



Superintendent
Rex Wertz
324-2001

Business Manager
Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

Central Elementary School
402 N Warren St, Helena, MT 59601
And on TEAMS

Tuesday, October 12th, 2021
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
John McEwen, Trustee
Terry Beaver, Trustee
Elizabeth “Libby” Goldes, Trustee
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Jennifer McKee, Trustee
Rylie Schoenfeld, Helena High School Representative
Eliza Lay, Capital High School Representative

Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Gary Myers, Technology Administrator
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Administrator
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Trish Klock, Bryant Principal
Nick Radley, Central Principal

Many guests of the Helena Community

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW AGENDA

No changes to the agenda were made.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rex Weltz began his Superintendent Report with a Power Point presentation recognizing our IT staff for Informational Technology Day that was on September 24th.

The next slide was celebrating school custodian appreciation day which took place on October 2nd. Trish Klock, Principal at Bryant Elementary, took a moment to comment about the custodian at Byant. There are not enough words I can say about Mr. Mike. He is an outstanding staff member. Our building is incredibly clean, but more importantly he is a connection for our kids. His day is built around providing breaks and meaningful work for students, and he gets to just have conversations with kids. We are really working on check and connect with our kids, and he is one of those people that can make connections with a wide range of kids. We are so grateful that he is apart of our Bryant staff.

Mr. Weltz commented. Thank you Principal Klock. Those connections happen across our district. Not only are custodians responsible for the cleanliness of our building but they also connect with our students. They are an integral part of our team. I'd also like to thank Neal Murray, Tim Branson, and Rob Brewer in our Facilities and Maintenance Department.

The presentation continued with a slide for National Instructional Coach's Day which occurred on October 6th. Mr. Weltz commented. It is no better time than coming out of COVID to bring on our Instructional Coaches who are supporting teachers and students as we engage back into academics. I appreciate the Instructional Coaches and Joslyn Davidson in our curriculum department who is leading that effort.

The next slide displayed National Principal Month in October and Mr. Weltz thanked our great and talented leaders across our District.

Next, a slide was shown displaying Central Office Site visits including a picture of site visits to Broadwater Elementary and Helena Middle School.

Mr. Weltz then commented that HSD1 Elementary Schools achieve PAX Exemplar District Status. To be considered a PAX Exemplar School District, HSD1's eleven elementary schools have made the commitment to implement the PAX GBG school wide over the next 5 years. The predicted benefits for students who learn and employ the strategies taught through the PAX GBG include: more students will graduate from high school, more students will enter post high school education programs, fewer students will commit and be convicted of serious violent crimes, fewer students will become addicted to and abuse substances, and fewer students will contemplate and/or attempt suicide.

Mr. Weltz commented on the next slide. In 2021, we are thrilled to continue our partnership with both Helena Public Schools and the Montana Renewable Energy Association. I was able to have Principal Alberts and Board chair Luke Muszkiewicz with me at the Sun Run-Solar Panel Fundraiser last week here at Central.

Mr. Weltz commented. Thank you, Albertsons on Fee Street, for donating two pallets of sanitation supplies to the Helena Public School District.

Mr. Weltz commented. I was proud of the Helena Middle School student council for their great work on covering up graffiti on school grounds. I appreciate them doing that.

Mr. Weltz then shared photos from National Walk to School Day which took place on October 6th. That concluded the Power Point presentation.

Mr. Weltz commented. Lastly, I would like to recognize our school nurses. In the last two months they have been working extremely hard, and they are led and supported by Ms. Barb Ridgway. I would like to thank her as well.

Mr. Weltz moved on to discuss his new business which included board calendar planning for November and December as well as an update on transportation. Mr. Weltz invited Ms. Ridgway to update the board on transportation.

Ms. Ridgway commented. Like districts across the country, we continue to be short on bus drivers. We are approximately 20 drivers short. Rather than totally cancelling routes for the rest of the year, which a number of districts have done, Tom Cohn and his staff have been very creative and looked at a way to lessen the impact on families. What they are doing is dividing those 75 routes up into quarters. Bus routes 1 through 18 will not run the first week of the month but routes 18-72 will run. The second week of the month routes 18 through 36 will not run. It is a rolling routine of one week out of the month you will not have bus transportation. We will continue to run buses for things such as Gifted and Talented and all our special ed buses will run. It will make things easier because we will not have our bus drivers doing double routing and kids arriving at seven o'clock and some not getting home until after five. We are prepping the routes now and that will roll out November 1st. We have begun telling families and will continue to tell them and work with them. We do have some kids in interesting locations, and we will work out how we get them to school.

