



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 Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 5th, 2022
Lincoln Center
1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601
And via
TEAMS

MINUTES

Attendees

Committee: Others:

Libby Goldes, Committee Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
John McEwen, Committee Member	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Elizabeth Kaleva, District Counsel
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee
	Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
	Gary Myers, Education Technology Director
	Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Committee Chair, Libby Goldes.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. REVIEW OF THE 03.01.2022 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 03.01.2022 Policy Committee meeting.

V. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FOURTH READING/REVIEW

A. Policy 7060: School Safety

The committee reviewed Policy 7060: School Safety. Ms. Ridgway commented. This was our attempt to combine Policy 1905 and Policy 7060. After a long and informative Board discussion, I am suggesting that we leave School Safety the way it is and not make any changes, and that we look at Policy 7061 to address some of the things that we were trying to achieve by combining Policy 1905 and Policy 7060. The committee discussed that they would revert back to the original 7060 Policy. The committee also discussed potentially removing the language “to avoid distinction between drills and actual disasters” on lines 15 and 16. The committee determined that Policy 7060: School Safety does not need to go to the full Board for review, since the language is reverting back to what is stated in the original, approved policy.

VI. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR SECOND READING/REVIEW

A. Policy 2005: School Year, Calendar and Day

The committee reviewed Policy 2005 School Year, Calendar, and Day. The committee discussed the school holiday portion of the policy. The policy states “the schools in the District shall be closed on the following holidays: New Year’s Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day (2 days); Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day (2 days); Christmas Day; Martin Luther King Day; President’s Day; and State and national election days when the school building is used as a polling place and the conduct of school would interfere with the election process at the polling place. When these holidays fall on Saturday or Sunday, the preceding Friday or the succeeding Monday shall be a school holiday. The Board may establish other holidays. The committee also discussed the different days off employees receive based on their contracts. The committee determined that Policy 2005: School Year,

Calendar, and Day would be sent to the full Board for second reading and review.

B. Policy 3010: School Admissions

The committee reviewed Policy 3010: School Admissions and discussed what other Districts are considering regarding age and school admissions. The committee discussed the language on lines 9 through 19 which states “no pupil may be enrolled in the kindergarten or first grade whose 5th birthday does not occur on or before September 10 of the school year in which the child registers to enter school. A parent may request a waiver of the age requirement. All waivers are at the discretion of and subject to the approval of the Board. No pupil may be enrolled in the District if that pupil has reached his or her 19th birthday on or before September 10 of the school year in which the child registers to enter school. A waiver of the age limitation must be reviewed and approved by the Board in an executive session. The Trustees may also admit an individual who has graduated from high school but is not yet 19 years of age even though no special circumstances exist for waiver of the age provision or a student who is not yet 19 years of age and experienced educational disruption and was awarded a diploma as a result and seeks access to reasonable curriculum designed to advance postsecondary success.” The committee determined that Policy 3010: School Admissions needed more review and discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting, and would not be sent to the full Board for review.

VII. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIRST READING

A. Policy 7061: Public Health Emergency

The committee reviewed Policy 7061: Public Health Emergency. Ms. Ridgway commented. This is a new Policy which defines what a public health emergency is. The policy states that a “public health emergency” (PHE) is an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition caused by epidemic or pandemic disease, or a novel and highly fatal infectious agent or biological toxin, whose scale, timing, or unpredictability threatens to overwhelm routine capabilities. A public health emergency poses a substantial risk of significant human fatalities or incidence of permanent or long-term disability. Such illness or health conditions also include, but are not limited to, illness or health conditions resulting from a local, state, national or global disaster. In the event of a declared public health emergency as determined by the Board of Trustees or a public health service, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to take appropriate action to protect the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors to include but not limited to closure of school buildings, implementation of infection control measures, and other appropriate safety actions. The Superintendent will communicate with parents, citizens, and other stakeholders about the actions to be implemented per this policy. The committee determined that Policy 7061: Public Health Emergency would be sent to the full Board for a first reading.

B. Policy 3070: Administration of Medication

The committee reviewed Policy 3070: Administration of Medication and discussed the updated language in the Policy which now states on lines 16 through 19, “The Board will permit administration of medication to students in school. A school nurse may administer medication to any student in the school or may delegate this task pursuant to Montana

law.” The language on lines 21 through 22 now states, “Parent must notify the school if their student will be self-medicating with emergency medication.” The committee also discussed language added regarding administration of glucagon. The committee determined that Policy 3070: Administration of Medication would go to the full Board for review.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD COMMENTS

There were no additional comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair, Ms. Goldes, adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.