



*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, October 25th, 2022 | 11:45 a.m. | Helena High School and via TEAMS

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Rex Wetz, Superintendent
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12
Luke Muszkiewicz, Trustee	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Terry Beaver, Trustee	Janelle Mickelson, Business Services Administrator
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent K-6
Kay Satre, Trustee	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Steve Thennis, Helena High School Principal
	Betsy Allen, Helena High School Office Manager
	Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
	Willie Schlepp, Helena High School Assistant Principal
	Julie TeNyenhuis, Helena High School Assistant Principal

#### I. TOUR OF HELENA HIGH SCHOOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### II. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn reviewed the agenda with the Board of Trustees and there were no changes to the agenda.

The Board of Trustees moved on to General Public Comment.

### **IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment offered.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Wertz reviewed a short presentation given by Principal Steve Thennis. Principal Thennis began by discussing the rebranding of the Bengals logo. Principal Thennis reviewed Helena High School demographics with the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Wertz.

#### Staff Demographics

- 80 Teaching Staff
- 8 Para Educators
- 8 Secretaries
- 3 other support staff
- 3 administrators

#### Student Demographics

- Enrollment = 1013
- 17% Minority
- 15% Special Education

Principal Thennis mentioned that they have collapsed courses at Helena High School that students are no longer interested in. Principal Thennis and his staff will discuss those courses again next year and see what the student and teacher interest in the courses are and what enrollment numbers are to determine if those courses will be brought back.

Principal Thennis moved on to discuss the following student-level goals:

- Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort will have a 10% increase in overall Tier 1 (green) and a 5% decrease in Tier 3 (red) on the iReady.
- 10% (16 students) of our 10<sup>th</sup> grade cohort will increase their scale score by 10 points or more on the iReady.
- Our 11<sup>th</sup> grade cohort will increase their math proficiency from 37% to 40% and their reading proficiency from 56% to 60% on the ACT.

Principal Thennis discussed the rigorous COGNIA accreditation process. After the accreditation process, COGNIA provided recommendations for Helena High School. Mr. Thennis shared the recommendations with the group:

- Focus on a sustainable, cohesive curriculum in all courses and all departments at Helena High.
- Focus on systems of data collection and analysis to better investigate program effectiveness.
- Increase integration of digital resources into the teaching, learning, and operations of Helena High School.

Principal Steve Thennis concluded his presentation by showing the Dream Words for this year at Helena High School. The Dream Words were provided by staff members and represent their best hopes of what words students would say about Helena High School by the end of the school year. Some of the words were community, cohesiveness, inspiring, caring, happy, team, supportive, exciting, unity, positivity, and communication. Principal Thennis mentioned that the most important part of building culture at Helena High School is greeting students when they come through the door by their name and building and saving relationships.

Principal Thennis proceeded to answer any questions the Trustees had about Helena High School or his presentation. The group dived deeper into the COGNIA accreditation process, discussed the amazing school spirit being shown at both high schools, and discussed dropped courses and how the two high schools coordinate in offering courses to students. The Trustees expressed their appreciation to Principal Steve Thennis, Assistant Principal Willie Schlepp, Assistant Principal Julie TeNyenhuis and the Helena High staff members and students.

The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Item for Information: School Resource Officer Approved MOU.

**A. Item For Information**

1. School Resource Officer Approved MOU

Superintendent Weltz said the last School Resource Officer MOU was updated in 2013 and the current School Resource Officer MOU was updated with the city last week. Superintendent Weltz thanked Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway for all the work she put into getting this MOU updated with the city. The group discussed the MOU clearly articulates the roles of the School Resource Officers, how the updated MOU affects the budget, and discussed the School Resource Officer selection process.

The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Consent Action Item.

**B. Consent Action Item**

1. 09.27.22 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, commented. "I would entertain a motion for the Consent Action Item."

**Motion:** Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the Consent Action Item as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Vote:** 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

**VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, discussed upcoming meetings with the Board of Trustees. The Facilities Master Plan Key Stakeholder meeting will take place November 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Gym. The next full board meeting will take place November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Board of Trustees Conference Room. The Board of Trustees Work Session will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Smith Elementary School.

**VII. BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee Janet Armstrong thanked Principal Steve Thennis and his staff for all that they do for students every day and mentioned how wonderful it was to be able to meet with Helena High students during the Work Session. Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn mentioned it was a great experience attending the MCEL Conference with Montana's top educational leaders. Trustee Kay Satre thanked Superintendent Wertz for putting together the Future of Smart Book Study, and stated it takes a lot of time and energy to coordinate that.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

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Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary