



*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

Tuesday, March 24, 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
	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director
	Janelle Mickelson, Business Services Administrator
	Gary Meyers, Education Technology Coordinator
	Troy Shockley, member of the public

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am by Chair, Luke Muszkiewicz.

#### II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the March 10 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

#### IV. REVIEW OF THE MARCH 24, 2020, BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA

Dr. Ream provided the group with back up documentation for Action Items 1-3. He said the board would likely not need to act on Action Item 1, but Action Items 1-3 all provided provisions for the district to provide off-site instruction in a remote-learning environment.

Ms. Hathhorn asked if grades would be based on classroom assessment or completion proficiency. Dr. Ream answered it would be individualized on where students are; teachers have an idea where has/hasn't been covered and where students are. He continued to say the state will decide about state testing.

Ms. Hathhorn recommended encouraging parents to reach out if something isn't working. Dr. Ream said it would be included in his communications.

Dr. Ream discussed several options for remote learning with the group. Mr. McKay added that efforts were being made to determine how to move essential standards forward in a responsible way; to have a good grade-specific framework to use as a basis moving forward.

Ms. Hathhorn asked how a lengthy school closure would affect graduation. Dr. Ream said the district didn't know at this point but was trying to determine ways to still provide those experiences to seniors. Ms. Hathhorn asked about students who may or may not graduate. Dr. Ream answered that teachers and administrators had been reaching out to students who had not connected with teachers and were determining how to provide extra support for students close to graduation. Mr. McKay added that a goal for the week had been to establish and maintain connection with students, then problem solve on any disconnect.

Ms. Sullivan said she has been receiving questions regarding the April 6 date as the reopen date for schools. Dr. Ream said the district didn't know but was working on a remote learning plan to present at the special board meeting on March 27.

Ms. Mickelson referenced Action Items 4-6 and said the county had requested they receive ballot language by March 26. She continued she had calculated the what the levy increase would be for a \$100,000 house and a \$200,000 house based on the highest amount for which the district could levy. Ms. Hathhorn asked if the highest amount was typically levied for. Ms. Mickelson replied that it was, adding the district was at the maximum for its budget. Mr. Muskiewicz asked if the language should be revised to clarify the levy was just for the elementary school district. Ms. Mickelson added the district typically runs a levy for the high schools, too. Mr. McEwen requested confirmation that the levy increase would be \$22 on a \$200,000 home. Ms. Mickelson confirmed, adding the addition included both the non-voted levy and the general fund levy.

Dr. Ream said the purpose of the high school levy was as a placeholder in case the district decided to run a safety and security levy. Since, it was determined the safety and security upgrades at the high schools can be satisfied without raising taxes for the voters. Ms. Kind added she had been working with principals on the designs for the upgrades.

Mr. McEwen asked if the district will be paying for SROs the next school year. Dr. Ream answered that, per agreement with the city, the district would pay for one out of the four SRO salaries, and that is what had been budgeted for next year.

Ms. Hathhorn requested clarification that a safety and security levy could be run next year. Dr. Ream answered it could.

Ms. Sullivan asked if the district would provide any campaigning information for the levies. Dr. Ream answered that there wasn't a lot of information last year, but the issue would be revisited this year. He added that there was a lot of economic uncertainty right now, and it might be helpful to approve the levy differently this year.

Dr. Ream said the superintendent report would include an anticipated timeline for the governor's response on the remote learning plan. He said he also would include how to request feedback on the remote learning plan from staff members and the public.

**V. BOARD COMMENTS**

Ms. Sullivan asked for updates on food delivery. Ms. Ridgway described the process for the anticipated duration of the school closure.

Mr. McEwen asked if a background analysis would be presented at the meeting in the instance of the levies not passing. Dr. Ream answered there would be. Ms. Mickelson added passage of the levies was not included in the previously presented budget analysis.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am by Mr. Muszkiewicz. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be April 14, 2020.