



*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

Tuesday, January 24th, 2023 | 12:00 p.m. | Lincoln Center and via TEAMS

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDEES

##### *Trustees*      *Others*

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Rex Weltz, 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 Manager
Kay Satre, Trustee	Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent K-5
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Kirstan Roush, SACC Program Director
	Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
	Tim McMahon, Activities Director

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn reviewed the agenda with the Board of Trustees. Due to the change in location for the Board Work Session, the Presentation portion of the agenda was removed from the agenda.

The Board of Trustees moved on to General Public Comment.

**III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment offered.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Items For Information**

1. SACC and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Kirstan Roush, SACC Program Director, presented information about the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to the Board of Trustees. SACC is committed to serving healthy, nutritious snacks and at-risk meals that follow meal pattern guidelines established by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) administered by the State of Montana and the US Department of Agriculture. SACC, in its 30th year of providing childcare after school, is currently participating in its 12th year with CACFP. In October 2022, eleven SACC sites in Helena School District #1 (one at each elementary school) served 4,050 snacks and 96 breakfasts to 4,470 attendees – an average of 300 children per day. Breakfasts are served at our Full Days programs (Oct. 20 and 21, Winter and Spring breaks). In November, those numbers 3821 snacks to an average 220 students for 19 days of the month. December’s totals were 2800 snacks to an average 320 children daily during 15 days of operation.

Meal pattern requirements for 6- to 12-year-olds are as follows:

Snacks are served by SACC staff trained in food safety protocols that meet Lewis and Clark County health and safety guidelines. Snacks consist of food components to include two to five of these items: Meat or Meat Alternative, Whole Grains, Fruits, Vegetables and Milk. When these items are served in the required amounts SACC receives reimbursement.

At-risk meals are served at Broadwater, Bryant, and Central schools. Five components must be served for a creditable reimbursable meal. These components are the same as snack components but all five must be served.

\*Snacks and meals are served per Montana CACFP policy using the (Ellyn) Satter Eating Competency Model, a philosophy that describes a division of responsibility for adults and children in eating relationships.

That concluded Ms. Roush's presentation and the Board of Trustees moved on to the second Item for Information: Spring Levies Discussion.

## 2. Spring Levies Discussion

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Rex Weltz had a robust discussion about spring levies. Superintendent Rex Weltz discussed that general fund mill levy approval for the elementary is being requested at this time for a possible amount of \$249,000. In addition to the elementary general fund mill levy approval, the District will be requesting an increase in the building reserve mill levy for both the elementary and the high school districts for the purposes of facility modifications, renovations and repair, upgrades and maintenance of safety and security, roofing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, and structural systems; grounds improvement and maintenance. The increase being requested for the elementary district is \$1,750,000 annually for a term of 10 years. The increase being requested in the high school district is \$750,000 for a term of 10 years. The estimated proposal amount for the elementary building reserve levy would be a total of \$3,000,000 a year and \$1,500,000 in the high school building reserve levy after the requested increases. Both the current elementary and high school district buildings reserve levies expire June 30, 2024. If approved, the increased levies will take effect July 1, 2023, and expire June 30, 2033. Passage of the proposal will increase the annual taxes on a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 by approximately \$19.27 in the elementary district and approximately \$7.52 in the high school district. The annual increase in taxes on a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 is approximately \$38.54 in the elementary district and \$15.04 in the high school district.

The Board of Trustees were in agreement that the elementary school general fund mill levy, the elementary building reserve levy, and high school building reserve levy should be run at the amounts the District suggested above. Superintendent Rex Weltz and the Board of Trustees discussed that preliminary estimates indicate that an operational levy for the high school general fund either will not be possible or the amount of the levy will likely be minimal, and therefore, it is unlikely that we would run the levy

Right now, there is an \$88 million dollar deferred maintenance that exists in the district and of that amount, \$36 million is high priority needs. Superintendent Weltz discussed that it takes a large amount of money to maintain all our buildings and over the last ten years there has been roughly a 40% increase in construction costs

and inflation has been extraordinarily high over the last couple years, which has greatly affected the budget. If we were able to increase the amount of the elementary building reserve to a total of \$3,000,000 and \$1,500,000 in the high school building reserve, it could help us address our high priority deferred maintenance needs.

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, mentioned that the cost of just one boiler in a building is around \$500,000. The group also discussed that we need air conditioning in the classrooms, and air conditioning is extremely expensive to install in these older buildings. In addition to that, our buildings also need windows, siding, floor coverings, etc... Our schools are large, the average age is 57 years old, and they are old buildings with old systems, and some have failing systems; therefore, it is crucial that we address our deferred maintenance issues now and we need to have the money to be able to do that and to take care of our buildings.

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

#### **B. Consent Action Items**

1. 11.29.22 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
2. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property: Portable Scoreboards

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

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

**Public Comment:** None.

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

#### **V. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, discussed upcoming meetings with the Board of Trustees.

- February 1<sup>st</sup>, Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting, Noon
- February 6<sup>th</sup>, Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting, Noon
- February 7<sup>th</sup>, Policy Committee Meeting, Noon
- February 14<sup>th</sup>, Executive Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- February 14<sup>th</sup>, Budget and Finance Committee Meeting, Noon
- February 14<sup>th</sup>, Full Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- February 28<sup>th</sup>, Board Work Session-Broadwater Elementary, 11:00 a.m.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no additional board comments.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

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Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary