



Superintendent
Rex Weltz
324-2001

Business Manager
Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

Lincoln Center
1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601
And on TEAMS

Tuesday, March 8th, 2022
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
Siobhan Hathhorn, Vice Chair
John McEwen, Trustee
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Jennifer McKee, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Rylie Schoenfeld, Helena High School Representative

Elizabeth “Libby” Goldes, Trustee-Absent
Terry Beaver, Trustee-Absent
Eliza Lay, Capital High School Representative-Absent

Rex Weltz, 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
Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal
Steve Thennis, Helena High School Principal
Matt Carey, PAL Principal

Many guests of the public as well as Helena School District staff, students, and their families

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW AGENDA

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. Our Student Representative Eliza Lay is not here with us tonight, so Rylie Schoenfeld will be giving both of our Student Representative Reports. Rylie has another engagement tonight, so we will move the Student Representative Report directly after our Student and Staff Recognition. Trustee Goldes and Trustee Beaver are unable to join us tonight.

III. RECOGNITION

A. 2022 Global Educator of the Year

Principal Matt Carey commented. Thank you, Board of Trustees. I love this component of my job when I get to see kids doing awesome things in the classroom, and staff members who are passionate about their craft. The Montana educator that I get to introduce to you embodies care, dedication, love of kids, and professionalism. I would like to present Mr. Ryan Cooney, from PAL.

Ryan Cooney, PAL Educator and 2022 Global Educator of the Year, commented. Thank you for having me. This is an incredible honor. I am a product of the Helena Public School District; I was a student and I see some of my former educators here tonight. I would not be here today without the support and education I received here in Helena. As far as I'm concerned, this is the best school district that a student could go to school at and that a teacher could teach at. What Matt Carey said was absolutely true. I very much appreciate the recognition, and it's a big deal, but without my fellow teachers at PAL, without my career beginning at Capital High and getting all the support that I did from the community-from my administrators and fellow teachers-I would not be standing here right now. So, thank you Helena and the Helena School District. This is an amazing place to go to school and to be a teacher. Global Educator of the Year is an award given by the Academic World Quest-Montana World Academic Council based in Missoula. This is a national program and then all 50 states have individual programs as well. The kids really immerse themselves in different cultures. They spend months studying a very intense study guide, and preparing for the competition, which consists of 100 questions which they work on with teammates. This year there were 55 teams from across the states, and just over 30 schools were represented. Unfortunately, we did not win the big trip to Washington, D.C., and Germany this year. The kids had a wonderful time, especially our PAL students. Exposing them to these types of experiences, getting them out of town, being on campus, and staying in a hotel was a big deal for them. I could not have done that without the support of Mr. Carey, my fellow PAL teachers, and the Helena School District. Thank you very much, it is an incredible honor, and I really appreciate being here tonight.

B. 2022 MHSA Student Advisory Council Candidate

Principal Steve Thennis commented. Good evening members of the Board. I am the Principal of Helena High School, and it is a pleasure for me to be here this evening. As the Double A rep on the Executive Board of the Montana High School Association, it is my honor to introduce Helena High sophomore Annika Nehring. This year the MHSA opted to develop a Student Advisory Council since students are at the heart of what we do in school and at the heart of what we do at the Montana High School Association. They wanted more student voice similar to the model that you have here with the Board. When they asked for recommendations of students, I immediately thought of Annika. She is a member of the varsity volleyball team, she is a member of the varsity track team, she plays in the orchestra, she plays in the band, and she is an outstanding student.

Annika Nehring, 2022 MHSA Student Advisory Council Candidate, commented. I'm really glad that I was asked to apply for this program because I think it'll be something that's really cool and good for our schools in the state, because having input from students is honestly the most important thing considering it's about the students first and foremost. So, I just feel really honored that I got chosen. Thank you.

C. DECA National Qualifiers

Principal Steve Thennis recognized the Helena High DECA students with great performances at the recent state competition. Christine Anderson, Bella Brewer, Zoe Taylor, Melaina Kloberdanz, Corbin Luce, Eva Santos, and Huter Pandis all qualified for the National competition this summer. In addition, The Catty Shack, was among 461 school-based enterprises achieving Gold Certification for the 21-22 school year and will be recognized during DECA's International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, GA.

Principal Brett Zanto recognized the Capital High DECA students with great performances at the recent State competition. Kayton Belzer, Catherine Burbidge, Rylee Cummings, John Settle, and Brandon Soule will compete at the DECA's International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, GA.

D. Congressional App Challenge Winner

Principal Brett Zanto commented. It is my pleasure to introduce Mrs. Jamie Toivonen who is relatively new to Capitol High School, but she has certainly made an impact. She teaches a wide variety of classes, video classes, yearbook, computer science, and then AP computer science. So really, just that that college and career readiness, and it's great to see the numbers in those programs really increasing. As previously mentioned, a lot of our distinguished scholars were able to nominate their distinguished educators and a lot of those educators found that out today, so I was able to be with Jesse as well as Mrs. Toivonen earlier today when he presented her as being a distinguished educator. So, Mrs. Toivonen, if you want to come up and talk a little bit more about the app challenge

Mrs. Toivonen commented. Well, it's my pleasure to introduce Jesse Hruska. He won the 2021 Congressional App Challenge. It's kind of like the premier competition for computer science. Each representative in the U.S. Congress chooses one app for their District and since Montana only has

Representative Rosendale, he chose Jesse's app. Jesse deserves this so much. He's a hard worker, he's incredibly intelligent, and probably the most important-he's kind. He helps his classmates.

Jesse Hruska, Congressional App Challenge Winner, commented. My app was called, "An Evening Drive", and the reason why I made it was because Mrs. Toivonen introduced me to the Congressional App Challenge, and I wanted to make an app that was important and was about a useful topic. An issue that I see a lot with people my age is distracted driving. There's often a short glance at the phone, answering a call, or changing the music. It's dangerous and it happens really frequently. So, my app was based around teaching about the dangers of distracted driving, and other things that newer drivers might encounter, and I just made it into a format where I thought it would be more interesting with a story. As for after high school, I'm planning on going to Helena College and getting an associate degree, and then going to MSU or Montana Tech, and getting a degree in computer science, probably in software engineering.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. Wow, that's awesome. Congratulations. I happen to be a software engineer myself and let me just say how in demand your skills are going to be. What's remarkable about this is you are taking those skills and applying them to a real-world problem that affects your peers and everyone around you, and that's just really neat, and unique, and we're excited to hear what you do next.

E. State Swimming Champions

Principal Steve Thennis commented. It's really a credit to these young kids considering the winter swim season in Helena, Montana, and the fact that we are hosted by Butte, Montana for our home swimming competitions. In the winter months if we want to watch these athletes compete, it's generally a drive to Butte, Montana. This year at the state competition for Helena High School we had two young kids in the competition that came out on top of the double A ranks, and they were freshmen, Teagan Boysen who won the 200-yard IM, and sophomore Garret Krattiger who won the 500-yard Freestyle.

F. State Theater Recognition

Principal Brett Zanto commented. It is my honor to be able to introduce Laura Brayko, recipient of the Montana Theater Educator of the Year at the recent State Thespian Conference that was held a few weeks ago. I can't say enough about Mrs. Brayko, and her energy and enthusiasm that she brings. She was recognized as a Distinguished Educator earlier today by one of her students that she'll be talking about here in a second.

Ms. Laura Brayko, Montana Theater Educator of the Year, commented. Thank you. I would like to thank the administrative staff at Capital High-Mr. Zanto, Ms. Kidder, and Mr. Chancy-for their support of the theater program. I've counted my lucky stars every day that I get to work in such a welcoming community. The award that I was lucky enough to receive is an award that's presented at the State Thespian Festival in Missoula. It was canceled last year, and so this was the first time in a couple of years that all the theater geeks of the state got to come together and present a half-hour long, one act piece. Both Rob and I were lucky enough to bring pieces that got recognized and it's just an absolute honor to be a recipient of this award, and the legacy of it is very humbling.

I have the best job in the world. So, thank you so much. I think it's really cool how our students are taking a really active interest in the theatre arts of the state. They really are passionate about bringing the theatre arts to more rural schools in the state and just being a really positive presence for other students.

Morgan Harris, Recipient of the Best Props in a Festival Production Award, commented. I was the president of Montana State Thespians this past year. We got to bring the festival back, which was a super huge honor to have. Mrs. Brayko has poured her heart into the theater program at Capitol High School, and we all owe everything to her. I can't think of a better woman to lead anyone. The community that she has built at Capitol High School-we have tried to take that to the state level in Montana State Thespians. We will be passing on that legacy and will have more officers to spread our voice on that state level. I will be continuing theater in college. I'll be attending Western Washington University and pursuing a degree in theater arts, and I have all of that to thank because of Ben Harris, my father.

Ashley Heinrich, 2022-2023 Vice President of the State Thespian Officer Board, commented. Good evening, Board, thank you so much for your time and recognition, I really appreciate it. My name is Ashley Heinrich and I'm a junior at Capitol High School. I have been elected as the Vice President to the Montana State Thespian Officer Board, which is a board of students from around the state of Montana who are passionate about theater education and just spreading the love of fine arts. I'm so honored to receive this position and be able to not only continue theater at Capitol High School but show my love for it around the state of Montana. I really would like to thank Laura Brayko and my mother for being so amazing and helping my career in theater.

Jayden Dupler, 2022-2023 Communications Officer for State Thespian Officer Board, commented. Thank you for having me. I'm Jayden Dupler and I am a junior this year and I'm elected for the communications part of the board for next year for the state of Montana. I'm just so honored and theater is my niche. It's where I belong and being able to share the love and community that I've learned with theater is my passion. We are a big family. I just want to thank everybody in my life and the school for giving me these opportunities.

Mr. Steve Thennis commented. It is an honor and a privilege for me to introduce longtime educator, Mr. Rob Holter. Rob is the theater instructor at Helena High School, as well as the tech guru for pretty much every music production, play production, you name it. He provides a fantastic opportunity for our students, and he's done it so well for so long. I'm just grateful to have somebody of his talent and caliber in my high school.

Mr. Rob Holter commented. I'm grateful to our administration. Ms. Brayko and I do a crosstown show every year and it is magic. This year the crosstown show was, *The Women*, which we did as a period piece. I have the privilege of introducing two of the most outstanding students I've ever had the privilege of teaching. We all went to the State Theatre Festival and there is an exclusive set of auditions, interviews, and things that they have to do to get the scholarships that they received. It is highly competitive. They're amazing people and both of them are headed to the University of Montana next year. I'd like to introduce Brenna Holgate and Kaylee deMontigny.

Kaylee deMontigny commented. I received both the audition scholarship and the merit scholarship and I'm so incredibly thankful for that. I would like to thank my parents who started me in theater, and I wouldn't be where I am in theater without them and their assistance. Thank you to Mr. Holter as well. I'm going to University of Montana next year and I'm very excited. Thank you.

Brenna Holgate commented. I am the President of Helena High's Thespian Board. I was offered a scholarship to the University of Montana for my excellence in design and technology. I specifically presented them a board in which I did my costumes for The Women. I did over 100 costumes for the show. I cannot be more grateful to Morgan, who helped with the state board, but also to Ms. Brayko for opening her home in the theater to me to create my skills not only onstage, but backstage. Thank you, Mr. Holter, for allowing me to just be myself and creating a safe space for me and for other students. I am so excited to go to the University of Montana and major in theater and hopefully produce that same thing that I've experienced in high school at another school as well because I hope to be a teacher. That is thanks to my theater teachers and thanks to Mom and Dad for giving me gas money to get to rehearsals.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. Mr. Holter, you were a deeply influential person in my life when I was a student at Helena High, and I just so appreciate all you've done for so many students. I can't imagine how many over the years and we are very thankful for you.

G. Congressional Debate National Qualifier

Principal Brett Zanto commented. Thank you to everybody in this room that helped judge some of our Speech and Debate events this year. That definitely takes a community effort for that. I'd like to introduce Coach JW McClintic.

Mr. JW McClintic commented. Thank you, Board, for having us here tonight. So, what I'd like to tell you guys about is the national tournament for speech and debate taking place in Louisville, Kentucky this year. We will take the students there for an entire week. The national tournament is the largest academic tournament in the western hemisphere for high school students, and over 6,000 students participate, which is amazing. Brennan is a two-time national qualifier-he qualified last year as well. He was a debate Captain this year for the team and was one of the rocks that we were able to start building the program on. He really showed a lot of leadership and courage with the younger students and helped them through a difficult year. We determined that over half the students competing in speech and debate this year had never been to a live tournament, so they had no idea what was happening. It's thanks to seniors like Brennan that we were able to have such a successful season. So, without further ado, I would like to call him up to get recognized.

Brennan Jensen, Congressional Debate National Qualifier, commented. Yeah, I just want to thank the Board for the recognition. I also want to thank my coach, and my parents who are here. Nationals will be in Louisville, Kentucky this year, which is really cool because for the last two years, it's been online. I will be competing in congressional debate, which is essentially like a mock Congress. It is a great opportunity for students to get involved in speech and debate. Next year I will be attending Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

H. State Wrestling Champion

Principal Brett Zanto commented. I do want to say a few words about Coach Graham. He is at a meeting elsewhere this evening and not able to make it, but I would like to thank him for all his efforts during this past wrestling season. I would like to talk a little bit about Talon Marsh. He was the state champion this past year. Talon is a junior, so hopefully a year from now, we will be in the same spot. Talon wrestled in the 285-pound weight class and was undefeated. I am very proud of his efforts.

Talon Marsh, AA State Wrestling Champion, commented. This wrestling season was pretty cool for me. I'm blessed to have a really good coaching staff and good community around me. That's really what did it for me, and that's why I try so hard, is because I like to show my community that I can do it. I'd like to thank my parents, my coaches, and Mr. Zanto. Thank you for having me here.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Rylie Schoenfeld, Helena High School Representative, commented. At Helena High, spring sports will be starting next week and we're very excited about that. Today and yesterday, Helena High students participated in the AA Band Festival in a non-competitive environment creating music with the Capital, Sky View, and Glacier bands. We had a concert last night and will have one tonight. Also coming up is the District Music Festival which we'll be participating in. Lucy Lantz and Erik Callery have been named National Merit Finalists for our school, and that is very exciting.

Rylie Schoenfeld gave the Capital High student representative report on behalf of Eliza Lay. What a great display of CHS talent and school spirit for our community the past few days. From the pep band to the cheerleaders, to students performing the national anthem, and to students playing on the court. It was great to see so many people at the AA Divisional Tournament. Last week was Respect Week at CHS, as well as the annual Spread the Word Inclusion Rally that was held in the gym at lunchtime. There were daily dress up themes, daily announcements, and then the rally. The week was spent in supporting inclusion for those with and without disabilities. Our school leadership team continues to complete instructional rounds focused on the beginning of lessons throughout all classrooms. The school leadership team will be looking for teachers who greet at the door, start at bell, focus on an activity, focus on a learning target, and have a daily or weekly agenda. The resulting data is examined to discuss future professional development for staff, as well as to decide when to possibly focus on more items in the classroom. Registration season has come to an end as counselors spent time at C.R. Anderson last week. Eighth graders visited CHS on Tuesday and Parent Night was held that evening. Last Tuesday there were approximately 1,600 students in the building, all at one time. In regard to the parent meeting-over 120 people were logged in to the informational meeting hosted last Tuesday night. Such a total is great to see as it shows the excitement that has been generated and the college and career opportunities found within Capital High School. Counselors still have a lot of work to do when inputting requests and tracking down missing registration forms. Winter Formal was held on February 19th at the Civic Center, and they had approximately 650 students attend. Thanks to the CHS student council for sponsoring the event. Mr. Zanto heard a lot of positive comment regarding the dance. The first session of the YAM-Youth Aware of

Mental Illness Curriculum was completed in half of the freshmen PE classes. Therapists met with and worked with students from some of our PE classes for five separate class periods. The rest of freshmen will be exposed to the same program later this spring. Mr. Zanto has been working with both the staff as well as parents in creating the Assistant Principal hiring profile. He met with parents on Thursday afternoon to review and gather information. There was an optional staff meeting held after school last Tuesday to gather input in the following areas: vision, instructional leadership, communication, community and parent involvement, and personal leadership behavior. Once the profile is created, he will be working with Assistant Superintendent McKay for next steps in the hiring process.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rex Weltz commented. I am so inspired. That last half hour of recognition was a testament of what is going on in our buildings, and it is very inspiring. Superintendent Weltz began his report with recognition. Mr. Dave Thennis, Principal at C.R. Anderson, has accepted a Superintendent position in the Bitterroot, and I couldn't be happier for him. Mr. Tennis has been in the district for 24 years as a teacher and an administrator. He is a leader in the district, and he will be missed by his staff and students. I've never thought it was a bad idea for people to challenge themselves and move, and so we wish him the best of luck. Ms. Lisa Lowney, Principal at Kessler Elementary, will be retiring at the end of this year. She has been in the district for 26 years. We lose a considerable amount of knowledge and teaching experience from those two. Walt Chancy, Capital High School Assistant Principal, has been with us for 46 years. He taught for 26 years and was an administrator for 20 years. In 1996 he was a head football coach and won a state title. He also was the head coach for gymnastics, and they won two state titles. We admire his career, and his tenure with the district. We wish all three of them the best of times as they move forward.

We had our site visits to Hawthorne, Broadwater, and Warren Elementary. I appreciate the Principals and the staff for welcoming us into the buildings. Most importantly, it's a time for my central office team and I to go see kids. We also attended the Board Work Session at Central on February 22nd. Ms. Ridgway, Mr. McKay, and I went to an enrichment activity at C.R. Anderson. English teacher Cori Krick had us come down and a group of eighth grade students gave a later start time for schools' presentation. Ms. Ridgway and I were also fortunate to go to Helena High School and Jill Van Alstyne and her Green Group students gave a presentation on solar panels and green energy. They are very motivated not only here in Helena, but also in assisting other districts in obtaining grants for solar panels. We have a lot to look forward to as our young students aspire to do better things for our world. I would like to acknowledge Mr. McKay and the calendar committee. That is not an easy task, and I appreciate him and that committee. I would like to give a shout out to the Helena Education Foundation for awarding Great Idea Grants across the district. I would like to congratulate each one of those staff members that were awarded a grant that's going to do great things with students.

