



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

**Business Manager**  
Janelle Mickelson  
324-2040

## **Board Work Session**

Smith Elementary School  
2320 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Helena, MT 59601

**Tuesday May 28, 2019**  
3:30 pm Tour/4:00 pm Meeting

## **MINUTES**

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

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair  
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair  
Sarah Sullivan, Trustee – Left @ 5:35 pm  
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee  
Elizabeth “Libby” Goldes  
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee – Excused  
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee  
John McEwen, Trustee

Dr. Tyler Ream, Superintendent  
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent  
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager  
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff  
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Administrator  
Kalli Kind, Facilities Administrator  
Jilyn Chandler, Data & Assessment Administrator  
Sean Morrison, Special Education Administrator  
Pat Boles, Technology Administrator  
Brian Cummings, Jim Darcy Elementary School Principal  
Trish Klock, Bryant Elementary School Principal  
Kim Stout, HEA President

Guests:  
Staff members of Smith Elementary

**PRESENTOR at Smith Elementary School: Principal Jill Nyman**

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

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the session to order at 4:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None

**III. PRESENTATION**

**1. Smith Elementary School**

Principal Jill Nyman presented information related to Smith Elementary School. The mission of Smith Elementary School is to promote academic excellence in a respectful, caring environment where students are prepared to be critical thinkers, life-long learners and responsible citizens. Smith Elementary was built in 1967 and houses 17 full size classrooms, 2 smaller classrooms, gym/cafeteria, library, workroom, staff room, offices and 24 external exits. Within the last four years, there have been numerous improvements made such as new playground equipment, basketball court, green space, 13 new trees (donated by Growing Friends), a sun shelter was erected, ceiling fans in classrooms along with black out shades and safety and security upgrades are currently in progress.

The safety and security upgrades will allow for a controlled access vestibule and keyless entry for staff. There will be controlled access at every exterior exit. The office/staff room space is being shifted, along with moving the nurse's office closer to the front office secretary. There will be a reader board, clock and intercom in each classroom and a new smoke/fire suppression system is being installed.

The staff of Smith Elementary is comprised of 15 classroom teachers, 1 Title teacher, 1 Special Education Teacher, 1 Speech Language Pathologist, 1 Counselor, 1 Librarian, 2 PE Teachers, 2 Music Teachers, 6 Special Education Para Educators, 2 General Education Para Educators, 1.75 Kindergarten Overage Para's, 1 Nurse, 1 Administrative Assistant, 0.50 School Psychologist, 3 SACC Staff Members, 3 Custodians, 1 Administrator and 2 CSCT Staff Members.

The student enrollment at Smith Elementary is 313 students and has a 93.6% attendance rate year to date. There are 2 overflow students (from Jefferson), 39 in-district boundary exceptions, 34 students in Montessori (plus 15 of their siblings), 10 our-of-district boundary exceptions and 22 students identified as "in transition". Smith Elementary participates in the "Breakfast after the Bell" program to allow students access to breakfast. There are currently 40.8% of students qualified for the Free & Reduced Meals Program. There are currently 42 students with active IEPs and 60 students that receive speech services. There are 10 students with active 504 plans, along with 4 students identified in ELL, 19

identified for Indian Ed tutor support, and 18 students are enrolled in the PEAK program. The CSCT program is currently assisting 12 students/families. The students at Smith Elementary are currently receiving a 78% benchmark school wide for STAR Math and a 70% benchmark school wide for STAR Reading and Early Literacy.

Smith students receive support from their school and the community. Through the Stuff the Bus campaign, 40+ students benefitted from receiving school supplies. The Angel Fund assisted 45 students (27 families) totaling \$4,438.20. There are approximately 87-100 food packs distributed to students each week. The Holiday Giving Campaign resulted in 18 families being provided food, 5 students participated in the Shop-with-a-Cop program and 5 students benefitted from the Sunshine Fund. Winter coats and winter gear were distributed to 30+ students this school year.

Smith Elementary has instituted “Conflict Managers” based on the model that Kessler Elementary uses. This allows leadership opportunities and peer support among students. There are 2 students on each recess (chosen from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes) to assist with conflict management. They are easily identified by their bright colored vests so that students that need help can find them quickly. Smith Elementary also has the PAX Good Behavior Game which allows students to self-regulate their behaviors and work towards a reward.

