



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, October 22, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES - DRAFT

I. ATTENDANCE

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair John McEwen, Trustee
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Sarah Sullivan, Past Board Chair

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:07am by Committee Chair, Luke Muszkiewicz.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public were present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No changes were requested.

V. REVIEW OF 10.22.19 BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA

Dr. Ream noted the omission of the September 24, 2019, work session minutes from the agenda and said they will be added November Work Session agenda. He stated the work session would be at Bryant, where a tour and presentation would precede the meeting.

Dr. Ream addressed the Superintendent’s Report and said he would discuss the incident at Rossiter from the previous week, walk through communication changes the district would make in the future, and answer any questions from trustees. Ms. Sullivan offered her appreciation for the prompt response of First Student buses to evacuate students. Dr. Ream added that the district worked with the bus company a few times during the last school year for “Boiler Burps” evacuations, and they have been fantastic. Mr. McEwen asked how First Student calls in drivers in response to similar situations. Dr. Ream answered that they potentially had drivers close or used certified office staff.

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Dr. Ream shared the results of the Crosstown Food Drive, which resulted in over 770 pounds of food being donated to Helena Food Share.

Dr. Ream described the car smash being conducted by Montana Radio Company prior to the crosstown football game on Friday.

Mr. McEwen asked the appropriate response during the test score portion of the presentation. Dr. Ream answered that Principal Klock would address the scores during her presentation, and her comments will likely answer any questions trustees may have. He recommended trustees request to be walked through the process schools go through when they see declining scores.

Mr. McEwen referenced the high number of students receiving speech therapy listed on the presentation. Dr. Ream said a speech pathologist would say there would be a higher likelihood of a student needing speech therapist services if he/she has not been consistently spoken to or had the behavior modeled. Ms. Sullivan noted the increased demand for speech therapists over the last few years. Dr. Ream added that turnover in those positions was massive, and there aren't enough speech therapists to meet the growing need. He said visually impaired services was another high-demand field needed to serve a growing population of students. He added the district was currently contracting those services to fill needs within the district.

Ms. Sullivan asked if the ELA grant was currently in its second year, and Dr. Ream affirmed. He added that any subset was subject to a drastic rise or fall in test scores, and that Bryant was susceptible to those rises and falls since it was smaller.

Mr. Beaver asked what schools were participating in the Audible program. Dr. Ream answered that all 8-12th graders have been given the option to participate.

Mr. McEwen asked what issues trustees could anticipate seeing at future board meetings, specifically referencing the 7th Ave Gym Study. Dr. Ream answered that the feasibility study would be summarized and presented at the November board meeting. Mr. Muszkiewicz said one of his goals was to establish a board calendar that would include quarterly or yearly topics – along with timely issues – to ensure meetings were structured to best meet trustees' needs.

The November board meeting was discussed, and Ms. Sullivan requested adding Lisa Lee – representing the wellness committee – to the agenda. Ms. Muszkiewicz recommended Ms. Lee speak adjacent to the Sodexo presentation and before the 7th Ave Gym feasibility study.

Mr. Muszkiewicz requested a meeting with Dr. Ream to determine a tentative calendar of board topics for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Ream added that two existing contracts – Sodexo (occurring in November) and First Student (before June 2020) – currently required the vendors present an annual report to the board.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

No other comments were offered.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50am by Mr. Muszkiewicz. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be November 12, 2019.