Superintendent Weltz moved on to new business in his report. Across the district we are having in-person parent-teacher conferences. We are lead testing throughout the district. I have also spent a considerable amount of time around the pay matrix for the central office and administrators. That's been a lot of work and it's still in progress. I want to make sure I recognize that my central office team works extremely hard. This has been a delicate walk, but I don't ever want to disrespect who they are and the work that they do. I couldn't do it without them. We have had HEA/HEF Interest Based Bargaining taking place. We have a facilitator from the state that's helping us guide our work around negotiations.

We are continuing discussions around the solar panels at Bryant. We are scheduling spring assessments and those will take place in May. We continue to do work around standards-based grading and there is a committee that will be meeting to refine what that looks like. We are also working on summer school planning and what that will look like. Superintendent Wertz concluded his new business by discussing Principal and Assistant Principal profiles and interviews for Kessler and CHS, CRDC and ESSER data collections, the mental health support-planning grant, August teacher professional development conference planning, and YAM professional development planning. Mr. Wertz also recognized Kylee Hauch from Kessler Elementary who was named the 105.3 KMTX Teacher of the Month. Mr. Wertz recognized the AA Band Festival between Capital High, Helena High, Skyview, and Glacier. Mr. Wertz recognized wrestler Carson DeRosier, who has been an outstanding wrestler for four years in the Helena School District. Mr. Wertz recognized Assistant Superintendent Brian Cummings who was recognized as a Distinguished Educator. He also recognized the Helena School District cheerleaders, dance teams, and musicians for their hard work, and dedication. Mr. Wertz recognized the HHS Mock Trial Team who won the 3-peat state championship and are moving on to Nationals in May.

Superintendent Wertz concluded his Superintendent Report by discussing his various outreach and meetings in the community including AA Superintendent meetings, HEA, HEF, HEF-Executive Committee, Teacher Advisory, Parent Advisory, Cabinet meetings, Lewis and Clark Board of Health, meeting with the media, and meeting with his leadership team.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. Thank you Superintendent Wertz. I appreciate the negotiations with the Helena Education Association, the conversation around our admin pay matrix and getting that where it needs to be, and the critical lead testing in our schools and making sure that the water that our students and our staff use in our schools is safe. These are significant issues, and I appreciate your approach in getting out ahead of these issues, being open and honest, and taking ultimate responsibility for what happens in this District. I really appreciate your communication with our staff, with our community, and with our parents.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. We will now move on to general public comment. This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public Matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues, or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into discussion during general public comment. So, as we discussed before, we'll go ahead and start with people who are here with us in person who would like to give public comment.

Pastor Su DeBree commented. Thank you. This is my first chance to be part of the Board meetings and I'm thankful for the chance. My name is Pastor Su DeBree. I'm a grandmother, great grandmother, and parent of students that have been in the Helena School District. I taught school myself at Canyon Creek, and in Alaska before becoming a pastor. Between all my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, we have had students at C.R. Anderson, Hawthorne, Broadwater, Helena Middle School, Helena High School, and Capital High School. I am here to support you and to say thank you for the work that you do on the Board. It was just so inspiring to see the awards. Thank you very much.

Ms. Moffie Funk commented. My two children graduated from this school district, and I'm pretty grateful. The courtesy that you all demonstrated at the meeting last month was wonderful and thank you all so much for your fortitude over these many months. I commend you regarding this whole admin thing. That is a very tough conversation, and you have gotten ahead of it and been very transparent. I am so grateful for everything you're doing about mental health, and for signing that MOU with CSCT. Thank you to Ms. Mickelson and Mr. McKay for all their work. Thank you for doing the lead testing, and for everything that you do. I am very grateful.

Ms. Robyn Mohs commented. Good evening. I grew up in Helena schools and I have friends that go to the Helena schools. I have three main topics I would like to discuss. First, we'll just touch base on the FOIA I presented last month. The link that was included as far as the request for a peer reviewed data proving the effectiveness of masks that was used in the decision to mandate the masks-that link didn't work and it went to the CDC and I'm pretty sure they don't have peer reviewed data. We want peer reviewed data please. In December you met Loni, and she would like me to present this to you. I'm not going to read it all because it is three pages, but you will each get one with your name on it. You'll stop all COVID propaganda or provide proof of SARS COVID-19 isolation sample-that means it's isolated and it's been taken away from all other genetic material. You will stop all tracking and tracing of kids in the schools. You will stop all coercion of children and families to get experimental shots. You'll make a public apology to all children and families in the school district for coercion to wear masks. You'll put it in writing for the record that you will never make any kind of medical decision for our children again. This includes masking our children, this also goes against the religious beliefs and safety of our children. We're concerned about Policy 7060. We don't want to see these emergency procedures put into everyday policies. So, know that we are watching them, and we will continue to take action to fight for these kids. My last comment has to do with MCA-45-8201. My understanding is there are some library books that might be against this code. That's the obscenity code. A person commits the offense of obscenity when they have knowledge of the obscene nature of the material and the person purposely or knowingly sells, delivers, provides, offers, agrees to sell, deliver, or provide any obscene written, picture, record, or other presentation of embodiment of the obscene to anyone under the age of 18.

