



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, March 14th, 2023

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair
Luke Muszkiewicz, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Terry Beaver, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee

Keiran Boyle, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees

Rex Wertz, Superintendent
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
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Brett Zanto, Capital High Principal
Steve Thennis, Helena High Principal
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
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. Chair Hathhorn shared that sadly, Trustee Lois Fitzpatrick, had passed away and the Board of Trustees would like to share in a moment of silence at the Board meeting this evening in honor of Trustee Fitzpatrick.

II. REVIEW AGENDA

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

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. State Theater Recognition-Capital High School

The Board of Trustees recognized the Capital High Thespian Troupe for receiving the Outstanding Troupe Award at the State Thespian Meet. Principal Brett Zanto thanked Educator Laura Brayko for all that she does for these students. The following Capital High Students were recognized for their outstanding achievements:

- Lou Sechrist and Meils Sigafos-Outstanding Student-Written Performance Award
- Student Director Ashley Heinrich-Outstanding Stage Combat in a Performance Award
- Moriah Cox-Outstanding Performance Award
- June Forsythe and Jazmine Mudget were appointed to the State Thespian Student Board

B. State Theater Recognition-Helena High School

The Board of Trustees recognized Helena High Educator Robert Holter who received the Lifetime Achievement award for his work with the Montana Thespians for the last 42 years. The Board of Trustees also recognized Carsten Straub who was awarded a scholarship in technical theater to the University of Montana.

C. United States Presidential Scholars Program

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Capital High School students who are candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. They are Connor Bushnell, Selah Frederickson, and Miranda Sheafor.

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Helena High School students who are candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. They are Paisley Karlin, Jeri Wilkerson, Robert Stimpson and Ryan Burke.

These students are recognized for their accomplishments as some of our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. Thanks to all the educators that played a role in this recognition.

D. National Merit Finalists

The Board of Trustees recognized the following students who have advanced from the round of 16,000 semifinalists to now being honored as National Merit Finalists. Representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, National Merit Finalists are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Capital High- Connor Bushnell, Selah Frederickson, and Elisabeth Shockley

Helena High- Jeri Wilkerson, Robert Stimpson, Foster Smith, and Ryan Burke

E. DECA National Qualifiers-Capital High School

The Board of Trustees moved on to DECA recognition. Principal Brett Zanto thanked Capital High School DECA advisor, Levi Dawes, for all that he does for students. The Board of Trustees recognized the following students with great performances at the recent state DECA competition who have now qualified for DECA's International Career Development Conference in Orlando, FL April 21-26, 2023.

- Carlee Foster/Madi Hermes/Kevin Lachere: Sales Project Event
- Kate Berg/Addy Perschon/Vienna Teders: Integrated Marketing Campaign Event
- Tycen Mooney: Individual Series in Accounting Applications
- Kynz Belcher: Elevate Academy

F. DECA National Qualifiers-Helena High School

Principal Steve Thennis thanked Helena High School DECA advisor, Jessica Frazier, for all that she does for students. Congratulations to the following students with great performances at the recent state DECA competition who have now qualified for DECA's International Career Development Conference in Orlando, FL April 21-26, 2023.

- Aysia Phattavong- Community Awareness Project
- Melaina Kloberdanz-SBE Academy
- Sandra Schuele-SBE Academy
- Luka Krivokapic-Ignite Academy
- Caitlyn Holgate-Ignite Academy

In addition, The Helena High Catty Shack school-based enterprise was awarded Gold Re-certification. Helena High was one of 631 schools across the nation to be certified or re-certified gold. Helena High was one of 3 schools in Montana to reach this achievement.

G. State Wrestling Champion

The Board of Trustees recognized Capital High student Taylor Lay who became Helena's first State Champion in Girls Wrestling winning the 120-pound weight class. Principal Brett Zanto thanked Shawn Graham, Head Wrestling Coach at Capital High School, for all that he does to support these amazing athletes.

