



Superintendent
Tyler Ream, Ed. D
324-2001

Business Manager
Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

Due to the response of COVID-19 this meeting was held virtually.

Tuesday June 9, 2020
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chair Luke Muszkiewicz over the Zoom platform at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Vice Chair
Sarah Sullivan, Trustee
Jennifer McKee, Trustee
Elizabeth “Libby” Goldes, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Terry Beaver, 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
Sean Morrison, Special Education Administrator
Kalli Kind, Director of Support Services
Jane Shawn, Helena Education Association President
Pat Boles, IT Administrator
Tim McMahon, Activities Director
Steve Thennis, Helena High School Principal
Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal
Trish Klock, Bryant Elementary School Principal

Many Guests of the Helena School District

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Action

1. Approval of Resolution Requesting the County Elections Office to Conduct 2021 Elections for the Helena School District No. 1.

Janelle Mickelson presented the information to the board. The request must be made by a resolution of the board of trustees. Whenever the county election administrator agrees to conduct a school election, the administrator shall perform the duties imposed on the trustees and the clerk of the district for school elections and deliver to the trustees, for the purpose of canvassing the vote, the certified tally sheets and other election items needed for canvassing the vote. The considerations are as followed; The county election administrator has agreed to run elections scheduled for the regular election day, May 4, 2021. If a special election is requested, the county election administrator would want to find an agreeable date for the election and may refuse to run elections on a date that does not work for election office. The District must provide copies of all candidate filing forms and any ballot issue language by the candidate filing deadline. The county election office will run the election by district, not by precinct. Requests to run the election by precinct will not be accommodated.

Motion: John McEwen moved to approve the Resolution Requesting the County Elections Office to Conduct 2021 Elections for the Helena School District No. 1. Sarah Sullivan seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: Trustee Libby Goldes mentioned that by approving this, it will save the taxpayer money.

Vote: 8-0 The motion carried

B. Consent Action Items

1. May 12, 2020 Board of Trustees Minutes Meeting Minutes
2. May 19, 2020 Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of Personnel Actions

4. Approval of Warrants
5. Acknowledge Discretionary Out-of-District Tuition Agreements
6. Approval of Out-of-District Attendance Agreements

Motion: Sarah Sullivan moved to approve the Consent Action Items. Libby Goldes seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 8-0 The motion carried.

C. Items for Information

1. Summer and fall preview for 2020

Dr. Tyler Ream presented the information to the Board of Trustees.

As a school district and community, Helena collectively rose to the challenge by transitioning to a completely remote services environment in roughly 72 hours. Since that time, community health indicators related to COVID-19 exposure and infections have remained comparatively low in Lewis & Clark County (18 known positive cases to date). Any discussion related to the spring of 2020 should deservedly begin with a sincere expression of appreciation for every student, parent, and employee associated with the Helena Public Schools. A mix of qualitative and quantitative feedback loops including a remote learning specific survey for parents will help us better understand our challenges and successes this spring.

The anticipated summer start dates for Special Education is the normal time frame July 13th through July 31st, Monday through Thursday with partial days. Students' individual education programs (IEPs) will be tailored for each child considering their current levels of performance upon return to and in-person school environment. Services needed will be collaboratively determined by IEP teams once progress monitoring has occurred in an in-person environment. This includes discussions regarding possible compensatory services and potential amendments to IEPs.

Summer School for High School Credit Recovery will be July 1st to July 29th. They will be held as 2-hour classes, online (LIVE) classes or in-person classes (final decision by 6/22). The registration deadline is June 29th.

Transition Academic Programming are need-specific with options for summer academic programing being considered/designed for early August.

Adult Education will begin July 1st with case management and HiSET testing. August 3rd - Adult Education teachers will return. Drivers Education are conducting winter driver's education courses which are currently being completed - Only the drive portion remained as classes were remotely taught Summer Drivers Education class registration has started with classes scheduled to begin on June 24th - Blended model of instruction will be

utilized. High School athletics will have optional summer activities beginning June 15th.