Ms. Nancy Perry commented. I am a resident of Helena, and I am a product of the Helena Public School system. I am also a member of the League of Women Voters, and we are putting on a candidate forum in April. We are looking forward to the election. I am amazingly impressed by what goes on here, and I just wanted to thank you very much for what you're doing.

Ms. Jamie Bright commented. Thank you, Chairman, Board, and Superintendent Weltz. I just wanted to let you know that I really appreciate that you took a special pause to thank and acknowledge our cheer teams, our dance teams, and the band. Those kids work equally as hard, and it's been exciting to watch them progress through the season. They will be loading the bus tomorrow to go to state with the basketball team and that's exciting as well. My young man is one of those cheerleaders that tosses the other cheerleaders in the air, and we are hoping he has a future in cheer at MSU next year. One last thing I wanted to mention, I am in charge of the senior all night party this year for all Helena graduating seniors. We're providing a safe, sober environment for those seniors after graduation, and I wanted to invite any of the Board members-if you're interested in being involved with that senior all night party, we will have a sign up for volunteers. If you're interested in helping with any committees, please reach out to me. Of course, this is parent driven, but we do welcome educators and those who are interested in helping with a fun, safe night for our seniors.

That concluded the public comment portion of the evening. The Board of Trustees moved on to discuss New Business-Items for Information: Policy 7060 School Safety.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items For Information

1. Policy 7060 School Safety

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, commented. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Policy Committee. They spent quite a lot of time on this. Safety protocols established in Policy 1905 are being incorporated into our School Safety policy as Policy 1905 will sunset in June 2022. Language added to the Policy 7060 School Safety includes but is not limited to: cleaning and disinfecting, physical distancing, face coverings, and healthy hand hygiene. This will go back to the Policy Committee and will probably be presented to you next month.

The Trustees discussed that this spring they would consider the 1900 series policies and discuss what they would want to keep going forward and incorporate into standard policy, and what they would like to rescind.

Trustee Jennifer McKee commented. Regarding *Physical Distancing* on lines 104 to 114, will there be a certain trigger in which we would require physical distancing?

Ms. Ridgway replied. We will take that back to the Policy Committee and discuss that.

Trustee John McEwen commented. This policy is very complex because it covers everything from snowstorms to pandemics. We may need to go back to the Policy Committee and look at adding something that says these are steps that we can take in a pandemic, including the information about physical distancing.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Vice Chair, commented. A lot of these policies appear to be COVID motivated. Were these in existence before the pandemic?

Ms. Ridgway replied. Anything that isn't underlined was in existence. Anything that is underlined was in existence but came from 1905 and is integrated into the existing policy.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Vice Chair, commented. Some of this is naturally obsolete as we learn more about the disease. Would it make better sense to not have as much detail, and have more of an overarching ability to put health and safety policies in place should there be an emergency?

Trustee Jennifer Walsh commented. Is it possible to have Policy 1905 as its own standard policy, rather than trying to integrate it into this policy?

Ms. Ridgway commented. We can certainly go back and have these conversations with the Policy Committee.

Trustee Jennifer Walsh commented. I think we need to make it more clear in this policy that many of these things, such as physical distancing, will not be occurring outside of a declared emergency.

The Trustees had a robust discussion about the 1900 series policies and Policy 7060 School Safety.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. What I'm hearing from most of you is let's craft a policy that maybe has less specifics but will hopefully guide us in a more durable and flexible manner going forward.

Ms. Ridgway commented by saying she would bring all these suggestions back to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

That concluded Items for Information. The Board of Trustees moved on to Consent Action Items.

B. Consent Action Items

1. Approval of 02.08.22 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Personnel Actions
3. Approval of Warrants
4. Approval of Out of District Attendance Agreement
5. Acknowledgment of Out of District Attendance Agreement

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. At this point I would entertain a motion to approve our Consent Action Items.

Motion: Trustee John McEwen moved to approve the consent action items. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

That concluded Consent Action Items. The Board of Trustees moved on to review Items for Action.