Mr. Weltz continued with the new business portion of his Superintendent Report and commented regarding site rapid testing. I think one of the most important things we can do right now is to provide a rapid 15-minute test within our schools for our families. Barb and our school nurses have put together a program in which we can test our students.

Ms. Ridgway commented regarding site rapid testing. We have been rapid testing our staff for about a year. We began this year with a small roll out of rapid testing symptomatic students as well as symptomatic staff. Our goal is to get symptomatic folks out of the environment. Our other goal is to move on to asymptomatic staff and students who have been identified as a close contact and follow CDC guidelines to test them as well. We received a grant today from the state to assist us with that.

Mr. Weltz moved on to comment about staff COVID leave. Across the district for all our staff we embedded and put in place COVID leave. The federal government did not extend COVID leave, and we know that it is a hardship for employees to only have the option to use sick leave. We are happy to work with our union to have this in place.

Mr. Weltz concluded his Superintendent Report with discussing his outreach and meetings in the community and the following comments: I'm really proud of our district and our community. We have been civil and accepting, and our kids are in school five days a week. Thank you, Mr. Radley, for having us here today.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. I would like to give a shout out to Trustees McKee and McEwen for their involvement in the Sun Run event. I would also like to give a huge shout to a longstanding district champion Madalyn Quinlan who has done so much for the district and is a leader in that organization as well. I really appreciate that opportunity for the community to come together and the worthwhile goal of raising funds for the solar panels on our schools. The next thing I want to say is thanks to Tom Cohn and his team and thank you Barb Ridgway for talking about transportation. I appreciate the creative problem solving and I also appreciate the parents that will be impacted by this. I know we will come together as a community and figure this out. Thank you for the wonderful report.

Trustee Terry Beaver commented. Concerning the COVID rapid test, do we have any idea what percentage we are getting of false negatives or false positives?

Mr. Weltz responded. When we first started using our rapid test a year ago, they predicted that the effectiveness of that was about 70 to 75 percent. I have now seen that be about 85 to 90 percent effective. There is a margin of error for sure.

Trustee Terry Beaver commented. When we get a positive test is that followed up by a comprehensive test from somewhere else?

Mr. Weltz responded. No. We can advise families to go get a second reading with a gold standard test, but we do not follow up. The only thing we have at our disposal from the state is the BinaxNOW free version.

The committee also discussed more items surrounding transportation including how we would get information about routes out to families, and how we may reimburse families financially for the weeks that they would not be receiving bus services.

Trustee John McEwen commented. Is the testing underway currently? Does a parent have to give permission for that test?

Mr. Weltz responded. It is. We have been testing a pilot program with students for the last couple of weeks and it will now roll out to the entire district. Parents do have to give permission for the test.

Ms. Ridgway commented regarding the testing. Parents are very grateful to have the opportunity. It is hard to find these rapid tests right now. Some people have shared that it is very expensive to get tested. The feedback that we have gotten from parents is appreciation.

Trustee Jennifer McKee commented. The testing program is remarkable and I'm so thankful to everyone that made it happen. To be able to test and figure out what is happening in real time is a real game changer.

Trustee Libby Goldes commented. I really appreciate this list and getting to hear all the good work that is going on. As I reflect on that we can see everything that has to come together to help support having our kids in school five days a week. From the custodians keeping our buildings clean and making connections to kids, to all the other aspects of things it's really exciting to see so much going on and I appreciate the effort that goes into it. Thank you all for your great work.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Mohs is a parent of a senior in the school district. Ms. Mohs commented. My one request is that we have a special board meeting with all the COVID policies, testing data, COVID data from the schools, as well as how many kids have been checked out or admitted into St. Petes related to COVID. I'd also like to bring up the interest in looking at masks and having a lab test done to see what kind of bacteria is in those masks, or not in the masks; and how that could be affecting kids' health outside of COVID. I know a story that is rather heartbreaking about a kindergartener who is fighting RSV and pneumonia. I am here to request a special board meeting having to do with everything COVID. Thank you.

