



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 – Executive Committee Meeting

May Butler Center | 55 S. Rodney Ave

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair	John McEwen, Trustee
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair	Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee
Sarah Sullivan, Past Board Chair	Tyler Ream, Superintendent
	Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:05am by Chair, Luke Muszkiewicz.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public was present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No changes were requested.

IV. REVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2020, BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA

Mr. Muszkiewicz said he would send an email to trustees reminding them of the meeting location. Dr. Ream added the work session at Kessler will be rescheduled for the next school year.

Dr. Ream addressed the call for election action item, which included the trustee election, operational levies for the elementary and high school districts, and a safety and security levy for the high school district. The district has until March 25, 2020, to set the parameters of the levies which may include a lump sum, a five-year levy, or a different option. According to Dr. Ream, Ms. Janelle Mickelson, District Business Services Administration was waiting on final numbers from the state prior to determining if the district would be able to run a levy for the high school district. He continued that both high schools will have received safety and security update by the end of the summer from the building reserve fund. Dr. Ream said that a personnel-only levy – counselors, SROs, and nurses – was a strong levy option that could be determined prior to the March 25, 2020, deadline.

The committee briefly discussed what future levies – after May 2020, might include.

Mr. Beaver recommended running the high school levy since it increased budget authority.

Mr. Muszkiewicz said that while this agenda item met the statutory obligation, it was not necessarily the final say on whether these specific levies would be present on the May 2020, ballot. He added it was the trustees' responsibility to gauge public perception on bonds and levies.

Mr. Muszkiewicz addressed the second item for action: Approval of the Hawthorne Safety and Security Bid. Ms. Sullivan requested additional information on the project. Ms. Hathorn asked if the project was delayed could that money be reallocated to the other elementary schools. Mr. Muszkiewicz answered the bond language specified all elementary schools receive safety and security updates within three years of the sale of the last bond. Ms. Hathorn asked if it could be completed next summer. Mr. Muszkiewicz answered that it could. Mr. Beaver questioned why Lincoln would not have to be updated. Dr. Ream answered since Lincoln didn't have students, it was considered district property, not an active school.

Mr. Beaver recommended waiting until the exterior work was done on Hawthorne prior to approving the safety and security update. Mr. Muszkiewicz outlined the following questions to address when considering the project: was the building structurally sound, was the price reasonable, and what was the cost for waiting a year.

Mr. McEwen asked for a timeline for approving bids. Dr. Ream answered that while there was required timeline, the sooner bids were presented to the board, the sooner work could start since the availability of contractors was limited.

Ms. Hathorn questioned if the contractor on the Hawthorne bid was the same as other bids. Dr. Ream answered that contractors are limited on the number of bids they are awarded since each has a different level of multi-project capacity.

Mr. Beaver questioned whether removing one classroom at Hawthorne to upgrade the safety and security was a feasible or prudent education plan for the next 40 years.

Mr. Muszkiewicz outlined the policies for second and first review.

Dr. Ream referenced the district assessment report and said the Teaching & Learning Committee has reviewed the document and recommended it be presented to the full board. He added the presentation included an additional slide on instructional framework and how it is affected by assessments.

V. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Hathorn asked who approved sabbaticals. Dr. Ream answered Ms. Barb Ridgway, District Chief of Staff, leads a representative review committee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm by Mr. Muszkiewicz. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be March 10, 2020.