



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, May 3rd, 2022
Lincoln Center
1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601
And via
TEAMS

MINUTES

Attendees

Committee: Others:

Libby Goldes, Committee Chair
John McEwen, Committee Member
Janet Armstrong, Committee Member

Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
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
Gary Myers, Education Technology Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 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 04.05.2022 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 04.05.2022 Policy Committee meeting.

V. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO TERMINATION

Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, commented. These six policies are the policies that have been in place since the beginning of COVID. We need to go through them and recommend if we want to terminate or keep them.

A. Policy 1900: Temporary COVID-19 Policy

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 1900: Temporary COVID-19 Policy. The committee discussed that the 1900 series of policies were designed for the immediacy of the pandemic as it existed in March of 2020. The committee determined that Policy 1900: Temporary COVID-19 would go to the full Board with a recommendation of termination.

B. Policy 1901: Emergency Policy and Procedures

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 1901: Emergency Policy and Procedures. Ms. Ridgway commented. The committee discussed that there is already a policy in place regarding emergency procedures, so there is no longer a need for Policy 1901. The committee determined that Policy 1901: Emergency Policy and Procedures would go to the full Board with a recommendation of termination.

C. Policy 1902: Academic Variance Alternative Grading

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 1902: Academic Variance Alternative Grading. Ms. Ridgway commented. The committee discussed they may want to incorporate academic variance alternative grading at a future time into a policy that is separate from the 1900 series. The committee determined that Policy 1902: Academic Variance Alternative Grading would go to the full Board with a recommendation of termination.

D. Policy 1905: Student Staff and Community Health and Safety Needs

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 1905: Student Staff and Community Health and Safety Needs. Ms. Ridgway commented. The committee discussed that they already have a school safety policy in place, so there is no longer a need for Policy 1905. The committee determined that Policy 1905: Student Staff and Community Health and Safety Needs would go to the full Board with a recommendation of termination.

E. Policy 1906: Student Instruction

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 1906: Student Instruction. Ms. Ridgway commented. The committee discussed that some of the language from Policy 1906: Student Instruction, may be applicable in our 2000 series of policies. The committee determined that Policy 1906: Student Instruction would go to the full Board with a recommendation of termination.

F. Policy 1907: School District Declaration of Emergency

The committee reviewed Policy 1907: School District Declaration of Emergency. The committee discussed that under Montana Law the school District can declare a state of emergency, without Policy 1907 in place. The committee determined that Policy 1907: School District Declaration of Emergency would go to the full Board with a recommendation of termination.

VI. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR SECOND READING/REVIEW

A. Policy 7061: Public Health Emergency

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 7061 Public Health Emergency. Ms. Ridgway commented. Policy 7061: Public Health Emergency will be a companion to Policy 7060: School Safety, which is an existing policy. After reviewing the policy, the committee recommended removing the language *highly fatal* on line 6. The committee also discussed about potentially adding the language *a chemical or before biological toxin* on lines 6 and 7. The committee determined that Policy 7061: Public Health Emergency would go to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

B. Policy 3070: Administration of Medication

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 3070: Administration of Medication. The committee mentioned that the topic of Narcan would need to be brought up and discussed at some point in the future. The committee determined that Policy 3070: Administration of Medication would go to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

VII. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR THIRD READING/REVIEW

A. Policy 2005: School Year, Calendar, and Day

The committee reviewed Policy 2005: School Year, Calendar, and Day. Ms. Ridgway commented. There have been no changes to Policy 2005 since its last reading before the full Board. The committee discussed how the school District conducts commemorative exercises on commemorative days noted in Montana law. The committee also discussed the difference between Title 2 and Title 20 employees. The committee determined that Policy 2005: School Year, Calendar, and Day would go to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

B. Policy 3010: School Admissions

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 3010: School Admissions. The committee mentioned the possibility of moving the following sentence from line 12 to be on its own separate line-*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 committee suggested the previous sentence to be on a separate line to distinguish for requirements for 19-year-olds from the age requirements for children whose 5th birthday does not occur on or before September 10 of the school year in which the child is registered to enter school.

The committee also discussed the possibility of moving the following sentence from line 15 to its own separate line-*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 would not yet go before the full Board and would return to the Policy Committee for further review.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD COMMENTS

There were no additional comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair, Ms. Goldes, adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.