H. State Swimming Champions

The Board of Trustees recognized Helena High's Garrett Krattiger who is the State Swimming Champion in the 500 Free and the 100 IM and recognized Helena High's Devin Goetsch who is the State Swimming Champion in the 200 IM. Special thanks to swimming coaches Julia Shannon, and Lisa Sommers, for all that they do to support these amazing athletes.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- **Recognition**
 - o Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day March 3, 2023
 - o National Employee Appreciation Day March 3, 2023
 - o National School Social Worker Week March 5-11, 2023
 - o National Athletic Trainer's Month
 - o Congratulations to the Capital High and Helena High students that attended the State Thespian Meet
 - o Congratulations to Educator Robert Holter who received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with Montana Thespians for the last 42 years
 - o Board of Trustees Work Session At Broadwater Elementary-Thank you to Principal Boedecker and staff
 - o Congratulations to the Helena High and Capital High DECA students for hosting the 30th Annual Night to Shine Talent Show on February 27th
 - o Congratulations to the 105.3 KMTX January Teacher of the Month Mrs. Merren Marks from Helena High School
 - o Congratulations to C.R. Anderson Middle School Spelling Bee Champion Weston McNearney
 - o Congratulations to the Capital High students who earned top honors in the Northwest College 2022-2023 High School Photography Contest. Olivia Dewey took first place overall and Raelynn Staley took second. Thank you to CHS Photography Teacher Genevieve Anderson for helping these young artists reach new heights
 - o Thank you to Assistant Superintendent Josh McKay and the Calendar Committee

- o Thank you to Lisa Cordingley and Becca Leaphart with the Helena Education Foundation for awarding grants to various schools across the District and honoring our Distinguished Educators across the District
- New Business
 - o Public Education Day Event, March 13, 2023
 - o RBHI (Rural Behavioral Health Institute) Screening on-going across the District
 - o Budget Consensus Process
 - o Staffing Projections for the 2023-2024 school year-better understanding before Spring Break
 - o Spring Break – No School March 27-31

Superintendent Weltz discussed that through our budget process and our five-year planning we know the district is roughly 4.5 million dollars short in the elementary and nearly 2 million dollars short in the high school. To begin addressing the budget deficit non-tenure employees have received non-renewal communication with the understanding there is a possibility they may be brought back once we look at staffing numbers. Principals in the District will meet with the majority of non-tenured employees to let them know their status before spring break. They will be notified if they will be recommended to the Board for non-renewal or if they will return for the 2023-2024 school year.

Superintendent Weltz shared he will be conducting Staff Forums to discuss the budget before spring break on Tuesday, March 21st from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 22nd from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursday, March 23rd from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Additionally, a staff and community email will go out the Friday before spring break with information regarding the ongoing process to address the budget deficit. The Facilities Master Plan Document is expected to be completed by next fall and Superintendent Weltz stated it will be important to have the finalized Facilities Master Plan Document to help us make decisions for the District moving forward. To address the budget deficit, we are also reviewing ways to increase revenue sources and looking at opportunities to pay salaries out of other accounts other than the general fund.

Superintendent Weltz mentioned that he wants to make sure that people have the opportunity to provide input and voice their opinion on how to address the budget deficit, therefore, there will be a Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee formed. The Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee will begin their work in May and will be led by at least two facilitators. The committee will have around thirty members including three Trustees, parents, administrators, teachers, union representatives, and others yet to be determined. The committee will be charged with preparing recommendations that will ultimately come to the Board of Trustees for approval. The Board will have a monthly update from the Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee.

The Trustees discussed the issue of the lack of special education funding and how that has impacted our budget. The federal government is covering approximately 15% - 17% of the costs for special education rather than the originally intended amount of 40%. There is a good chunk out of our general fund that we could reallocate if we were able to get that funding from the federal government.

- Outreach/Meeting
 - o Home Town Helena (HTH)
 - o Admin/SRO Training – HSD & City of Helena
 - o Meeting with Sheriff Dutton
 - o Budget Strategic Work Meetings
 - Leadership and Cabinet
 - Board leadership
 - o Cabinet & Leadership
 - o Board Leadership
 - o HEF Executive Committee
 - o Parent Advisory Committee
 - o AA Superintendents
 - o HEF
 - Executive Meeting
 - Board Meeting
 - o HEA President/Superintendent Meeting
 - o Board of Health Meeting
 - o Grant Awards/HEF

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

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment and the Board of Trustees moved on to discuss New Business-Item for Information.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Item For Information

1. Policy 5030 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, presented Policy 5030: Abused and Neglected Child Reporting to the Board of Trustees. The Policy Committee reviewed this policy during their ongoing review of the 5000 Series. The committee clarified who are mandatory reporters, the definition of child abuse and stated the Superintendent shall provide access to educational resources. The Policy Committee recommended that the first paragraph be revised to clarify that a contractor is a third-party contractor providing services to students such as First Student or Sodexo. Language relating to sex trafficking was added to the policy as part of a requirement from DPHHS. The Policy Committee recommended that the definition of child abuse or neglect reflected on lines 16 through 21 be revised and given a broader definition. The revised language is from the MTSBA model policy and can be found in almost all the other AA policies. Lines 23 through 27 were stricken because they were deemed redundant. Language was added on lines 35 through 38 that says the Superintendent shall provide access to educational resources related to the topic. The Policy Committee had a robust discussion regarding procedures and how that education would be delivered to various groups. The end of the policy clarifies that DPHHS may share information that has been reported, but we are required by law to keep the information confidential. Trustee Terry Beaver was concerned that the language on lines 29 through 33 could imply that if one teacher reports to DPHHS a concern about a student, and the other adults that the child interacts with such as their music teacher, or P.E. teacher, or Principal for example did not report a concern, that they would all be held civilly liable for not reporting. The Trustees discussed that the language is what is stated in statute.

