



*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 – Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 – 12:00pm

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

##### *Committee:*

Sarah Sullivan, Committee Chair  
Jennifer Walsh, Committee Member  
Siobhan Hathorn, Committee Member

##### *Others:*

Tyler Ream, Superintendent  
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent  
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff  
*(excused absence)* Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum &  
Instruction Administrator  
Jane Shawn, HEA President  
Derek Amos, member of the public  
Christine Roberts, member of the public

#### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm by Committee Chair, Sarah Sullivan.

#### II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Amos referenced the email he sent trustees and offered to provide additional clarification once the board read the information.

#### III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the September 2, 2020, committee meeting were reviewed.

#### V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION:

##### A. Development of Monthly Committee Topics

Ms. Sullivan recommended a discussion on the online learning model – what was working, what was not, and what was the role of technology post-pandemic. Dr. Ream responded those questions would be addressed in the technology department assessment. He recommended tentatively presenting the results of the technology assessment at the November committee meeting prior to presenting them to the full board. The committee agreed.

Ms. Sullivan recommended an assessment of the current social and emotional health programs. Mr. McKay provided an overview of the current programs and listed the tools that had been added over the summer. He recommended discussing the services by tier of support. Ms. Walsh requested reviewing feedback from parents and teachers on CSET and day treatment programs to assess their effectiveness at the discussion. Ms. Walsh requested adding how the district was assessing social and emotional health for both in-person and digital-learning students.

Ms. Sullivan requested a general assessment overview. Dr. Ream replied the daily assessment platform would continue to be dynamic and it will be interesting to see ACT/SAT scores from last spring.

Ms. Walsh asked to revisit the changes made to the assessments last year and goals of the committee to determine if any changes needed to be made.

Ms. Sullivan asked if the committee would look at any necessary class offering changes at the high schools resulting from a loss of students. Dr. Ream recommended adding it as a discussion item in March or April, which was a similar timeframe to when the budget committee would discuss it.

Dr. Ream confirmed future committee meetings would include discussions as follows:

- Technology Department Assessment
- Social and Emotional Health Program Review by Tiers
- Annual Review of the Assessment Platform
- A Performance Matters Overview (tentative)
- Surveys Discussion
- High School Class Offerings

The committee agreed.

#### **B. K-5 Standards-Based Grading Update**

Dr. Ream provided background on the shift to standards-based grading to provide parents with reports more actionable to learning. Mr. McKay added the goal was to provide accurate and meaningful feedback to students and parents, which was especially important since students were not physically in school last spring. He added the elementary schools would be aligned across the district.

Ms. Sullivan asked for clarification that the standards-based report would contain metrics accompanied by a narrative instead of just a letter grade. Ms. Davidson provided an overview of the process, which included working with a team of teachers last year to identify essential standards and develop assessments aligning to the standards. She was meeting with grade level teachers later that day for feedback on the draft reports and would keep adjusting the reports based on feedback. Ms. Davidson told the committee teachers would participate in professional development in the spring to learn best practices on establishing proficiency so they would feel comfortable discussing student progress with parents. Mr. McKay added the transition to using iReady was partly driven by the fact that it was standards-based. He added iReady provided teachers with student profiles to gauge progress aligned with standards along with habits of the

student – the soft skills. Dr. Ream told the committee trustees needed to be involved in the process because several policies referenced grades.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

No comments were offered.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52pm by Ms. Sullivan.