

Board of Trustees Meeting

Ray Bjork Board Room and via Zoom

1600 8th Ave, Helena, MT 59601

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

5:30 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 (absent, excused)

Jennifer McKee, Trustee

Libby Goldes, Trustee

Jennifer Walsh, Board Member

Student Reps:

Claire, Helena High

Mariah, Capital High

Dr Tyler Ream, Superintendent

Rex Weltz, Incoming Superintendent

Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager

Many Guests of the Helena School District

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

1. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz introduces the districts next Superintendent Rex Weltz. He also does a quick recap of the public comment procedures. There will be a comment time for each Action Item and there is also a General Comment time for items not on the agenda. He asks that each person states their name, and the correct spelling and their relationship to the district. In person will be first and online will be second. Online will indicate intention to speak by entering name in chat box. Comments will be held to 3 minutes.

1. **STUDENT & EDUCATOR RECOGNITIONS**
2. HEF Harrison Writing Awards “Thank God for Christmas Lights” by Andrea Stalnaker, Capital High School “A House that Remains Silent” by Rebecca Smillie, Capital High School “The Pale White House with a Red Brimmed Door” by Angelo Bender, Access to Success
3. Helena High student Tim Cuddy earned the National Speech and Debate Association’s Academic All-American award. Coach: Jen Hermanson
4. Helena High student Heath Caldwell was awarded the Animal Science Award, Best Wildlife Project, and Gold Ribbon at the Montana Science Fair for his work “Comparative Osteohistology within the Long Bones of Rocky Mountain Elk.” Mr. Caldwell also presented his work at the Intel Regional Science Fair and won Montana Technology University Biology Department “Best in Show” and Blue-Ribbon Silver Medal.
5. Helena High student Claire Downing earned the First Place Grand Award, Larry Fauque Grand Award and Silver Ribbon at the Montana Science Fair for her work “Colonizing Bryophytes Used as a Post-Wildfire Ecosystem Stabilization Treatment in Montana.” Ms. Downing also presented her work at the Intel Regional Science Fair and was awarded First Place Grand Award, Association for Geoscientists Award, and a Blue-Ribbon Gold Medal. Both students are advised by Helena High Biology, AP Research, and Biomed Educator, Tyler Hollow.
6. SkillsUSA Montana State Leadership & Conference Award Winners from Helena High: Logan Eckerson: Gold Medal for Extemporaneous Speech Luc Ronan: Gold Medal for Job Skill Demonstration and Silver Medal for Welding Sculpture Byren Stoner: Silver Medal for Combination Welding Nolan Bumgardner: Silver Medal for Job Skill Demonstration This team is advised by Jason Hartwick and Veronica Robertson.
7. SkillsUSA Montana State Leadership & Conference Award Winners from Capital High: Tristan Kelley: Silver Medal for Technical Drafting Katelyn Obert: Gold Medal for Architectural Drafting Megan McCauley: Gold Medal for Photography Wes Bruski: Gold Medal for CNC Milling and Gold Medal for Job Interviewing The CHS team also won the “Quality Chapter” award. This team is advised by Eric Croft.
8. Capital High Educator, Reg Hageman, was awarded the Striving for Excellence award from SHAPE Montana.
9. Recognize 2020/21 Student Trustees, Mariah Mercer (CHS) and Claire Downing (HHS), for their service on the Board of Trustees. Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz starts by thanking the girls for their work this year, especially during a year that was very different from any other year. Things were challenging and tense and he appreciates their reports as well as the questions they ask. Trustee Hathhorn also thanks them and recognizes how hard it has been. Trustee McEwen asks where the girls are headed next year. Mariah will be attending the University of Arizona to study Molecular and Cellular Biology and she hopes to become a Secondary Science Education Teacher. She thanks her experience here in getting her interested in education. Claire is going to Vanderbilt University to pursue a degree in Ecology, Evolution and Biology. She will minor in Spanish and she will be part of the Navy ROTC Program. Dr Ream and Michelle Skinner have helped with gifts from the district.
10. Recognize Trustee Sarah Sullivan for her service on the Board of Trustees. After 6 years on the Board, Trustee Sullivan is stepping down. Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz says that Sarah is very dedicated to the students. She is an authentic voice and she has a big heart. He thanks her for her service and guidance. Trustee Beaver says it will be radically different without her. She lights up the room. She has been an advocate for all the kids. She represents those who are unable to represent themselves. She has become a friend.

\*Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz reminds everyone that the district does still have an indoor mask policy. Masks are required per policy 1905. They do have the authority to put that policy into place per the Montana Constitution. There will be a short break. He asks that everyone wear a mask when the meeting resumes. If there is a medical or development disocclusion that prevents mask wearing, they will honor that. He asks that everyone be honest and follow district policy.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz: Masks are required per policy 1905. This policy is adopted, implemented, and enforced in accordance with the supervisory authority vested in the Board of Trustees in accordance of Article 10, section 8 of the Montana Constitution. What this policy asks is that while on District property, you wear a mask indoors. The policy lists 7 exceptions. The appropriate exception in the case of tonight’s meeting would be that you provide documentation from a care provider when considering an exception for medical or developmental reasons. He perceives the current situation to be that there are several members of the public who are attending the meeting but not wearing masks and they have not provided that documentation. Therefore, out of the safety of students, staff and members of the public, he recesses the meeting indefinitely.

Meeting is stopped at this point and does not go further.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
3. **BOARD COMMENTS**
4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully Submitted,

Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair

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Gretchen George, Recording Secretary Date