



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, January 10th, 2023
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

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

Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Director
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
Brett Zanto, Principal of Capital High School
Steve Thennis, Principal of Helena High School
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 5:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW AGENDA

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda and no changes to the agenda were requested.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. 2023 NAFME All-Northwest Honor Ensemble

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Capital High and Helena High students who were selected to the 2023 National Association for Music Education All-Northwest Honor Ensemble. These students were selected from over 3,000 applicants as the best musicians from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. Special thanks to CHS and HHS Orchestra educator Mr. Zach Harris for all that he does for students.

Capital High School

Hollis Elliott-Sophomore-Cello
Maren Elliott-Senior-Violin
Charlie Snellman-Sophomore-Cello

Helena High School

Aine Cleary-Junior-Cello

B. 2022 Special Olympics Montana State Basketball Champions

The Board of Trustees recognized the Helena Tornadoes Special Olympics Basketball Team for winning the 2022 Special Olympics Montana State Basketball Championship. Special thanks to Special Olympics Local Coordinator Tamara Todd and Coach Kathie Roos for all that they do for these amazing athletes.

Capital High School Athletes

Ethan Martin
Ayden Tomlin
Braedon Beasley
Jada Clarkson (Unified Partner)
Brandon Soule (Unified Partner)
Alexis Levengood (Unified Partner)

Helena High School Athlete
Ben Swift

East Helena High School Athletes
Taryn Vaughan
Landon King

C.R. Anderson Middle School Athlete
Nolan Amsk (Unified Partner)

C. 2022 AA State Football Champions

The Board of Trustees recognized the CHS 2022 AA State Football Champions who were undefeated this season. Special thanks to the Capital High School Head Coach Kyle Mihelish, Assistants-Lee Carter, Dick McMahon, Reid Christensen, Jeff Mahana, Coby Furlong, Jared Hunt, Jim Hogan, Mathew Reyant, Frosh Coaches-Levi Dawes, Tom Quinn, Shannon Blixt, Eric Buehler, Chad Opitz, Ryan Richards, Athletic Trainer Shawn Ruff, and Managers-Ellery Windecker, Alina O’Conner, Abby Yeske, Alice Dormady, and Delaney Stewart.

D. Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year

The Board of Trustees recognized Bruins defensive lineman Talon Marsh who was selected as the Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year. The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field. The honorees are chosen by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages coaches, scouts, media, and other experts to help evaluate the candidates in each sport. In addition to performance on the field, the award recognizes academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field. As a state Player of the Year, Talon will receive a grant to give to one of Gatorade’s social impact partners through the brand’s “Play it Forward” initiative. Talon is also a finalist for the prestigious “Gatorade National Football Player of the Year” award, to be announced in January.

E. Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction Award

The Board of Trustees recognized Capital High Educator Adam Clinch who has received the Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction Award by the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Mr. Clinch was nominated by a former student, Ethan Hull. NSHSS is a worldwide organization dedicated to supporting the leaders of tomorrow by providing students with the resources and network to excel in college, in their careers, and throughout the community. Ethan Hull is a member of NSHSS and nominated Mr. Clinch for this prestigious award.

F. Montana Music Educator Association's 2022 Outstanding School Administrator

The Board of Trustees recognized Central Elementary Principal Nick Radley, who is the Montana Music Educator Association's 2022 Outstanding School Administrator. The award recognizes administrators who demonstrate a commitment to music education in their district.

IV. PRESENTATION

A. Robotics Team Fusion 4133

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Rex Weltz viewed a presentation given by the Robotics Team Fusion 4133. Team Fusion 4133 has qualified for the World Championship Robotics Competition five times in six years. Team Fusion 4133 strives to connect with our community to share about robotics & create interest in STEM.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rex Weltz gave his report to the Board of Trustees. The information presented included:

- Recognition –
 - School Board Appreciation Month-January 2023
 - Law Enforcement Appreciation Day-January 9th, 2023
 - Cabinet and Leadership Team
 - Congratulations to Montana's 21 new National Board-Certified Teachers. 17 out of the 21 teachers are from the Helena School District. Congratulations to Caroline Compton, Kelly Connolly, Ashley Komac, Abby Kuhl, Janna McBride, Jennifer Mooney, Christopher Nevinski, Shelley Olson, Colette Ozburn, Mary Penley, Melissa Romano-Lehman, Kayla Ryan, Molly Schmidt, Christina Sieminski, Alison Suchy, Andrea Thisselle, and Sarah Urban.
 - Thank you to the CHS Advanced Orchestra and Educator Mr. Harris, CHS Jazz Choir and Educator Mr. Baty, the Voices of Tomorrow Extra Curricular Choir and Educator Mr. Helseth for their wonderful performances at the Lincoln Center and across the district in December.
 - Congratulations to Bryant School Educator Morgan Andriolo on being named the November Teacher of the Month for 105.3 KMTX
 - Congratulations to Helena High School's Ryan Burk (senior, alto saxophone) and Carson Payne (sophomore, trumpet) on being accepted to the All-State Jazz Band. Congratulations to Ryan, Carson, and Helena High School Band Director Cody Hollow for representing Helena at this gathering of Montana's best student jazz musicians!
 - Thank you to the Myrna Loy staff who wrapped up their 2022 Education season in the Helena School District. Special thanks to The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation for funding this amazing project.

