



*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  
Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 – 12:00pm

---

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Others:</i>
Jennifer McKee, Committee Chair	Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Lois Fitzpatrick, Trustee	Trish Klock, Bryant Principal
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
	Jonna Schwartz, Instructional Coach
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Meghan Schulte, Instructional Coach
	Christy Mock-Stutz, Instructional Coach
	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Marisa Graybill, Instructional Coach
	Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
	Erin Maxwell, RBLC Principal
	Jessi Mitchell, Instructional Coach
	Nick Radley, Central Principal
	Cal Boyle, HMS Principal
	Steve Thennis, HHS Principal
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Kayla Ryan, Instructional Coach
	Kayla Lunnon, Instructional Coach
	Michelle Schulte, Instructional Coach

**I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Trustee Janet Armstrong.

**II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment.

**III. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No changes were requested to the agenda.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 01.04.23 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

**V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

A. Overview of Grant Work in the Target Buildings

The Trustees viewed a presentation regarding an overview of grant work in the target buildings. The first school highlighted was Ray Bjork Learning Center (RBLC). Erin Maxwell, RBLC Principal, discussed that RBLC services students who have been identified, evaluated, and qualified for special education services. Students are identified through Child Find, Family Outreach, Head Start, out of district transfer, or parent referral. Curriculum at RBLC includes Creative Curriculum (social emotional, physical, cognitive, and language), Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Handwriting Without Tears, and Second Step Social Emotional. Assessment tools at RBLC include DIAL-4 Language, and Teaching Strategies Gold with three yearly checkpoints at the end of each trimester. The committee reviewed the fall benchmark data for RBLC. RBLC used the DIAL-4 Language subtest. This assessment includes: personal information, articulation, objects/actions (expressive and receptive), letter and sounds, rhyming and problem solving. There is a need for Oral Language support and the SLT goal is that by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the DIAL-4 Language, Tier 3 will decrease by 10% and Tier 1 will increase by 10%.

The second school highlighted was Bryant Elementary School. Bryant Principal, Trish Klock, reviewed the K/1<sup>st</sup> grade Acadience reading goal, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade overall iReady reading goal, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade iReady reading sub-goal, the kindergarten math goal, the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade iReady

math goal, and the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade iReady math sub-goal. At Bryant Elementary School there is a whole school math PLC training two times a month, there is a focus on vertical alignment of Numbers and Operations standards K-5, there is training on concrete-representational-abstract, there is training in different manipulatives and when to use them, there is number sense routine training, and bi-weekly paraprofessional training. Ms. Klock concluded by stating that there is discussion around how to create sustainability of systems beyond grant including weekly grade level meetings and data storage.

The next school highlighted was Central Elementary. The committee reviewed data from Central Elementary including the kindergarten Acadience reading goal, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade Acadience reading goal, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade iReady reading goal, the kindergarten math goal, and the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade iReady math goal. Principal Nick Radley discussed at Central they are focusing on IEFA with a monthly email share of 3 ways to incorporate led by Gage Furshong. There is title work and family engagement led by Jill Downing including creating a more inviting entryway, updating the school website with more information around Title I, STEM night, Soup and Story night, and a HHS sports night. Principal Radley stated there is discussion around how to create sustainability of systems beyond the grant including weekly meetings with title, admin, and coaches and creating an online shared folder systems for grade levels. Central Elementary has an action plan and all committees have a section that tracks and works toward overall school goals, along with SLT, Care Team (climate and PAX), IEFA, Title I, Student Council, and A-Team.

The next school highlighted was Helena Middle School. Cal Boyle, Principal at Helena Middle School, discussed the school leadership team at HMS. The school leadership team use their walkthrough data to determine job-embedded professional development to present. Principal Boyle reviewed data for Helena Middle School including iReady reading results, iReady math results, and growth in co-lab classes.

The last school highlighted today was Helena High School. There are walkthroughs at Helena High School which focus on the middle of the framework and increasing the amount of time students are authentically writing. The committee reviewed data for Helena High School including 2023 iReady winter data, iReady completion rates, school-wide data in reading and math, overview of 9<sup>th</sup> grade data in reading and math, overview of 10<sup>th</sup> grade data in reading and math, and an overview of 11 grade data in reading and math. PD opportunities at Helena High School include two rounds of PD offered around learning targets and success criteria, 22 staff members have participated in the lunch PD, there are four different sessions of PD offered and all staff members participated in a different breakout session.

#### B. Overview of ACT Day

Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12, discussed with the Teaching and Learning Committee what ACT day will look like this year. The ACT test is a required state test for all

juniors and the testing will take place for the Helena School District on April 11<sup>th</sup>. In the past, the ACT test was given offsite, but this year the test will be administered completely online, and the students will stay at school to take the test. Mr. McKay also forecasted that the day will look different for the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders not taking the test, and more information will be sent out about what the day will look like for them.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no board comments.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m. by Committee Chair Jennifer McKee.