



Superintendent
Rex Wertz
324-2001

Business Manager
Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Tuesday, August 9th, 2022
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair
Luke Muszkiewicz, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Lois Fitzpatrick, Trustee
Terry Beaver, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Janet Armstrong, Trustee

Keiran Boyle, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Loreley Drees, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees

Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Gary Myers, Technology Administrator
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
Kaitlyn Hess, Federal Programs Coordinator
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer

Many guests of the public as well as Helena School District staff

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. REVIEW AGENDA

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda, and no changes were made.

III. OATH OF OFFICE FOR 2022-2023 STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

A. 2022-2023 Student Board of Trustees Representative

1. Loreley Drees-Helena High School Student Representative

Loreley Drees, 2022-2023 Helena High School Student Representative, was sworn in by Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Rex Weltz began his Superintendent Report with recognition and discussed the following topics:

- Congratulations to Janelle Mickelson, HPS Director of Business Services. Janelle was named MASBO Outstanding Business Official of the Year.
- Thanks to the Helena Education Foundation sensory pathways have been installed in all our elementary schools.
- Thank you to our amazing staff for their hard work and dedication over the summer for Camp Ascension, the summer SACC program, and Driver’s Education.
- Thank you to our maintenance, facilities, and technology teams for their work on projects over the summer.
- Recognition of the HSD Business/Payroll Office
 - Closure of fiscal year
 - Start of new Fiscal year
 - Construction of the 2022-2023 Budget
- Recognition of Curriculum and Chief of Staff Office
 - Professional Development throughout the Summer

Superintendent Weltz moved on to discuss New Business in his report including:

- Director of Human Resources Hiring Update
- District Priorities Update
- Climate and Culture Strengthening Update – HEA & HSD
- SEC Safety Audit – Update
- Start of School Year Schedule – Update

Superintendent Wetz concluded his Superintendent Report by discussing his various outreach and meetings in the Helena School District and the community including HEA, HEF, Administrator/Director Startup Meeting, AA Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents Retreat, MQEC Board of Directors, Jeremy Bullock Safety Conference, Lewis and Clark Board of Health, Hometown Helena, Helena Leadership Meeting At Carroll College, District Leadership and Cabinet, and meeting with the Interim City Manager of Helena.

That concluded the Superintendent Report portion of the agenda. The Trustees moved on to General Public Comment.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “We will now move on to general public comment. This is the time for comments 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.”

Ms. Heidi Friedlander-Keaster, a parent of children in the Helena School District, gave general public comment. Ms. Friedlander-Keaster shared a personal story with the Board of Trustees and expressed that the policies the board create greatly impact the low-income children in the district and asked the board to carefully consider this year when making decisions involving COVID such as masking and closing down schools for remote learning.

That concluded the General Public Comment portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees moved on to discuss New Business-Item for Information.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Item For Information

1. Facilities Projects Update

The Board of Trustees listened to a facilities projects update provided by HSD Facilities Manager, Rob Brewer. Mr. Brewer discussed building and reserve projects, maintenance projects, custodial projects, and safety security projects happening in the district. Mr. Brewer answered any questions the trustees had about the facilities projects update.

That concluded the Item For Information portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Consent Action Items.

B. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. Warrants
3. Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
4. Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Students Attending Other Districts)
5. Resolution to Dispose of Weightlifting Equipment-CHS
6. 03.24.22 Board of Trustees Special Meeting Open Session Minutes
7. 03.28.22 Scoring Meeting Minutes
8. 04.05.22 Facilities Master Plan-RFQ Interview-Slate Architecture Minutes
9. 04.05.22 Facilities Master Plan-RFQ Interview-Dowling Architects Minutes
10. 04.05.22 Facilities Master Plan-RFQ Interview-SMA Architecture + Design Minutes
11. 04.05.22 Facilities Master Plan-RFQ Deliberation Minutes
12. 07.15.22 Board of Trustees Summer Retreat Minutes

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve our Consent Action Items.”

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the Consent Action Items. Trustee Kay Satre 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. Approval of HPS-AFSCME Custodians and Grounds Collective Bargaining Agreement

Superintendent Rex Weltz reviewed the HPS-AFSCME Custodians and Grounds Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Board of Trustees and recommended that the Board approve and ratify the collective bargaining agreement as agreed upon between HPS and AFSCME.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve the HPS-AFSCME Custodians and Grounds Collective Bargaining Agreement.”

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the HPS-AFSCME Custodians and Grounds Collective Bargaining Agreement. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-Elementary Fiscal Year 2021-22

School districts account for the receipt and disbursement of all money belonging to the district in accordance with the methods prescribed by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). The Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS) is the annual financial report prescribed by the OPI. Mrs. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager for the Helena School District, reviewed considerations and highlights of the Trustees' Financial Summary for the Elementary and High School Fiscal Year 2021-22 with the Board of Trustees, and answered any questions they had about the information.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion to Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-Elementary Fiscal Year 2021-22."

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved approval to Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-Elementary Fiscal Year 2021-22. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-High School Fiscal Year 2021-22

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion to Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-High School Fiscal Year 2021-22."