C. Items for Action

1. Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2022-2023 School Calendar
2. Policy 1020 School Board Elections
3. Policy 1085 Uniform Grievance
4. Policy 5025 Employment and Assignment
5. Policy 7025 Extra and Co-Curricular Funds

1. Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2022-2023 School Calendar

Mr. Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12, commented. Thank you, Board of Trustees, Chairperson, and Vice Chair. I'd like to thank the members of the Calendar Committee which included Renee' Driessen, Joice Franzen, Jane Shawn, Thomas Baty, Nancy Peterson, Starsha Frederickson, Dolan Gilreath, Shannon Callahan, and Leighann Wilson. Mr. McKay was also on the calendar committee. Mr. McKay commented. This proposed calendar begins with students attending a 3-day first week, then a 4-day week (Labor Day), and then a 5-day week. Our committee discussed both the 3,4,5 and a 4,4,5 start option. Our committee sought feedback from school district staff on the two different versions. The preferred draft was selected primarily to utilize the 3,4,5 start which also allows for our school system to have two days in the same week for staff beginning days and for most students to begin on Wednesday, August 31st. Our Calendar Committee is an enjoyable group of thoughtful participants. Together, we have rich discussions about our own ideas and the ideas shared with us from our partners throughout the district.

The Trustees discussed school holidays and dates when the entire District is closed.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar.

Motion: Vice Chair Siobhan Hathhorn moved to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Policy 1020 School Board Elections

Ms. Ridgway commented. There have been no changes since you last saw this policy. We had a conversation about the fact that our schools aren't used for polling places anymore, but the county has asked that we allow them to use Jim Darcy as a polling place for the primary and the general election.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 1020 School Board Elections.

Motion: Trustee John McEwen moved to approve Policy 1020 School Board Elections as presented. Vice Chair Siobhan Hathhorn seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Policy 1085 Uniform Complaint Procedure

Ms. Ridgway commented regarding Policy 1085 Uniform Complaint Procedure. As noted previously this policy has been revised to clarify the complaint process including timelines. The Policy Committee did make some additional changes when they met in March. The levels remain the same but clarity around definitions have been made. If a complaint can't be settled informally (Level 1) a written complaint must be filed with the building administrator or appropriate supervisor (Level 2). If the complaint is not resolved at Level 2 it can be appealed to an Assistant Superintendent (Level 3). The Assistant Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent (Level 4). The final level for appeal is the Board of Trustees. A decision of the Board is final unless the decision is appealed pursuant to Montana law with the period provided by statute.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 1085 Uniform Complaint Procedure.

Motion: Trustee John McEwen moved to approve Policy 1085 Uniform Complaint Procedure as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. Policy 5025 Employment and Assignment

Ms. Ridgway commented. There have been no changes, and it went back to the Policy Committee for a second reading.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 5025 Employment and Assignment.

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve Policy 5025 Employment and Assignment as presented. Vice Chair Siobhan Hathhorn seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

5. Policy 7025 Extra and Co-Curricular Funds

Ms. Ridgway commented. This policy is a new policy which you saw last month. It went back to the Policy Committee with no changes.

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 7025 Extra and Co-Curricular Funds.

Motion: Trustee John McEwen moved to approve Policy 7025 Extra and Co-Curricular Funds as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

That concluded Items for Action. The Board of Trustees moved on to Reports.

D. REPORTS

1. Helena Education Association Report

Jane Shawn, President of the Helena Education Association, commented. HEA elections were held this week for our open officer and board of director positions. As to those elections, our positions are filled by: Cathy Malach, Para Educator at Large, Abby Kuhl and Cori Wellenstein, Elementary at Large Directors, Jesse Franzen, Helena Middle School, Jill Van Alstyne, Helena High School, Reg Hageman, Capital High School, Maria Foot, 1st Vice President, and Jane Shawn, President. All terms begin July 1st, 2022, and run for two years. At our general membership meeting last night, we had a robust discussion about the article in the IR regarding the administrative salaries and thoughts from our membership. We appreciated the opportunity to ask questions in our HEA meeting in January when Stacey, Janelle, and Tim McMahon took some time to meet with us. So, after discussion last night, our membership voted to invite individuals to our next rep council meeting to answer some of their follow up questions. Our next meeting is April 12th at 3:45 p.m. It's going to occur in the gym adjacent to the Boardroom and we're going to extend that invitation to Superintendent Weltz, Ms. Collette, Ms. Mickelson, Trustee Terry Beaver, and Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz. The retirement incentive process is complete. Ten teachers are taking advantage of the incentive to retire this year, and nineteen teachers are retiring in June of 2023. While we will miss the wisdom, expertise, and experience that these folks have brought to the Helena Public Schools, we also wish them well in whatever endeavor they pursue next. We look forward to continuing our bargaining process on March 16th. Superintendent Weltz talked a little bit about how that process is going. Lastly, as to the standards-based grading work, HEA has been collaborating with the middle and high school instructional coaches and our Curriculum Director Joslyn Davidson on a grant from the American Federation of Teachers to help expand this model to the upper grade levels. The grant application is due at the end of this week, so I'm crossing my fingers for a positive result. I've really enjoyed working with the instructional coaches through this process and getting to know more about what they're doing. That is an amazing group of people.