Heidi Keaster is a parent of children in the Helena School District. Ms. Keaster commented. I wanted to say how excited and grateful I am on the partnership between Helena College and Bryant. I think a prior board member was working on the trade school advances. Governor Gianforte passed legislation for trade schools, and I encourage you all to put politics aside and look for solutions for underprivileged youth that would benefit from trade schools at Helena College. I come before you to ask to put on the agenda or a public meeting as the person before me spoke about; we would like a meeting regarding COVID as the changes are going to be coming up when the vaccine will be available for children. We need to rip off the band aid. I understand this is a hard situation. I am a health care provider and so is my husband. I don't believe children wearing masks is helping the situation at all. We have studies that prove cloth masks don't work and surgical masks only work 10 to 11 percent of the time. Are you looking at data every day? Capital High and C.R have the same amount total as Hawthorne did last week. Hawthorne had 24. So did Capital and C.R. What is per capita per student ratio? Four Georgians, 21. Close to Helena High, 19. Elementary schools are at 230 to 300 kids, but they seem to have more COVID cases. And they are 100 percent masking, correct? Why don't we look at these numbers? When the vaccine comes out, I'd like a plan for moving forward to get the masks off. I think they deserve to have logic and scientific reasoning behind the masking. Science does not corroborate cloth masking at all. When the vaccine comes out, there is no reason to mask at all. Consider the Bangladesh study. Would you use an antibiotic that only worked ten percent of the time? I don't think you would. I wouldn't. The original idea was believed that droplet transmission was the main mechanism of spread, and that is why we were masking because we thought it was going to work. Under the mandate of Governor Bullock, we did almost a year of full masking, and if it was droplets, it would have put it under control in just six weeks of masking like that. These letters that are going out Friday, makes it feel like you are holding over our heads-be quiet, shut up and just wear the masks or we are going to close down. I just want to say one thing. I want to read you an email from a Bryant parent. "Hey good

morning. Did you read the Panther Press to COVID? Hopefully they will keep schools open. During remote learning it's very hard for me to teach my children from a hotel room." There are 15 kids at Bryant that live in a hotel room. Don't close down schools and I would severely like you to stop doing that on Fridays, you are scaring the crap out of them. Thank you.

Serena Carley is a grandmother of two elementary children in the Helena School District. Ms. Carley commented. I want to take a moment to address you personally. I agree that our community is great, but there are a lot of people in our community that aren't. I have been spit on and we are in a place where individualism has run amuck. You can't disagree with somebody without either being hit with violence, or even among families unfriended. But you strive to be respectful and kind, and when I see that I want to call it out and tell you that even when I was not kind, you were. I want to tell you personally in a public forum, so people know that there really are people out there that are kind and respectful. Moving on, she addressed some of the testing as I did last month and how they get the numbers. I called the health board to find out where they are getting the numbers for the testing, because as I said before they take the number of tests and divide it by the number of positive cases. Not the new cases-the current cases. I have a daughter who works in an assisted living facility that administers 300 tests every Monday. Those tests are not reported to the public health. I have a friend that works at Westmont that each home administers tests every Monday morning. The negative tests are not submitted. I have a daughter that works at a pediatric clinic. They test their employees every Monday. The negative tests are not submitted. I want to give you guys a history lesson for a minute. Some of you are old enough to have had deductive reasoning and critical thinking in school. I know it is a lost art, but it is there. I want to give you a history lesson on our Bill of Rights. You know that there was a whole faction of people that opposed the Bill of Rights, because they believed that there were innumerable rights given to us by a creator, and to put them down on paper limits our rights. It is a waste of ink Madison said. Luckily, he was overturned or convinced otherwise because he wrote them. They have been trying to take them away from us ever since. Ten years ago, and twenty years ago when my kids were in school nobody would have thought that the parent wouldn't have the ultimate say in medical and educational things for their children. And yet we just had to pass a bill saying just that. In 1851 our government and the powers that be decided to infect the Native Americans with smallpox. Why? They were afraid. Let me just say that never in history have people that have forced others to comply ended up as the good guys. Thank you.