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved approval to Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-High School Fiscal Year 2021-22. Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. Final Budget Adoption-Elementary Fiscal Year 2022-23

Mrs. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager for the Helena School District, reviewed highlights of the Final Budget Adoption for Elementary and High School Fiscal Year 2022-23. Mrs. Mickelson discussed the general-fund, transportation, tuition, retirement, adult education, technology, flexibility, debt service, and building reserve with the Board of Trustees and answered any questions they had regarding the final budget adoption.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion regarding the Final Budget Adoption-Elementary Fiscal Year 2022-23."

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the Final Budget Adoption-Elementary Fiscal Year 2022-23. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None.
Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

5. Final Budget Adoption-High School Fiscal Year 2022-23

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion regarding the Final Budget Adoption-High School Fiscal Year 2022-23.”

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the Final Budget Adoption-High School Fiscal Year 2022-23. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None.
Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

That concluded Items for Action, and the Board of Trustees moved on to Reports.

D. REPORTS

1. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn, President of the Helena Education Association, gave the Helena Education Association Report and discussed that in July she and Erika McMillin attended the NEA Representative Assembly. Jane Shawn and Maria Foot attended the American Federation of Teachers Convention in Boston in July. Ms. Shawn mentioned that on July 21st our state union and the greater Helena community came together to celebrate the life of Eric Feaver, who passed away unexpectedly earlier in the summer. Eric began his teaching career here in Helena, teaching first at Helena Junior High and then at Capital High. He was president of the Helena Education Association and was elected over fifteen times as president of the state union. Ms. Shawn said that on July 23rd the Montana Pride Parade came to Helena, and HEA had many members walking in the parade alongside members from MFPE. The first board of directors meeting of the school year will be next Tuesday. Ms. Shawn concluded by mentioning the para bargaining process will be continuing and she is looking forward to beginning the work of the joint HEA/HSD committee addressing climate and culture.

2. Budget & Finance Report

Ms. Janet Armstrong, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, discussed that the Budget and Finance Committee did not meet over the summer, but mentioned one of the goals of the Budget Committee this year is to review expenses and income and discuss ways to address the budget deficit.

3. Teaching & Learning Committee Report

The Teaching and Learning Committee did not meet over the summer so there was nothing to report.

4. Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee did not meet over the summer so there was nothing to report.

5. Facilities & Maintenance Committee Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz mentioned that the Facilities and Maintenance Committee did not meet over the summer, but the contract with SMA Architects was finalized. SMA Architects will work with the district to produce an updated facilities master plan. A kick-off meeting between administration, trustees, and SMA staff will take place on Tuesday, August 23rd at 10:30 a.m. This kick-off meeting will be part of the August Facilities and Maintenance Committee meeting.

6. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre gave the Health Benefits Committee Report. Ms. Satre discussed that the open enrollment period begins on August 15th. On August 15th there will also be a Health Fair from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Center. St. Peter's Health, Allegiance, and Alliant will be there to answer any questions that people may have. Ms. Satre mentioned that the Health Benefits Committee is looking for ways to cut costs to close the gap between the fifteen percent premium increase and the expected twenty percent increase in costs for this year. They are also looking to implement Quantify Health-a program that helps keep costs down by monitoring large claims.

7. Wellness Committee Report

The Wellness Committee did not meet over the summer so there was nothing to report.

8. Montana School Boards Association Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz gave the Montana School Boards Association Report. The Montana School Board Association Board of Directors traveled to D.C. in early July to meet with our congressional delegation-Senator Tester, Senator Daines, and Representative

Rosendale. They focused on three consensus priorities. The first priority was increasing federal funding for the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act from fifteen percent up to forty percent. The second priority was extending the ESSER disbursement deadline past 2024. The third priority was expanding the public service loan forgiveness program to make it easier for more educators to qualify for loan forgiveness. There will be a second meeting on September 13th for the Montana Legislature Joint Education Interim Committee and Education Interim Budget Committee. Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz also recognized the wonderful accomplishments of Eric Feaver.

9. Student Representatives Report

Keiran Boyle, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave the report for Capital High School. Keiran mentioned that athletic activities are starting on August 12th, and that Shawn Ruff and St. Peter's Hospital provided two nights of walk-in physicals last week. On September 15th Capital High will be holding an open house. Keiran mentioned when the first day of school would be for all grade levels and said there would be a barbeque for Bruin Beginnings Day. Keiran discussed when textbook and schedule pickup days would be. The Helena Education Foundation is holding their Carnival Classic event on September 11th and Capital High will have a booth there.

Loreley Drees, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave the report for Helena High School. Sports have been going since June with open gym and conditioning, and the cheer team performed over the summer in a local parade. Loreley mentioned when the first day of school would be for all grade levels and said there would be a barbeque for Bengal Beginnings Day. Loreley mentioned that Helena High is working on rebranding by creating a new logo, and that they have received a new gym floor.

That concluded the Reports portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees moved on to discuss Upcoming Meetings.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn reviewed upcoming meetings with the Board of Trustees, including the upcoming Facilities and Maintenance Meeting that would include the Facilities Master Plan Kick-Off discussion on August 23rd at 10:30 a.m., and the next regular Board meeting will be September 13th at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary Date