Smith Elementary continues to focus on student engagement and connections with peer mentoring, interest clubs, structured recess and family engagement opportunities. There is a continuous cycle of improvement to create a welcoming community campus environment. There is ongoing professional development in the areas of trauma, behavior management, mindfulness, academics, play, poverty and core academic areas. There is also continued support for academic achievement to align/exceed the district and state benchmarks in both math and reading.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz and Trustee Sarah Sullivan thanked Principal Nyman and her staff for their presentation. Board Vice Chair Terry Beaver commended the use of great resources and collaboration among staff. Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn asked if there were enough interventions in place for students receiving special education services. Principal Nyman stated that she opted to have more para educators rather than an additional SPED teacher. This allows students to remain within their classroom and not feel singled out. These students can have support and exposure to the core classroom curriculum in smaller groups. Trustee John McEwen asked how much time is devoted to academics vs. behavioral issues. Principal Nyman stated that teachers can continue their classroom teaching while para educators are able to provide instruction and individual support to those students requiring it, allowing academics to continue to flow. Trustee Libby Goldes spoke about the warm feeling that Smith provides and asked how families and students were feeling about the upgrades. Principal

Nyman stated that the students were fascinated by the construction and that there has been some apprehension from parents, but they have been able to openly communicate with the families about what is going on.

The Board of Trustees adjourned for a small break at 5:26 pm and the meeting was called to order again at 5:36 pm by Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz.

#### IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Items for Action

a. 3-19-19 Board Work Session Minutes

**Motion:** Libby Goldes moved to approve the 3/19/19 Board Work Session minutes. Terry Beaver seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote:** 6-0 The Motion carried.

b. 4-2-19 Special Board Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** Terry Beaver moved to approve the 4/2/19 Special Board Meeting minutes. Jeff Hindoien seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote:** 6-0 The Motion carried.

c. 4-23-19 Board Work Session Minutes

**Motion:** Terry Beaver moved to approve the 4/23/19 Board Work Session minutes. Siobhan Hathhorn seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote:** 6-0 The Motion carried.

d. Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct Elections

**Motion:** John McEwen moved to approve the Resolution Requesting County to Conduct Elections. Libby Goldes seconded the motion.

**Board Comment:** Trustee John McEwen asked if we pay the county for this service. Janelle Mickelson responded that we would pay the county for the actual costs. Trustee Jeff Hindoien commented that there are not many AA school districts that conduct their own election.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote:** 6-0 The Motion carried.

e. Approval of Resolution Relating to \$8,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2019

**Motion:** John McEwen moved to Approve the Resolution Relating to \$8,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds. Jeff Hindoien seconded the motion.

**Board Comment:** Trustee John McEwen asked if the taxpayers would see an increase in taxes on these funds. Janelle Mickelson responded that taxpayers would see an increase, but they had already approved this when the bond was approved during the May 2017 election. This is the final bond amount of the \$63 million approved by the taxpayers.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote:** 6-0 The motion carried.

f. Approval of HPS – HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

**Motion:** Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the HPS-HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented in the Board Packet. Libby Goldes seconded the motion.

**Board Comment:** Trustee John McEwen clarified that the agreement ends 6/30/2020.

**Public Comment:** None

**Vote:** 6-0 The motion carried.

**VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Tyler Ream reported that he had joined Trustee Sarah Sullivan at the CHS/HHS house build open house. He was impressed with the job the students had done. Dr. Ream also offered kudos to Barb Ridgway and the school librarians that helped the staff at Bryant, Central and Jim Darcy schools pack up their schools. All the schools were packed up and in storage within ½ day.

**VII. BOARD COMMENTS**

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz offered his thanks to Dr. Ream, Stacy Collette and Kim Stout for all their hard work on the new Collective Bargaining Agreements. He also thanked Janelle Mickelson for her hard work on the budget forecast. He also stated that it is important to point out that we are operating with a shared set of information and he is confident that we will continue with this momentum moving forward.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other topics for future meetings and no public comment on issues not on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on June 11, 2019 at the Ray Bjork Learning Center 1600 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Helena, MT 59601.

Respectfully Submitted,

Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair

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Angie Ford, Recording Secretary

Date