That concludes public comment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of 09.14.21 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Personnel Actions
3. Approval of Warrants
4. Approval of Out of District Attendance Agreement

Motion: Trustee Libby Goldes moved to approve the consent action items one through four. Trustee Terry Beaver seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries.

D. REPORTS

1. Helena Education Association Report

Jane Shawn, President of the Helena Education Association, commented. First of all, I want to say congratulations to Erika McMillin. She earned her National Certified School Psychologist credential from the National Association of School Psychologists this summer. I also want to say congratulations to Katy Wright, a Montessori teacher at Smith school. She was featured this past weekend on National Public Radio-Sunday Weekend Edition. Katy participated in Radio Diaries and a segment that was called Teachers Document Their Hopes and Fears During the Pandemic. She participated with several teachers across the country. COVID leave was sorely needed and greatly appreciated, and I am so glad that the union and the district were able to work together to make sure that was accomplished since it was a big priority for both of us. I have sent a letter of intent to bargain which has been accepted by the district. We are looking at interest-based consensus bargaining, and we will work to meet with the district in November or December for our initial meeting. The MFPE Educator Conference, formally known as MEA Days, will be in Great Falls. Next year's conference will be in Helena.

2. Budget & Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair John McEwen commented. The committee met on Friday, October 1st. We received a report from Janelle on the year-to-date expenditure report. Spending is going as planned. The majority of the meeting was on levies and budgeted and unbudgeted funds. Janelle presented us with several pages of information about these various kinds of funds, and I encourage you to get ahold of them. They are on our website under the budget meeting for October 1st. It's good information to have. It gives you a better understanding of school funding which is fairly complicated. Where we are heading this year is a decision about levies. The technology levy and the building reserve levy, and at what point do we want to go forward with those. We have this year to think it through and whether it is a good idea to do both, do one, or do none.

3. Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Committee Chair Jennifer McKee commented. We met on October 6th, and it was another fantastic meeting. Kaitlyn Hess and Joslyn Davison completed the second half of their presentation from the meeting before where we talked about the Instructional Framework and this data driven approach towards certain protocols that are happening in every single building now. This school and two others pioneered it a few years ago and now it is rolling out all across the district. The piece that we learned about last week was Plan, Do, Study, Act. What it means is throughout the instructional week-for the student what looks like a ten-minute ungraded quiz or something-what the teacher does with that is look to see if the student is meeting certain benchmarks. Then they get put into small groups and then every week there is a burst of instruction that is an all-hands-on deck experience, and it pushes kids so far down the road. They go into four categories like not meeting benchmark, exceeding benchmark, and no matter where they are, they are going to get an individualized, data driven hard push every week. The results were awesome. There was a group at a Helena school where one girl was getting about 3 percent of a reading

benchmark. This is an elementary school student who really needs to hit these benchmarks in order to keep advancing. Because of this approach, within eight days she was at one hundred percent. Another classmate was at fifty percent and within eight days was at one hundred percent. That is just one example of how they are just pushing as hard as possible across the district to move kids down the road. I was extremely impressed. It started at the elementary schools and it's now moving into middle and high school.

4. Policy Committee Report

Committee Chair Libby Goldes commented. The meeting was cancelled, and we will meet again next month.

5. Facilities & Maintenance Committee Report

Committee member Libby Goldes commented. It was a very busy and productive meeting. First, we had a discussion about closing out the bond for our new schools and the safety and security upgrades to the other elementary schools. Because the bond was split in a sense and a portion of it was not sold until later, we have until the end of next year to wind up that whole business. Right now, they are doing some analyses to determine exactly how much money will be left after all the current expenses are met and determining what will be done with those remaining funds in accord with the bond. Whether we need more FF&E (furniture, fixtures, and equipment) or other possibilities-what our options are when we know exactly how much money that is. We hope we will know that by the end of this year. That will give enough time to have all these things be completed. They have discussed this with the bond council to make sure we are in accord with the stipulations of the bond language.

