



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 Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, April 26th, 2022 | Tour at 3:30 / 4:00pm | Rossiter Elementary and via TEAMS

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Siobhan Hathhorn, Vice Chair	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Terry Beaver, Trustee	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
John McEwen, Trustee	Janelle Mickelson, Business Services Administrator
Jennifer McKee, Trustee	Robert Brewer, Facilities Manager
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Wynn Randall, Principal of Rossiter Elementary
	Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
	Tim McMahon, Activities Administrator
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Many Rossiter Staff Members

I. TOUR OF ROSSITER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

II. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz reviewed the agenda with the Board of Trustees and there were no changes to the agenda.

IV. PRESENTATION:

Rossiter Elementary Principal, Wynn Randall, began with a Power Point presentation which he presented to the Trustees. Principal Randall commented. The mission of Rossiter Elementary School is to challenge and empower each student to respect themselves and others and become successful lifelong learners in a safe and positive environment. The Rossiter Crown Jewels inspire students to be safe, honest, kind, responsible, and respectful. If the students are seen being safe, honest, kind, responsible, or respectful, they can earn a Crown Jewel from a staff member, which is then put into a bin. The staff does drawings and removes names from the bin, and those students can earn prizes.

Principal Randall discussed the classrooms and staff at Rossiter Elementary:

- 21 general education classrooms:
 - 4 Kindergarten
 - 4 First
 - 4 Second
 - 3 Third
 - 3 Fourth
 - 3 Fifth

- Staff:
 - 21 classroom teachers
 - 2 Special Education educators
 - 1 Counselor
 - 1 Librarian
 - 1 Music & PE
 - 1 SLP
 - .5 Nurse-split with Jim Darcy
 - .5 School Psychologist-split with Warren
 - 8.25 Paraeducators-3 SPED, 5 General Education, 3 hr. overage
 - 1 day and 1.5 evening custodian
 - 2.5 Food Service Staff
 - 3 SACC employees
 - 1 Administrator
 - 2 Administrative Assistants
 - 1 Instructional Coach
 - 1 Title Teacher

Principal Randall discussed the student demographics at Rossiter:

- Enrollment in 2020-2021
 - 424-Students Enrolled (Includes one 5th grade Edgenuity student)
- Average Daily Attendance Percentage 89.94%
- Conference Attendance
 - NA% In November
 - 91% in March

- Student subgroups:
 - Individualized Education Plans-79 students-18%
 - Speech/Language-65 students-15%
 - Speech Only-30 students-7%
 - Resource-48 students-11%
 - Resource only-14 students-3%
 - 6 students with a 504-1.5%
 - 3 students who attend PEAK-less than 1%
 - Free and Reduced (2019-2020)-41%
- Student Enrollment: K-5 424/486 for 2021-2022
 - 70 open seats at Rossiter
 - Will transition from a 4/3 model
 - Three 2nd grade classrooms

Principal Randall commented regarding next year at Rossiter. All carpet will be removed this summer and those rooms will have tile/linoleum installed. They will be moving 13 of their 21 classrooms and creating a primary area in two pods, and an intermediate area in the library pod. Principal Randall commented regarding benchmark assessment. This year WIN time was introduced at Rossiter, and Rossiter also has an Instruction Coach, and the school has reviewed instructional framework, performance and skills assessments, and standard-based grading. Principal Randall discussed the K-1 Acadience Benchmark Assessment results for the beginning of the year and the middle of the year with the Trustees. Next, Principal Randall reviewed the iReady data-from fall to winter benchmark, and performance by domain with the Trustees.

Principal Randall discussed the School Leadership Team at Rossiter that meets every Tuesday to discuss data and curriculum and building climate and culture. Principal Randall commented. We are part of the PAX program, and we are working on whole school implementation. Almost 50% of the Rossiter staff is trained. Our goal for 2022-2023 is to have 75% of the staff trained, and at least one teacher per grade level trained.

Principal Randall concluded his presentation by discussing the return to normal this year. Rossiter 5th graders were able to attend their annual ski trip, 4th graders went on their annual ice fishing trip, and students from C.R. Anderson Middle School were able to visit Rossiter and give an orchestra presentation. We did our first practice Governor's Cup run this afternoon. Our students practice running a mile here at school, and then they sign up to run the Governor's Cup with the Governor. Principal Randall commented. It has been a great first year and I have enjoyed it immensely. This is an amazing staff at Rossiter. They work incredibly hard and always want to do what is best for kids. I am so proud of what they have accomplished this year with data, connections, and the community feel.

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair, commented. Thank you so much Principal Randall for the presentation, and I appreciate the staff who are here tonight.

Trustee John McEwen commented. Is your average daily attendance high or low?

Principal Randall replied. What I saw within the District is that Rossiter is on the low end of the average. Other schools are sitting at 90 to 91 percent.

Trustee Janet Armstrong commented. If Rossiter is sitting on the low end of the average for daily attendance, have you figured out why you may be lower?

Principal Randall responded. I don't know for sure why it may be lower, but I do know what we are doing to address the attendance issue. We are building connections with the parents, making phone calls, and the staff is making sure the students feel welcome.

Trustee Jennifer McKee commented. Thank you so much to you and your staff for all that you do.

Board Vice Chair Siobhan Hathorn commented. Your kindergarten data looks amazing, and your grades three through five growth is outstanding. I thought it was interesting that your measurement and data in geometry is pretty high for performance by domain, but I am a little concerned that your number and operations and algebra and algebraic thinking data is lower. Is this something that you are focusing on in your WIN groups?

