



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 Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 – 5:30pm

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Attendees:

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
 Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair
 Libby Goldes, Trustee
 Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee
 Jeff Hindoien, Trustee
 John McEwen, Trustee
 Sarah Sullivan, Trustee
 Jennifer Walsh, Trustee (absent)
 Hannah Muszkiewicz, HHS Student Representative
 Zyanne Cervantes, CHS Student Representative (absent)

Tyler Ream, Superintendent
 Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
 Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
 Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director
 Janelle Mickelson, Business Services Administrator
 Kalli Kind, Facilities Director
 Tim McMahon, Activities Director
 Sean Maharg, Special Education Administrator
 Sean Morrison, Special Education Administrator

Guests:

Jaime Pandis	Lisa Cordingley
Jane Shawn	Rick Hayes
Jonathon Ambarian	Carrie Mooney
Lisa Lowney	Cassidi Perkins
Mollie Brandt	Tyler Manning
Erica McMillin	Sharron MacMillan
Erin Grossman	Rich Whitney
Bob Throssell	Nancy Peterson
Beckie Smilie	Megan Blake
Seamus White	Madalyn Quinlan
Trish Klock	Lona Carter
Ninah Kerr	Jake West
Brett Zanto	Hayley Schmitt
Sam Sullivan	Deb Jacobsen
Destiny Waeckerlin	Chrissy Murgel
Isaac Nehring	Heidi Herbolich
Jill VanAlstyne	Isaiah Fehr
Bill Kaiser	Jamie Bawden
Wynn Randall	Justine Alberts
Karen Latka	Ricki Thompson
Melissa Romano	Samantha Hartwig
Nancy Bailey	Sean Logan
Danielle Tielking	Jim Fuller

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Board Chair, Luke Muszkiewicz, and trustees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

While reviewing the agenda, Mr. Muszkiewicz requested the Helena High School Green Club presentation be listed as Helena High and Capital High Green Clubs. He also mentioned May election results typically were canvassed at the May board meeting, but this year's results were not ready from the county.

III. STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Helena Education Foundation (HEF) Executive Director, Lisa Cordingley, announced the winners of the 2020 Harrison Writing Awards: Rebecca Smilie for "Yellow Canaries;" Mollie Brandt for "No One But You," and "An Ode to the Eyes that See All and Say Nothing;" and Hannah Muszkiewicz for "13 Things to See in a Chickadee." Recipients accepted their awards with their parents. Ms. Cordingley said all winning submissions will be posted to the HEF website.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

Capital High and Helena High Green Club members presented "Ways to Green the Schools" to the board. Some ideas presented included hiring a sustainability coordinator, composting, establishing a Superintendent/student advisory board on green issues, fewer document copies, and reusable water bottles. Presenting members of the Green Clubs were Erin Grossman, Sam Sullivan, Seamus Whyte, Cassidi Perkins, Destini Waeckerlin, and Issac Nehring. Trustees expressed their appreciation for linking being greener to saving money, the crosstown collaborative efforts, and advisors Jill VanAlstyne (HHS) and Sarah Urban (CHS).

Trustee John McEwen introduced Growing Friends of Helena representative, Bob Throssell, who graciously presented a check for \$14,320 for trees at the new schools. Mr. Throssell also provided a brief history of the partnership between Growing Friends of Helena and the school district, which included planting and maintaining trees, and hosting the annual Sun Fun for kids and families.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Action

1. Approval of Elementary Tuition Fund Budget Amendment

District Business Services Administrator, Janelle Mickelson provided an overview of the budget amendments listed in Items for Action 1-3 to the board. At the April 28, 2020, work session, the board passed a resolution for the budget amendments. The amendments listed for action were the result of that resolution.

Ms. Sullivan moved to approve the Elementary Tuition Fund Budget Amendment. Ms. Goldes seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the High School Tuition Fund Budget Amendment

Ms. Sullivan moved to approve the High School Tuition Fund Budget Amendment. Mr. McEwen seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of High School General Fund Budget Amendment
Ms. Hathhorn moved to approve the High School General Fund Budget Amendment. Mr. McEwen seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the CHS Security Upgrade Bid
District Facilities Manager Kali Kind provided an overview of the Capital High School (CHS) security update bid. Her recommendation was to select Abraham Construction. Dr. Ream added that, with the completion of this project, all schools will have received safety and security upgrades prior to the first day of school, which satisfies the last bond. Mr. McEwen asked for the funding source for the project. Ms. Kind answered funds first came from the permissive levy and then from the building reserve fund.

Mr. Beaver moved to approve the CHS Security Upgrade Bid. Mr. McEwen seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Policy 1900: Temporary COVID-19
District Chief of Staff, Barb Ridgway, described the change to this policy – adopted on April 28, 2020, as based on Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) recommendations to remove the June 30, 2020, termination date.

Mr. McEwen moved to approve Policy 1900. Ms. Goldes seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Policy 1906: Student Instruction
Ms. Ridgway told the board of updates to this policy, also adopted on April 28, 2020, which included reference to Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution to better support the use of offsite learning.

Ms. Goldes moved to approve Policy 1906. Ms. Hathhorn seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Policy 9002: Facilities Master Plan
Ms. Ridgway described the board's third reading of this policy as changes to language for additional clarity. Mr. Muszkiewicz asked for confirmation that the Facilities Committee would review the master plan annually before presenting it to the board. Ms. Ridgway confirmed that would be the process.

Mr. McEwen moved to approve Policy 9002. Ms. Goldes seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Policy 9210: Site Acquisition
Ms. Ridgway described revisions to this policy as clarification of language.

