



*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  
Special Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 3rd, 2022  
Lincoln Campus and via Microsoft Teams  
12:00 p.m.

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## MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

*Trustees    Others*

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair	Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Dr. Kirk Miller, CEO of KJM Leadership Consulting
Terry Beaver, Trustee	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent K-5
Kay Satre, Trustee	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
	Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Lisa Cordingley, HEF Director
	Becca Leaphart, HEF Deputy Director
	Moffie Funk, Guest of the Public

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

The trustees reviewed the agenda, and no changes were made.

III. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Item for Information**

1. **Education Update Report**

Dr. Kirk Miller has served Montana as a teacher, high school principal, adjunct professor, superintendent, and Education Association Executive Director during his 41 years as an educator. Dr. Miller is here today to give an update to the Board of Trustees on the current state of education in our nation and our state of Montana.

Dr. Miller began his presentation by discussing public education and stating that *“national and political agendas promoted have systemically placed public school decision-makers in situations where there is no reasonable approach that can resolve the multi-dimensional concerns given the resources (time, human, fiscal) available to our public schools.”* Dr. Miller also mentioned that *“the gravest concern is that all of the political maneuvering is fracturing the support of our local community public schools, causing significant harm to the ability to attract and retain educators and the staff necessary to continue to provide quality education opportunities for our children. This ultimately could be fatal to the operation of the public schools in your community, especially in small communities all across Montana. The closure of those schools would leave many Montana children without the opportunity for a quality education as it is very unlikely that for profit private education entities would provide a school in small communities in Montana because this would not be a good business model for these private entities. Further, the closure of a school in our rural communities is likely the folding of all that we value in our independent Montana way of life.”*

Dr. Miller gave the Board of Trustees an opportunity to provide input on these statements regarding the current state of education and the trustees and Dr. Miller had a robust discussion. The group moved on to discuss opportunities being put in place by the Montana education community including the *SAM Strategy-Promote the Value Your School Brings to the Community-*

which has been built to get the attention of local community members to rise and support the public school in their community. Dr. Miller also mentioned *“Did You Know” ...Telling Your Story of Personalized Learning and Innovations*. This is a Montana Public Education Center statewide effort to collect information about our public schools, and provides a deeper, more meaningful look at the value of our public schools.

Dr. Miller concluded his presentation by discussing Chapter 55 School Accreditation proposed changes and answered any questions the trustees had about his presentation.

**V. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no board comments.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.