- Congratulations to Bruins defensive lineman Talon Marsh who was selected as the Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year.
- Introduction of the new Helena School District Human Resources Director-Keri Mizell
- New Business
 - Kindergarten Registration For 2023/2024 school year begins January 3rd, 2023
 - Handle With Care Initiative
 - Staff Student(s) Attendance Update
 - The Facility Master Planning Team Site Visits
 - ESSER and Safe Return Plans Updated
 - Remaining Bond Spend Down Update
 - Future of Smart – Book Study
 - District Priority Update 2022-2023
- Outreach/Meetings
 - Budget Strategic Work Meetings
 - Cabinet & Leadership
 - Board Leadership
 - Helena City Law Enforcement - HWC
 - HEF Executive Committee
 - Teacher Advisory Committee
 - Site Visit Debrief
 - AA Superintendents
 - HEF Monthly Meeting
 - HEA President/Superintendent Meeting
 - Future of Smart Book Study Workshop with Dr. Ullca Joshi Hansen

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

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment. The Board of Trustees moved on to discuss New Business-Items for Information.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items For Information

1. Policy 5040 Personnel Records
2. Policy 7060 School Safety

1. Policy 5040 Personnel Records

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, presented Policy 5040 Personnel Records to the Board of Trustees. This existing policy was reviewed by the Policy Committee to reflect changes in statute, clarify language related to the release of public information regarding the credentials of educators and para-educators and to update the name of the Personnel Office to the Human Resource Office. The Board of Trustees moved on to review Policy 7060 School Safety.

2. Policy 7060 School Safety

Ms. Barb Ridgway presented Policy 7060 School Safety to the Board of Trustees. This is an existing policy, and the Policy Committee is recommending that the trustees receive an annual report rather than a periodic report as currently referenced in the policy.

That concluded Items for Information. 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. 12.08.22 Special Board Meeting Open Session Minutes
6. 12.08.22 Special Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes
7. 12.13.22 Full Board Meeting Minutes

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

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the Consent Action Items. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

That concluded the Consent Action Items. The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Items for Action.

C. Items for Action

1. Policy 1015 Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, reviewed Policy 1015 Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles with the Board of Trustees. This policy has been amended to eliminate the inclusion of goals which are dynamic and regularly modified or revised. The Policy Committee has recommended adding language that addresses both a mid-year and final report on the agreed upon annual goals.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 1015 Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles."

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve Policy 1015 Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Policy 7009 Lease Capitalization Threshold

Ms. Barb Ridgway presented Policy 7009 Lease Capitalization Threshold to the Board of Trustees. Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 87 Leases (GASB 87) establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the principle that leases are financings of the right to use an asset. GASB 87 applies to leases of capital assets-including buildings, land, vehicles and equipment.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 7009 Lease Capitalization Threshold."

Motion: Trustee Janet Armstrong moved to approve Policy 7009 Lease Capitalization Threshold as presented. Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

D. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Report

Mr. Keiran Boyle, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave his report. Mr. Boyle discussed when iReady Assessments would be taking place at Capital High for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. Seniors will be able to explore various career opportunities during iReady testing time. Current juniors begin registering for their senior year at the end of this month. There will be a staff meeting on Wednesday to discuss the new mental health screener that will be administered to all students in February. The MTSS teacher group that gives out awards to staff and students at Capital High, led by CHS Assistant Principal Kathy Kidder, handed out 98 High Five Awards. The group is also brainstorming Student of the Month prizes. Student Council and HOSA contracted with the Aunt Flow company to get tampon/pad dispensers for Capital High School. Mr. Boyle concluded his report by discussing some of the amazing things the students in the Capital High School clubs are doing at school and around the community.

Ms. Loreley Drees, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave her report. Ms. Drees mentioned that Helena High School choir students performed at the Capitol. Ms. Drees discussed when iReady Assessments would be taking place at Capital High for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders and mentioned when the Helena High winter formal would occur. Current juniors begin registering for their senior year at the end of this month and Helena High School is preparing to give tours to incoming Freshman in February. Ms. Drees concluded her report by discussing extracurricular activities, winter sports, and individual student achievements happening at Helena High School.

2. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn, President of the Helena Education Association, gave the Helena Education Association Report to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Shawn celebrated Montana's 21 new National Board-Certified Teachers. 17 out of the 21 teachers are from the Helena School District. Congratulations to Caroline Compton, Kelly Connolly, Ashley Komac, Abby Kuhl, Janna McBride, Jennifer Mooney, Christopher Nevinski, Shelley Olson, Colette Ozburn, Mary Penley, Melissa Romano-Lehman, Kayla Ryan, Molly Schmidt, Christina Sieminski, Alison Suchy, Andrea Thisselle, and Sarah Urban. Congratulations to the following teachers who maintained or renewed their National Board-Certification: Ashlie Buresh, Kayla Fotheringham, Erin Hunt, Cassie Koch, and Kimberly Stout. Ms. Shawn also celebrated the many educators who have worked hard to earn their master's degree this year.

3. Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz presented the Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report to the Board of Trustees. The Facilities and Maintenance Committee was given a Facilities Master Plan Update from SMA Architecture + Design. The next Facilities Master Plan Key Stakeholder Meeting will take place January 31st. We had guests from the Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) attend the meeting for the 7th Avenue Gym

discussion. Next, Mr. Verrill gave a facilities projects update from the last thirty days, for current projects, and projects planned over the next 12 months.

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Trustee Janet Armstrong gave the Budget and Finance Committee Report to the Board of Trustees. At the meeting the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the budget to actual reports for the elementary general fund and high school general fund and reviewed and discussed the five-year forecast. The Helena Public Schools administration team continues to have robust discussions regarding the budget and ways to address the budget shortfall.

5. Policy Committee Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz gave the Policy Committee Report to the Board of Trustees. At the Policy Committee meeting, the committee reviewed two policies for information which were Policy 5040: Personnel Records and Policy 7060: School Safety. The committee reviewed two policies that were presented for action at the full board meeting tonight and those were Policy 1015: Vision Mission and Guiding Principles and Policy 7009: Lease Capitalization Threshold. The Policy Committee reviewed several other policies which are coming back to the Policy Committee for further review.

6. Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Trustee Jennifer McKee was not in attendance at the board meeting tonight, therefore, Trustee Janet Armstrong gave the Teaching & Learning Committee Report on her behalf. The Teaching and Learning Committee was given an update on middle and high school curriculum work in social studies, science, and math. The Instructional Coaches that presented information at the meeting discussed that we are teaching students to be critical thinkers.

7. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre mentioned that the Health Benefits Committee did not meet in the last week of December, therefore, there was no report.

8. Wellness Committee Report

Assistant Superintendent Brian Cummings gave an update on the Wellness Committee to the Board of Trustees. The Physical Activity Subcommittee did not meet in December. The Nutrition Subcommittee met and discussed that there will be a Harvest of the Month Conference this summer for neighboring school districts and educators. Mr. Cummings said it would be a great opportunity for Trustees to attend one of the Harvest of the Month presentations that occur in our schools.

9. Montana School Boards Association Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz gave the Montana School Boards Association Report to the Board of Trustees. The Montana Public Education Center has rebranded and is now called The Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS). CAMPS, MASBO, MREA, MTSBA, MQEC, and SAM are looking forward to putting together two events during the legislative session that will give Trustees and staff an opportunity to engage in-person at the Montana State Capitol. The first event is Day of Advocacy on Wednesday, January 25th and the second event is Public Education Day on March 13th. Think Tank Thursdays have resumed every Thursday online at noon. Trustee Muszkiewicz concluded his report by mentioning that Emily Dean, Director of Advocacy for MTSBA, is sending out regular legislative updates, which are very informative.

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.

- January 24th at 11:00 a.m.-Board of Trustees Work Session at Ray Bjork Learning Center
- February 1st at noon- Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- February 6th at noon- Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting
- February 7th at noon- Policy Committee Meeting
- February 14th at 11:00 a.m.-Executive Committee Meeting
- February 14th at noon-Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
- February 14th at 5:30 p.m.-Full Board Meeting
- February 28th at 11:00 a.m.-Board Work Session-Broadwater Elementary

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz stated how much he appreciated the student recognition this evening and how moving it was. Trustee Muszkiewicz said it was very neat that the Capital High Boys Football team won the state football championship right here in Helena at Vigilante Stadium. Mr. Keiran Boyle, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, stated that out of the 17 teachers who received National Board Certification, he has had two of them as teachers and knows seven of them. Mr. Boyle said it is such an amazing honor for them to receive. There were no further board comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary Date