We also had a discussion about the Facilities Master Plan Review which we are hoping to have in order to help us in presenting things such as the building reserve levy, which we need to present to the public again. In order to do that there are a few pieces of information that need to be worked on. One of which is a demographic study. We had one, and whether we are going to have a new one or we can update the one we have. It will be helpful to see where our students are as we look at maybe redrawing boundaries, as we look at the reduction of students in Helena High School. That is something that will be done in a thoughtful manner. There are consultants who can come in to help with that, and that is just one aspect of it. Although I would like to say that in previous work with the people that do the demographic studies, they say you should really do this every ten years so that your community becomes accustomed to it, and it is not as jarring when you start using that language. There was also a discussion that if boundaries are changed, to find ways to help accommodate families so that their families can stay at the school that they are accustomed to.

The firm that supported the district with the construction of our three new schools is called Hulteng. They came to present a proposal to help us develop an assessment of each of the needs of our facilities in terms of maintenance and what to expect in the future. This was done in the past and apparently it lapsed. It is important not only for the building reserve levy but also for the facilities and maintenance plan as a whole. It is not just an overview, but it goes into great detail and is quite specific and each school is

looked at individually, and the company has done it for other schools as well. They presented a plan to get that work done by the end of the year which is important because we have had a discussion about presenting a bond this coming spring.

Another aspect that came up was looking at some of the facilities that we have that perhaps we could find another use for. We have 7th Avenue Gym, and we did put a proposal out for members of the public and businesses to see if there was some way somebody could use that building that aligned with what the district required as far as safety for our students with it being right next to Central. Unfortunately, I think with COVID, any interest in that waned. In order for the district to use it for any purpose other than the current use of storage, it would require some infusion of funds to bring it up to code, and to address ADA issues. If we were to not be using that for any longer, it is filled with things, and so there was a discussion about a need for storage somewhere else. We also have the May Butler Center which will be vacated when the administration finalizes the move to the Lincoln Campus. Then there were some other buildings, so we made a list of things that we would like to have an evaluation done to see what possible future uses could be made of those facilities.

We did talk about considering buying land for the future. Other districts have done that, and they found if they did not have a use for it, they could sell it. There was a discussion about the shortage of land in the district as a whole. As we look at an increasing number of students and addressing our facility needs, that is something that we might want to consider.

6. Health Benefits Committee Report

Committee Chair John McEwen commented. The Health Benefits Committee did not meet at the regularly scheduled fourth Thursday of the month. The last time we met was when we went through the bid opening for the Stop Loss Contract which we approved at the last meeting. Our next meeting will be October 28th.

7. Montana School Boards Association Report

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. The Montana Conference of Educational Leadership will be October 20th through October 22nd and will be all virtual this year. Some of you may have heard in the national press or on the MTSBA board that there has been a conversation around a letter that the National School Board Association sent to the U.S. Attorney General essentially asking The Department of Justice and F.B.I. for assistance in situations where school board and district leadership teams were being legitimately threatened with crimes. As is so often the case, that has turned into a much bigger and very highly polarized thing with mischaracterizations of what it was all about from many different angles. The bottom line is that as an officer on the Montana School Boards Association, we have talked a lot about this, and our position is very clear. We obviously feel that public comment, in particular public comment from parents of our students, is absolutely critical to good decision making in public education, and that we welcome it just as we do on this local board. Given all the feedback that we have received, that public comment and that input from parents and members of the community has been respectful and civil, even if it has been critical of the decisions that

school boards and school leaders are making. However, there have certainly been instances where legitimate threats have occurred towards trustees, superintendents, or other district leaders and situations where local law enforcement has had to be involved. Fortunately, from everything MTSBA can understand, those are truly the minority of cases, but that is not to be tolerated and we support the involvement of local law enforcement in that situation. All of that said, we did issue a communication to the NSBA leadership saying that we felt that the way in which that letter was perceived and presented caused some problems for us here in Montana. There have been a lot of people who are critical of being a member of MTSBA as a result of that. If you have additional questions, you are welcome to reach out to me or reach out to the Executive Director of MTSBA as well.