2. Budget & Finance Committee Report

Trustee John McEwen commented. We met on February 18th and Janelle went through her five-year budget projection. She presented data on how average number belonging is calculated. We project that we will begin the 2022-2023 school year short of money, and so we're going to have some serious budget crunching this summer to live within the income that we expect to receive. You've heard about the fiscal cliff. It's upon us. So, I believe this is probably worthy of more detail presented by Janelle at some future meeting.

We also looked at the year-to-date spreadsheet that we do every month and we're within our budget parameters as expected. We also had a discussion on general fund levies.

Superintendent Rex Weltz commented. We are going to be okay for the 2022-2023 school year, but the 2023-2024 school year will be of concern. There are some pieces that we really need to come around the table and discuss.

3. Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Trustee Jennifer McKee commented. We met on March 2nd, and previously we talked about our curriculum development process, and it's kind of this big feedback loop of analysis and asking if the curriculum is hitting the standard and discussing how it all goes together. So, on the second, we had our first crack at actual curriculum that will come before this board to be adopted. It started with Library and Media Sciences. The baseline is the state standard, and so this curriculum which runs K through 12, lines up with the state standards for Library and Media Sciences. It was a great presentation. We had an elementary librarian, middle school librarian and a high school librarian. They talked about what the state standard is and how we meet it, and the kinds of curriculum in Library Media Sciences education that exists. There is a set period of time for library in grades K through 5, and then there is library time in the middle school. In the high school the library standards don't change but the way it's delivered and integrated into the classroom changes. The librarian will work with teachers to do curriculum in the classroom, and sometimes the classes will be sent to the library, and they will hit all those standards in this way where it feeds right into the classroom. One example is that high school students are assigned the Federalist Papers, and the librarian will go through it with them, help them understand it, and draw meaning out of it. It was a great presentation.

4. Policy Committee Report

Trustee John McEwen gave the Policy Committee Report on behalf of Trustee Libby Goldes. At our meeting we discussed uniform complaint, school board elections, school safety, employment and assignment, and extra and co-curricular funds. We did not have time to discuss school admissions, so that will be on the next Policy Committee agenda.

5. Facilities & Maintenance Committee Report

Committee Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. The first item we discussed was the CRA Lighting Project. There are some safety issues, so they are looking to upgrade and replace the lighting in the whole school. That will be coming to the full board in the future. It's fairly pricey and will cost about a half a million dollars to do that, which is about half of our building reserve. It will bring a lot of benefits including cost savings with energy efficiency and safety for staff and students. We had a follow-up presentation regarding Growing Friends. At our last facilities meeting we talked about making the projects doable so that we make sure that when the trees are planted that we have the

resources and the personnel to keep them well-groomed and watered and Growing Friends agreed. We are going to focus on two sites, Helena High, and Capital High. We are really thankful for Growing Friends for having that partnership with us. We had a very short facility's master plan update. I'm super excited about this and ready to get that document going. The proposals are due on the 14th. We don't have any that have been submitted so far, but we're really hoping that we get several and then there'll be a process for selection for updating the facility's master plan. We've talked a lot about the Plexiglas the last couple of meetings and it was decided that we wanted to give teachers the ability to get their hands on some of the Plexiglas. In talking with a lot of the teachers, even though it was a COVID mitigation issue, they really enjoyed some of the things that they could do in the classroom. For the teachers that wanted it, the Plexiglas has been cut up into usable sizes so that they can continue to use those in their classrooms.

Superintendent Weltz went into more detail about the lighting configuration at C. R. Anderson, and why it is important to replace the lighting system there.

6. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee John McEwen commented. We had one subcommittee report about plan design changes such as co-pays and maximum out of pocket.

7. Wellness Committee Report

Trustee Jennifer Walsh commented. The Harvest of the Month program that is in our schools is going very well. There is a ton of great feedback in the way that the students are able to interact with that program. They make it educational and interesting in new ways for the students. It is very exciting.

8. Montana School Boards Association Report

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz commented. The joint MTSB/MASBO School Finance and Budget Symposium kicked off today. The first session was from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and there will be two more sessions on the 15th and the 22nd. Those sessions are recorded and available to watch. There are two opportunities to represent our district, the K-12 Vision Project is happening on Thursday, and the MTSBA Delegate Assembly is happening Tuesday, March 29th. I will be attending the MTSBA in-person board meeting on the 17th and 18th.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary Date