



**Superintendent**  
Tyler Ream, Ed. D  
324-2001

**Business Manager**  
Janelle Mickelson  
324-2040

## **Board Work Session**

Capital High School  
100 Valley Drive Helena, MT 59601

**Tuesday April 23, 2019**

3:30 pm Tour/4:00 pm Meeting

## **MINUTES**

### **Attendance – Present unless otherwise noted.**

Sarah Sullivan, Board Chair - Excused  
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair  
Tyler Emmert, Trustee – Excused  
Sanjay Talwani, Trustee – Left @ 4:45 p.m.  
Luke Muszkiewicz, Trustee  
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee - Excused  
Elizabeth “Libby” Goldes, Trustee  
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee - Unexcused

Dr. Tyler Ream, Superintendent  
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent  
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager  
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff  
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Administrator  
Jilyn Chandler, Data & Assessment Administrator  
Sean Morrison, Special Education Administrator  
Pat Boles, Technology Administrator  
Brian Cummings, Jim Darcy Elementary School Principal  
Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal

### Guests:

Walt Chancy, Capital High School Assistant Principal  
Kathy Kidder, Capital High School Assistant Principal

**PRESENTOR at Capital High School:** Principal Brett Zanto

**I. TOUR OF SCHOOL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CALL TO ORDER**

Terry Beaver called the session to order at 4:09 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None

**III. PRESENTATION**

**1. Capital High School**

Brett Zanto, Principal of Capital High School, showed the attached PowerPoint Presentation. There are at least 40 clubs available to students that range from meeting at lunch time to meeting after school. Students are encouraged to get involved. Lisa Waterman presented information regarding the Youth Activation Committee (YAC) and led a group exercise. The YAC Group helps to recruit the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for clubs within the high school.

Current AP Data shows that the number of students taking AP courses at Capital High School has increased from 126 in 2013 to 197 in 2018. The percentage of students taking AP Exams and achieving a 3 or higher on those tests, has increased from 69% in 2013 to 71.6% in 2018. Principal Zanto stated that the exams have become increasingly more difficult over the past 5 years. There are more and more AP classes being offered at Capital High, including 4 new Science options this school year. In the upcoming school year, Capital High will be adding 3 sections to AP Math as well as AP Computer Science and AP Statistics. AP Paleontology is being added to the 2019-2020 catalog. There are currently 18 courses being offered as Dual Credit, with an additional Math course being added in the 2019-2020 school year. The “1-2 Free Initiative” has allowed students to be able to take 2 dual enrollment courses either at their school or at the Helena College Campus for free. Additionally, there is a waiver that allows students that are on the Free & Reduced Meals program the opportunity to take all Dual Enrollment classes for free. In the fall of 2018, there were 137 students taking a total of 328 dual credit courses. Some students may take just one, while others are taking 4-5 courses.

The ACT Aspire tests are administered to students in 8-10 grades and include testing in English/Reading, Math and Science. Students will begin taking these tests in May. The ACT Aspire tests align with the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks, provide detailed results and inform the district about instructional strategies. The benchmark for 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2017-2018 school year was 49% in English, 38% in Reading, 32% in Math, and 30% in Science. Capital High School 11<sup>th</sup> grade students scored 56%, 44%, 40% and 40% respectively. Data for the 2018-2019 cohort has not yet been completed.

Capital High School also has a mentoring program that is organized by Ms. Placko. This program helps to identify at risk freshman students (which is

determined by failing at least one class the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year) and also added sophomores needing assistance in the 2015-2016 year. Mentoring during the first semester of 2018-2019 included 23 mentees (15 freshman and 8 sophomores) with 14 of those students not failing a single class. 7 students failed one class, 4 students failed 2 classes, 1 student failed 4 classes and 1 student failed 6 classes. A total of 25 students failed out of 140 classes being taken or 18% of the determined at risk students. The 2017-2018 graduation rate for Capital High was 89%.

Assistant Principal Walt Chancy presented information regarding MBI at Capital High School. Capital High has been awarded with Platinum Level Recognition for the third year in a row for sustaining school-wide foundation of MBI and effective classroom practices and successfully implementing Tier II interventions with integrity. There are 5 core team leaders and they attend all required trainings as a team. Approximately 5-7% of students fluctuate between Tier II and Tier III interventions. The “Capital Code” is to Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be a Graduate.

Trustee Libby Goldes asked Principal Zanto if he has noticed any struggles since the Board added a 3<sup>rd</sup> math course requirement. Principal Zanto stated that they have added several math offerings as well as stretching some courses from being a semester, to lasting the entire school year. Assistant Superintendent Josh McKay added that there are more accessible pathways for students and it is exciting to see teachers stepping up to help with teaching other classes as well.

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz asked if there are discounted fees for AP testing. Principal Zanto stated that exams are around \$90 each and that the school covers the fee for any students on Free & Reduced meals as well as helping pay for testing dependent on a student’s circumstances. There is no cost difference for the district for staffing AP courses.

Board Vice Chair Terry Beaver stated that it is admirable to see the growth of AP Courses as well as Dual Credit offerings. He also asked if students need to be taking chemistry and physics courses prior to their junior year in order to test better on the ACT exam in those subjects. Principal Zanto explained that the AP Physics curriculum has adapted to change the availability to students.

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz asked Principal Zanto what his thoughts would be regarding a High School bond. Principal Zanto stated his first priority would be safety upgrades, followed by more on campus lunch options to help keep students safe and keep them on campus. Principal Zanto also stated he would like to have more common space, music room upgrades, CTE building upgrades and make the computer labs more accessible.

Board Vice Chair Terry Beaver thanked Principal Zanto and his staff for their presentation.

**IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Items for Action**

**a. 3-12-19 Board Work Session Minutes**

There was not a quorum present at the meeting for any action to be taken at this time.

**VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

No report at this time.

**VII. BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee Libby Goldes stated that she received her school district ballot in the mail and encouraged everyone to vote.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other topics for future meetings and no public comment on issues not on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 14, 2019 at the Ray Bjork Learning Center 1600 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Helena, MT 59601. The next Board Work Session will be held on May 28, 2019 at Smith Elementary School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Sullivan, Chair

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Angie Ford, Recording Secretary

Date