Planning for 2020/2021 school year brings some challenges. Essentially, what is generally best from a health/risk standpoint is generally incongruent with the optimal environment for teaching, learning and student support services. Therefore, our collective opportunity involves developing models and protocols that amplify learning/support services while reducing the risk of virus transmission. Our target is to return, in-person, in the fall but decisions in that regard are dependent on numerous dynamic and external factors.

All developed plans must adhere to local, state and national precautionary guidance as the presence of COVID-19 is expected to remain until consistent treatments or vaccines have been developed/deployed. Hybrid options between full-open and total-close are required as such models are designed to minimize the risk of exposure during times of moderate-to-high uncontained community impact.

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has released a phased model for reopening schools along with a draft document that provides information for districts to consider in relation to 1) Academic Programming, 2) Physical & Structural Environment, 3) Business Environment, and 4) Social, Emotional and Behavioral Support Services. Phased reopening criteria aligns with state level orders associated with the Reopening the Big Sky plan.

By design, the rigor of safety protocols will vary from our everyday “new norm” of social distancing and minimized contact to hybrid models that intentionally limit class sizes. While not aligned with the Reopening the Big Sky plan, “Phase 0” is associated with local or state stay-at-home orders which will necessitate the physical closure of school facilities.

In order to meet the ongoing needs of students who are unable to return physically to school, an ongoing digital course of instruction must be designed/offered. Digital instruction may be fulltime (year-long) or temporary (short-term) based on specific student and/or family needs. Students should remain enrolled in their home school and class for the year but are likely to interact with multiple teachers in the remote environment.

In the next 78 days there are several things that need to be completed. We must collectively develop multiple, functional models aligned with state and local phases that provide for (relatively) seamless transitions as community health needs arise. We must identify students and employees who are unable to physically return for the 2020/2021 school year and provide, if possible, aligned accommodations. We must enhance our remote service platforms and functions to build upon the successes and challenges of this spring. We must rethink, redesign, train and implement enhanced school and district operations

that ensure minimal risk for our students, employees and families. We must collectively and seamlessly work with our students, families and employees to ensure that every conceivable need has been recognized and addressed. We must design a “new norm” environment for business services (internal processes, community use, etc.). We must adhere to our priority of safety and health in all forthcoming decisions.

D. Reports

1. **Health Benefits Committee Report** John McEwen reported that the committee will have a few items to bring to the board for a vote. The committee would like to add a hearing aid plan as well as increase the health benefit plan premiums by 1%. He also mentioned that they are working with St. Peters to expand the benefits to their urgent cares. Stacy Collette added that St. Peters is trying to help offer other services within the community for the allegiance members. They will continue to look at this plan over the next year to see if it can help save employees money.
2. **Montana School Boards Association Report**
Luke Muszkiewicz reported that all focus is on the MTSBA annual meeting that is scheduled this month. Most of the Helena Public School Board Trustees are registered to attend the meeting.
3. **Helena Education Association Report**
Jane Shawn reported that there are 2 employees who are virtually participating in the National Education Association representative assembly this summer. Three member representations are going to virtually participate in the American Federation of Teachers meeting. A call for volunteers has been put out to help with input on the 2020-2021 school year, several responses has come back. A little celebration was planned with a couple retirees/teachers and administrators. There will be a video that will be put together. Plaques and gift cards were given out.

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Tyler Ream acknowledged the folks that helped with graduation this year. The entire team pulled together and made it work nicely and helped point out different protocols and procedures. The operations team that came in and cleaned did a wonderful job after each ceremony. The team also kept an eye on the weather and continued to monitor throughout the ceremony. Chair Luke Muszkiewicz gave a shout-out to Lisa Cordingley in the effort to get every graduate a yard sign. Chair Muszkiewicz thanked everyone for their work at graduation and thanked the trustees for participating.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other topics for future meetings and no public comment on issues not on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on August 11, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair

Jessica Evans, Recording Secretary

Date