



*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, February 3, 2021 – 12:00pm

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

*Trustees:*

Sarah Sullivan, Committee Chair  
Jennifer Walsh, Committee Member

*Others:*

Tyler Ream, Superintendent  
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent  
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff  
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum & Instruction  
Tim McMahon, Activities Director  
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology  
Sean Maharg, Special Education Administrator  
Kayla Lunnon, Educator  
Christy Mock-Stutz, Literacy Coach  
Jane Shawn, HEA President

#### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm by Committee Chair, Sarah Sullivan.

#### II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 6, 2021, committee meeting were reviewed.

#### V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: High School Mathematics Overview: Curriculum and Methods and Impact of Required Third Year of Mathematics

Ms. Sullivan provided context to the discussion by reminding the committee that board made a decision six years ago to add a year of math to the curriculum. The discussion was intended as an evaluation to gauge the effectiveness of that decision.

Mr. McKay told the committee 23 credits were required for graduation – including three credits for math. He presented the current math pathways chart found in high school registration information and explained each of the paths. Ms. Davidson added there were three dual-credit math classes were offered to juniors and seniors: technical math, contemporary math, and college algebra.

Ms. Sullivan asked how this information was communicated with students and families. Mr. McKay answered it was provided in registration materials, and counselors discussed the options with students.

Mr. McKay provided committee members with a copy of the Montana University System requirements for enrollment – which included an Algebra II level class. He clarified that admission standards for two-year schools varied by program. Mr. McKay said OPI was considering requiring three years of math for all graduating seniors, but it was still on a district-by-district basis. He added the intent for requiring three years in the district was to provide students with options for their futures post-graduation.

Ms. Lunnon provided the committee with an overview of the support pieces utilized at the district, with the assistance of Michelle Douglas, to address issues with failure rates in math classes. She added the intent of continual adjustment and intervention was to help students see success. One example of support pieces detailed by Ms. Lunnon was offering students make up time to focus on key standards pieces rather than having to complete an entire semester of a class. Mr. McKay added there was a lot of professional development opportunities to determine implementation of these new practices.

Ms. Sullivan asked for confirmation that, based on the information provided, 50% of jobs needed Algebra II. Mr. McKay answered they needed the essential standards. He added it was important for students to know which classes they need for the jobs they wanted.

Ms. Walsh requested confirmation that four years of math was required for a four-year college/university. Mr. McKay confirmed.

Ms. Walsh asked if counselors were working with students to determine which pathway students should choose. Ms. Davidson answered they were, adding colleges wanted more math, science, and foreign languages, so counselors were recommending students take as many math and science classes as they could prior to graduation.

Ms. Sullivan discussed the option of presenting this information to the full board.

## **VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

No additional comments were offered.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46pm by Ms. Sullivan.