8. Student Representatives Report

Eliza Lay, Capital High School Representative, commented. This past week was our Homecoming week at Capital High. We would like to especially thank Mrs. Goody, Mrs. Kidder, and Student Council for all their efforts in planning a pretty unconventional and unexpected Homecoming week. We had dress up days and activities, we had a virtual pep assembly, a door decorating contest, and a staff and student BBQ after early release on Friday. For the first time ever, we hosted an outdoor movie night. We rented a giant movie screen, and everyone sat on the football field and watched Back To The Future. It was awesome. Last week, the Capital High School Leadership and Literacy Team created a literacy goal based upon a focus on vocabulary instruction. This goal was based upon recommendations from the SLT after reviewing iReady data. The other goal for this year will be based upon instruction in the classroom. There is more work to be completed and details to discuss in order to finalize this goal. The SLT met with a literacy consultant to create professional development regarding the vocabulary goal as well as to create an instructional framework. Regarding PLC time on Monday, our instructional coaches are now incorporating professional development in light of the vocabulary goal starting with PLC time on Monday, October 11th. Once an instructional goal is created, they will then offer professional development in light of this goal. Juniors signed up for the PSAT will be taking this assessment this Wednesday at the Civic Center. 113 juniors are signed up. We have many concerts happening: we had a choir concert yesterday, an orchestra concert is happening right now, we have a band concert next Monday, and our theater department is working on a play called The Women that will be presented the first week in November.

Rylie Schoenfeld, Helena High School Representative, commented. For Helena High this month we have our accreditation review the last week of October, and some students and parents will be interviewed for their perspective on the school. Starting next Wednesday Principal Thennis will be reintroducing and starting up his Leadership Luncheons again monthly. These were not held last year due to COVID, and these include students on the executive boards of all our clubs, student council, and I will also be invited. These are going to be a round circle discussion with student provided topics to solve issues throughout our school. We had our Homecoming week a couple weeks ago and it went very well. We had a lot of great participation in our spirit week and dress up days. We were also able to have a great assembly outdoors on the grass hill. It went very well and

one staff member who attended HHS as a student and has now been teaching at our school for quite some time, commented that it was the best assembly that she had ever attended. That assembly concluded with Mr. Thennis being dunked in the dunk tank.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. The Executive Committee will be participating in the accreditation review at Helena High. Siobhan, Jennifer, and I will meet with the accreditation review team as part of that process.

Trustee John McEwen commented. We had a letter from a parent at Hawthorne pointing out the high rate of COVID compared to other schools. Is it an issue of more testing going on there, or bad luck that Hawthorne has gotten hit pretty hard on a per capita basis with COVID?

Superintendent Wertz responded. It has been a conversation topic for us and to put our finger on the reason is next to impossible. You just don't know the variables which are taking place, but what I can tell you is what we can control is the protocols we have in place and then strengthen those protocols. Making sure that people realize that wearing a mask properly, what it looks like to be 3 feet to 6 feet apart in distance, and just reminding people that it is still really important.

Trustee John McEwen commented. At what point would we not have school there and take a week off to get it under control? Would that be an option?

Superintendent Wertz responded. I think all those are options. In consult, we want to keep our schools open. We look carefully at the numbers every day from our nurses that report to Barb, and then Barb reports to me. I know what those numbers look like on a daily basis and keep a very close eye on it. If those persist for a long period of time, then we look at another option. In this case, it flattened out and it has come back down. It's just due diligence in our practices. Things are on the table but remember at the end of the day we want to keep our kids in school, and that is the best place for them to be. We are watching the numbers every day, and we are asking ourselves those questions.

Trustee Libby Goldes commented. My comment pertains to John's great report on the Budget and Finance Committee directing us to where we can go to try to understand school funding better. My experience with school funding is that it changes all the time. Whenever they try to simplify it, they just make it more complicated. It's something that you might try to understand, but true understanding I think may be impossible.

Trustee Jennifer McKee commented. Yesterday was Indigenous People's Day and this school is my kid's school and I watched it being built. It took skilled trades men and women from all over Helena and all over the region, but one of the crews that helped build this school were a group of Northern Cheyenne folks who drove all the way over from Rosebud County to help lay some bricks here and wanted to make note of that.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. COVID 19 continues, and we are in a pretty difficult place with the pandemic in our community right now. We have lost 105 of our community members to this disease, and we recently have lost a member of our own Helena

Public School's family, and I know that there has been many parents and grandparents as well who I don't know about. I would like to ask everybody to join me in a short moment of silence for all those who we have lost here in our community.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary Date