



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 May 28, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

I. ATTENDANCE

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair Sarah Sullivan, Board Member
 Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair Tyler Ream, Superintendent of Schools

II. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 11:20am by Chair, Luke Muszkiewicz.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

None present

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Muszkiewicz questioned the start time of 12:00 listed on the minutes for the last executive board meeting, and Dr. Ream clarified that they waited an hour past original start time waiting for any public to arrive, confirming the 12:00 start time was correct.

Mr. Muszkiewicz referenced sentence 1-3, requesting clarification on what the minutes described with regards to the order of the agenda. Ms. Sullivan clarified the way they used to have the order – with public comment immediately following the pledge is not how they do it anymore. Dr. Ream added that it was especially for students or staff to be honored at the board meeting, and Ms. Sullivan added that the new order of the agenda was in case there was an hour of public comment, and it would “suck the air out” of the awards. Ms. Sullivan confirmed that part of the reason for reviewing the agenda after taking comments was because someone might say, “I really have a problem with consent item.... And we would need to change it to the business meeting.”

Mr. Muszkiewicz requested clarification on why no name was listed under pending board approval of the Broadwater principal. Dr. Ream clarified that district attorney, Ms. Elizabeth “Bea” Kaleva,

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recommended items needing board approval should be on the agenda, but specific names should not, confirming that was how they were able to announce her name at the meeting despite not having it listed on the agenda. Dr. Ream added that he would like to see the same thing in the future. He doesn't want staff finding out before the board can make the announcement. Ream continued by adding that all personnel actions must be listed on the agenda at least 48 prior to a meeting. He added with regards to the non-renewal piece, "However, if someone wished to resign an hour before the board meeting, the board should honor that resignation."

Mr. Muszkiewicz asked if there were any more questions on the minute and received none.

V. REVIEW OF 5-28-19 BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA

Dr. Ream offered confirmation that the three board meeting minutes listed – 3.19.19 Board Work Session Minutes, 4.02.19 Special Board Meeting Minutes, and 4.23.19 Board Work Session Minutes still required approval – speaking specifically to the 3.19.19 work session for which there was no quorum.

Ms. Sullivan commented on the approval requested for the HEA agreement and inquired into whether there was an actual date set for when HEA negotiations needed to be proposed. Dr. Ream answered that HEA said "mid-December." Mr. Muszkiewicz asked if the board could request a specific date. Dr. Ream said he thought they said they wanted something before winter break. He added there was a date listed for the retirement piece, but he thought that was earlier. Dr. Ream said [the board] could formally agree in the next negotiations to hammer out a date because if both sides formally agree to something, the language in the contract could be changed. Dr. Ream told Mr. Muszkiewicz he could request that for the next recommendation, he would like a formal date decided.

Mr. Muszkiewicz recommended a change to the verbiage: An agreement reached by the public employer must be reduced to writing and must be executive by both parties." Dr. Ream confirmed that the change will be made to "...executed by both parties." Mr. Muszkiewicz offered his appreciation for the documentation of the negotiations. Dr. Ream added that it is extra work, but it's needed.

Ms. Janelle Mickelson was praised for her formal transparency in processes.

Dr. Ream offered a suggestion to the board to continue fewer action items on the work session agenda and allow the schools to be largely the focus, adding the principals have felt, for the most part, really good about the work sessions and the engagement of the staff. Dr. Ream suggested that unless the board would like a change, he will continue with that process. Dr. Ream added that the first three work sessions of the 2019-2020 will be at the new schools. Mr. Muszkiewicz confirmed that the school presentation should be main event, and action items should be primarily at the main board meeting. Mr. Muszkiewicz suggested that good committee work will help keep most action items on the board meeting agenda. Dr. Ream added that he likes the idea of thinking forward two weeks and what information trustees will need to consider in order to make an important decision. Mr. Muszkiewicz mentioned receiving requests from other trustees to use this as a way of anticipating what will be on the agenda in the next two weeks.

Dr. Ream and Ms. Sullivan discussed the progress at Smith School and how [contractors] started much earlier this year and work is coming along pretty quickly.

Ms. Sullivan suggested adding a specific location within the school to the board work session agendas.

Mr. Muszkiewicz wondered if they should anticipate media coverage at the board meeting. No answer was clear, but Mr. Muszkiewicz said he would plan for it in case.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

None offered

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm by Mr. Muszkiewicz. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be 6/11/19.