



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 Work Session

Access to Success (Rooms 002/003 at Helena College) and via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Tour at 3:30 / 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Present unless otherwise noted

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Vice Chair
Terry Beaver, Trustee
John McEwen, Trustee
Sarah Sullivan, Trustee
Jennifer McKee, Trustee
Libby Goldes, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Board Member

Dr. Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Gary Myers, Education Technology Director
Craig Crawford, Principal, Access to Success
John Peterson, Access to Success
Darlene Peterson, Access to Success
Josh Wigen, Access to Success
Katie Ott, Access to Success
Sam Leonard, Access to Success
Nathan Whitsel, Access to Success
Lacy Walker, Access to Success
Cindy Everts, Access to Success
Jonna Schwartz, Access to Success

Many Guests of the Helena School District

I. TOUR OF ACCESS TO SUCCESS

II. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No Change

IV. PRESENTATION:

Mr. Crawford explains to the Board that they run both Access to Success and the Adult Learning Center. The Adult Learning Center is for those that need job skills, resume building, and help with particular subjects. Sometimes it is difficult because these adults can come and go as they please so it's up to them to make the effort for success. It important to build a relationship with these people and help them gain the skills to achieve their goals. They have 130 students in the last year. They operate with 2.16 FTE, 1 FTE Case Manager and 1 Secretary.

Access to Success has 75-100 students this year. There has been a total of 469 graduates since the program started. They operate with a staff of 3.8 FTE and 1 secretary. Their class and credit offerings are different each year because they have to offer classes based on the needs of the students. These kids have all applied to go to school here and want to be here so they take things seriously. The kids follow the rules and respect the college. So far, they have also not had any COVID in the school this year.

He introduces his staff: John Peterson (Adult Case Manager), Darlene Peterson (Adult Ed Secretary), Josh Wigen (Access to Success S. Studies Teacher), Jonna Schwartz (Adult English Teacher), Katie Ott (Access to Success Secretary), Sam Leonard (Access to Success Language Arts Teacher), Nathan Whitsel (Access to Success Math Teacher), Lacy Walker (Adult Ed Math Teacher), Cindy Everts (Adult Ed Career Counselor).

Chairman Muszkiewicz asks Mr. Crawford to talk more about the unique situation of a high school program on a college campus. Mr. Crawford explains that is a great asset as the students can finish with them and then start directly into a college where they already feel comfortable. It provides a more drama free atmosphere than regular high school. There are no athletics and the kid's find some security in its small size. Mr. Crawford explains that they do not advertise so every student has come through word of mouth and through recommendations from school counselors. Some kids come needing to make up credits. Other kids come with 4.0 GPA's that just can't handle the pressure of regular High School. They all just come to work hard and finish. He feels with more staff they could easily expand their program. The adult

education side may have a harder time expanding due to space constraints. They have talked about possibly expanding to space in the pre-release for satellite classes.

Trustee Beaver asks if the funding comes from the general fund or an adult fund and if kids can go to this high school all 4 years. Mr. Crawford says the money comes from an adult fund. He also explains that kids cannot come to Access for Success until they are 16 although some may come at that age with no credits at all.

Trustee McEwen asks where the diplomas for this school come from? Mr. Crawford says they are a Helena Schools diploma with no specific school attached although, if a student comes back later asking for transcripts, their original high school will be the one listed. There are classes offered at both college campuses but there are no AP classes offered through Access to Success.

Trustee Goldes says she was not aware until the tour that Helena Schools runs the program for Jefferson and Broadwater counties as well as Lewis and Clark County. She asks how many of the programs statewide are run by the public school system and how many are run by colleges? Mr. Crawford explains that most are funded through the public school system in the state of Montana. Bozeman runs their own program but does not take federal money so they don't have the same restrictions. Missoula, Miles City and Havre also have the program. In other states, the colleges tend to run these types of programs. She also asks if many come from Jefferson and Broadwater counties and the answer is yes. He explains there are also satellites in Boulder at the library and in Lincoln. He is also asked how COVID has impacted the program. He says not a whole lot as adults tend to prefer to do the remote learning from home. He says they have students from ages 16-75.

Trustee Hathhorn thanks them for all they do and expresses what a great program this is for the community.

Trustee Sullivan says she is grateful for the program as she has a nephew who went through it and so she sees the impact personally.

Board member Walsh says she was not at all knowledgeable on this program so she is very happy to learn so much from the presentation. She asks if the program has school nurses or counselors, etc. Mr. Crawford answers that they do keep the HHS nurse on call and the staff is all trained for things like EpiPen use. They also have a list of counselors in the community to refer kids to if needed.

Trustee McKee comments that it is such a great program that really makes a difference, and many people don't even know it's there.

Dr Reams says that the great success stories out of this program need to be told. He asks how regular the conversation about continuing on to college is had with those

enrolled. Mr. Crawford explains that it is something they talk about from the time of enrollment and throughout the program, especially being on a college campus already. It's an easy transition for those that want to make it. He also says that this program creates a lot of first for these students. For some they are the first to graduate high school in their family, or the first to go to college, or for some even the first to bring home A's.

Chairman Muszkiewicz thanks the staff for all taking the time to be at the meeting and expresses how incredible he feels the program is.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Consent

- 1. Approval of Nov 17, 2020 Board Work Session Minutes**
- 2. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property-Food Services Surplus**
- 3. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property- CHS Sewing Machines**

Motion: Motion to accept Items for Consent made by Trustee Sullivan,
Second by Trustee McEwen

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 8-0 Motion carried

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Beaver would like to note that the food trays that he sees listed for disposal should be offered to the science labs as dissection trays. He also feels packages of foam boards could be used by some area of the school.

Trustee McKee adds that as a seamstress herself, she is sad to see the sewing machines go.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other topics for future meetings and no public comments on issues not on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair

Gretchen George, Recording Secretary Date