schools. Dr. Ream answered not unless the prices dropped significantly.

Mr. Beaver asked for an update on the potential city projects of a water line through Kessler School's parking lot and a storm drain on Helena High's practice fields. Ms. Kind replied that she has presented a formal response to the city regarding Kessler School's parking lot. She said she was waiting to hear if the city was going to have a public meeting regarding the project. She added that the city wouldn't be able to proceed on either project without an easement.

Mr. Beaver asked for an update on the water line repair at Helena High. Ms. Kind replied that it went well.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/BOARD COMMENTS

None offered.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:09pm by Mr. Beaver. The next Facilities and Maintenance Committee meeting will be December 2, 2019.