Mr. McEwen moved to approve Policy 9210. Mr. Beaver seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Policy 9232: Educational Specifications

Ms. Ridgway clarified for the board that language from former Policy 9055 had been absorbed into Policy 9232.

Ms. Goldes moved to approve Policy 9232. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Items for Consent**

Ms. Sullivan moved to approve the consent items. Mr. Beaver seconded the motion. There was neither board nor public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **Items for Information:** Update on Developing Graduation Plans for the Class of 2020

Dr. Ream presented information to the board regarding two plans for graduation. The preferred option allowed families to attend – two tickets per graduate – and would include two ceremonies for all graduates at each school. This plan allowed for social distancing in accordance with local health department guidelines. Dr. Ream said the primary concerns expressed both by the district and local health officials were getting people into and out of the stands pre and post ceremony and potential gathering in the parking lot after each ceremony. In this scenario, all attendees would be required to wear masks and would need a ticket and a health screening form to enter. The dates for these graduations will be June 5 for Access to Success and the Project for Alternative Learning (PAL) and June 6 for HHS and CHS.

Dr. Ream continued to say there was backup plan for ceremonies that would include fewer than 50 graduates and would require seven or eight ceremonies over multiple days. Dr. Ream added that even the smaller ceremonies would be limited to two tickets per graduate and would be subject to the same social distancing requirements.

Dr. Ream outlined a few additional aspects of the ceremonies as follows:

- Non-ticket holders would not be able to observe ceremonies from outside the fence; personnel would be on site to assist with that.
- A strict cleaning process would occur between ceremonies.
- People would not be allowed on campus without a ticket.
- Health screening forms would be available prior to the ceremonies, and family members would be encouraged to bring completed forms along with their tickets.
- People may not gather on field of on property post-ceremony.

Mr. Muszkiewicz voiced his appreciation for the highly collaborative planning. Mr. McEwen asked if there was a plan to control any trading of tickets. Dr. Ream answered that Helena doesn't have a large enough venue to assign seats, so it was something the district couldn't control. Ms. Hathorn asked why there would be two times for each school. Dr. Ream answered there were two plans in plan to keep as many options on the table. Ms. Sullivan asked if there would be speakers at the ceremonies. Dr. Ream answered there would be, but speakers would give abbreviated speeches. Ms. Goldes asked about graduates who have health issues. Dr. Ream replied that those students required individual care and attention and they were working with those individual families. Student Representative, Hannah Muszkiewicz, asked if divorced parents each would receive two tickets. Dr. Ream answered there were two

tickets per graduate, so those issues would have to be worked out as a family. Ms. Muszkiewicz asked how graduates would practice each ceremony. Dr. Ream answered that they were putting together digital practices. Ms. Hathhorn addressed the board's student representatives and asked how students were feeling. Ms. Muszkiewicz replied that considering the situation a month ago, these options sounded amazing. She voiced her appreciation for the hard work that had gone into the planning.

D. Reports

1. Budget & Finance Committee Report
Trustee Jeff Hindoien reported to the board that, at the last committee meeting, an update on the year-to-date budget was presented along with multi-year budget projections. Mr. Muszkiewicz asked if the committee had discussed the fiscal impacts of COVID-19 on school districts. Mr. Hindoien replied that the district needed to be prepared for the effects COVID-19 will have on the state general fund.
2. Policy Committee Report
Ms. Goldes reported that the committee continues to need more policies related to COVID-19 and facilities. She expressed her appreciation for her fellow committee members, Ms. Ridgway, and district attorney, Elizabeth Kaleva.
3. Facilities & Maintenance Committee Report
Mr. Beaver reported that the committee hadn't met in April or May. He noted that the absence of students in schools has allowed construction to start earlier on safety and security projects slated for the summer months. Ms. Sullivan asked if any consideration had been given to how all district buildings would be utilized. Mr. Beaver answered that would be discussed at future meetings.
4. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
Ms. Sullivan reported the committee has been working with grading in the fourth quarter. Elementary students will receive progress reports with more detailed feedback, and middle school/high school students will be working off the traditional grading scale with an option for a pass/fail/incomplete. Ms. Hathhorn added the district was working to address learning gaps over the summer.
5. Health Benefits Committee Report
Mr. McEwen reported utilization of the plan was down in the first six months of 2020, but the cost of claims was up. He said gene therapy had been added to the plan, and the committee was considering adding hearing aids, which likely would be brought before the board at a later date.
6. Montana School Boards Association Report
Mr. Muszkiewicz told the board the MTSBA annual meeting would take place June 11, 2020, as an online meeting. On the annual meeting's agenda was the potential ratification of the legislative agenda and election of officers. Other discussions would include cost of living adjustments and how they affect student funding.

7. Helena Education Association (HEA) Report
HEA President, Jane Shawn, told the board that teachers were appreciative of the support they've been receiving from parents. HEA members have valued the effort the district is dedicating to establishing several scenarios for school in the fall. Helena Educator of the Year and Para-Educator of the Year will be voted on next week. 23 HEA members attended the MFPA annual meeting. Negotiations have been an ongoing concern for teachers.
8. HHS / CHS Student Representatives Report
Ms. Muszkiewicz reported a lot of engagement between schools and students during remote learning.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ream expressed his appreciation for outgoing trustee, Jeff Hindoien, and the exiting student representatives, Zyanne Cervantes and Hannah Muszkiewicz.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustees voices their gratitude of the service by the outgoing student representatives and Mr. Hindoien.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm by Mr. Muszkiewicz. The next Board Meeting will be June 9, 2020.