Principal Randall responded. Yes, that is on our radar. This is our first year doing WIN groups and we are primarily focusing on ELA. We are still fine tuning that component, but as we move forward, I would like to see a hybrid model with the ELA and the Math in our WIN groups.

Board Vice Chair Siobhan Hathorn commented. In reviewing the performance by domain, you have great growth in reading, but your phonics is not super high. That is an area of concern.

Principal Randall responded. That is one of the areas that are focusing heavily on in the WIN groups.

Trustee Terry Beaver commented. We have a problem with tardiness in the middle schools, and it carries over into the high schools. Do you have an idea of what your percentage of tardy students is?

Principal Randall replied. I do not know what our percentage is, but I do know we have a tardy issue. I make a lot of phone calls, and we want to try to make our morning component more enticing to get students here.

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair, commented. I appreciate the conversation about attendance and tardiness. It is something that I think we should talk more about at the Board level. Principal Randall, I appreciate all that you and your staff are doing to engage with parents and entice students, but so much of this is beyond your control. I wanted to give a shout out to Rossiter because it seems that this school has always had some neat

special events over the years, including what you have done around Native American Heritage Month, and Field Day. Thank you for those events that build culture and engage families. The Trustees would love to attend these events. You mentioned you had one student enrolled in the Edgenuity program. It seems like that is still an important offering for us to be able to provide to some of our students and families. Any thoughts on that?

Principal Randall responded. I think it is a good program within its elements, but you don't have the community and relationship piece that you would get from being in school.

Board Vice Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. It seems like over the years you get a lot of Jim Darcy overflow. Are you still having that?

Principal Randall responded. We do not have final numbers yet. In August, I can tell you for sure where we are at. Right now, we are not seeing any overflow, but the numbers will continue to come in over the summer.

Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent of K-5, commented. Before COVID we were overflowing, and there was so much growth at that time north of Lincoln Road. This year we had over 600 kindergartners, which is a pretty big number. That is why Jim Darcy and Rossiter really filled up. Right now, we are watching the numbers very closely. Jim Darcy currently has 76 kindergartners enrolled for next year, and Rossiter has around 44 kindergartners enrolled for next year. The numbers are lower, but we haven't had a lot of people move into the North Valley like we were used to.

That concluded the Presentation portion of the agenda.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rex Weltz discussed recognition in his Superintendent Report which included recognizing Anna Alger, Pam Murnion, and Jennifer Loomis for their grants awarded by the Helena Education Foundation. Superintendent Weltz continued with his recognition:

- Dr. Wynn Randall and the Rossiter Elementary Staff
- Capital High School-Central Office Site Visit
- Helena High School-Central Office Site Visit
- Administrative Assistant's Day
- On April 21st the State Champion Capital High School Boys Basketball team were honored with a celebratory fire truck ride through town. HPS is grateful to Assistant Fire Chief Mike Chambers and the City of Helena Fire Department for honoring our student athletes.
- Congratulations to our Helena Public Schools musicians who earned top ratings at the District Music Festival.
- Congratulations to Ella Shropshire and Rebecca Smilie from Capital High School who are recipients of the Helena Education Foundation Harrison Writing Award.

- Congratulations to the HPS Transportation Department for being recognized in two national publications: School Bus Fleet Magazine and School Transportation News. I want to thank Tom, Drew, Christine, and Crystal for their work every day to ensure HPS is a leader in the school transportation field.
- Congratulations to our Capital High SkillsUSA students who placed at the recent State SkillsUSA competition.
- Capital High School's chapter of HOSA-Future Health Professionals attended the Montana HOSA State Leadership Conference on April 5th and 6th in Billings. The conference consisted of competitive events, workshops/symposia, and networking with over 300 students from schools around the state. Congratulations to those students who excelled in their competitive events.
- The Capital High Science Olympiad Team recently took 2nd place at the state Science Olympiad competition. Congratulations to their team and top placing students in the events.
- Congratulations to our high school students that were inducted into the National Honor Society on April 21st.

Superintendent Weltz moved on to the New Business portion of his Superintendent Report and discussed the upcoming Vigilante Day Parade on May 6th, Helena School Board Rep applications are due May 6th, HEA-HSD bargaining continues, and ongoing discussions with First Student.

Superintendent Weltz concluded his Superintendent Report by discussing his meetings and outreach within the community including meeting with the AA Superintendents, HEA, HEF, HEF-Executive Committee, Parent Advisory, Cabinet, Lewis and Clark Health, Rotary Club, and meeting with the media.

The Trustees discussed the bonus for First Student drivers, the impact of the bonus, and what the driver shortage will look like in the fall.

That concluded the Superintendent Report portion of the agenda.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment offered.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Approval of the 03.22.2022 Board of Trustees Work Session Minutes
2. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property-Table Saws
3. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property-Plasma Cutter Table

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair, commented. I would entertain a motion for the Consent Action Items.

Motion: Trustee John McEwen moved to approve the Consent Action Items as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

B. Items for Action

1. High School General Fund Budget Amendment Proclamation

Mrs. Janelle Mickelson reviewed the High School General Fund Budget Amendment Proclamation with the Trustees.

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair, commented. I would entertain a motion regarding this action item.

Motion: Board Vice Chair Siobhan Hathorn moved to approve the High School General Fund Budget Amendment Proclamation as presented. Trustee Terry Beaver seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair, commented. Our next regular Board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10th. We will hold a special meeting on May 17th at 5:30 p.m. where we will swear in Trustees, reorganize the Board, vote on Chair and Vice Chair, and appoint a Clerk. On May 24th we will have our final Work Session of the year at Warren Elementary.

IX. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