That concluded the Item 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. 02.14.23 Full Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 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. Capital High School Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project Bid

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, presented the Capital High School Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project Bid to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Verrill respectfully requests the Board of Trustees award the Capital High School Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project to Helena Sand & Gravel, Inc. The project will replace approximately 2,810 square yards of asphalt pavement and base course, and 635 linear feet of fencing. The facilities office received bids from two contractors, and Helena Sand & Gravel submitted the lowest proposal at \$223,269.00. Helena Sand & Gravel has a very strong history of completing quality work for the district and Mr. Verrill is confident they will continue to do so with this project. They will complete this project in the summer of 2023 before the start of the 23-24 school year.

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz wanted to confirm that this project would be paid out of our voted building reserve levy account. Mr. Verrill confirmed that it would be paid out of the voted high school building reserve levy account, and there is enough money to cover these charges. That account is specifically designated for projects like this.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn commented. "I would entertain a motion to approve the Capital High School Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project Bid as presented."

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the Capital High School Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project Bid as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2023-2024 School Calendar

Mr. Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12, presented the Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2023-2024 School Calendar to the Board of Trustees. Members of the committee this year were: Renee' Driessen, Joice Franzen, Jane Shawn, Thomas Baty, Nancy Peterson, Dennis Peterson, Brian Cummings, Jonna Schwartz, Starsha Frederickson, Dolan Gilreath, Shannon Callahan, Leighann Wilson, Justine Alberts, Kathleen Prody, and Josh McKay.

This proposed calendar begins with students attending a 3-day first week, then a 4-day week (Labor Day) and then a 5-day week. Along with this startup, we included a weeklong spring break. This calendar has many aspects that are like past calendars. The committee has also made some new recommendations this year. One of them centers around the 2.5-day K-5 week that used to occur in prior calendars that follows Martin Luther King Day associated with the high school semester test week. This new calendar creates two 4-day weeks in the middle of January, which is a very creative and beneficial idea for student learning. The 2.5-day week of the past was a challenge for unit planning and learning acquisition. Also, we are suggesting a new K-5, only half (AM) student day and half (PM) staff records day on December 1. This change corresponds to the end of the K-5 trimester. We are excited to try this for our staff and students with the trimester concept.

The Trustees recommended adding an explanation to the key located at the bottom of the calendar explaining what the dark line is under the 30th and 31st of August 2023 and September 5th, 2023. The dark line indicates the first days of school for different grade levels.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion to approve the Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2023-2024 School Calendar."

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2023-2024 School Calendar. Trustee Terry Beaver seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. National Certified Counselor Certification Approval

Ms. Keri Mizell presented the National Certified Counselor Certification Approval to the Board of Trustees. In the teachers negotiated agreement there are currently nine certifications that are currently approved for Board certification lane movement. If a covered employee under the teacher's contract is looking to pursue or has already completed a certification not included in that approval list, an application is submitted to the Board Certification Committee. The Board Certification Committee is comprised of administrators and teachers. The committee has reviewed an application for inclusion of the "*National Certified Counselor*" and is recommending that this certification be added to the pre-approval list. The two teachers listed in the board action, Jaime Pandis and Ellaina Staldine, were the counselors who brought forth the

proposal and application.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve the National Certified Counselor Certification Approval.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the National Certified Counselor Certification Approval. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. Policy 5045 Family Medical Leave Act

The Board of Trustees moved on to review Policy 5045 Family Medical Leave Act which was presented by Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff. The Policy Committee reviewed this policy during their ongoing review of the 5000 Series. The reference to “Secretary” was clarified and revised to state “United States Secretary of Labor.” There have been no changes since the policy was last reviewed by the board.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 5045 Family Medical Leave Act as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Terry Beaver moved to approve Policy 5045 Family Medical Leave Act as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

5. Policy 5035 Staff Ethics and Political Activity

The Board of Trustees moved on to review Policy 5035 Staff Ethics and Political Activity which was presented by Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff. The Policy Committee reviewed this policy during their ongoing review of the 5000 Series. This policy was revised to eliminate redundancy and update legal citations. There have been no changes since the last time this policy went before the board.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 5035 Staff Ethics and Political Activity.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve Policy 5035 Staff Ethics and Political Activity as presented. Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

6. Policy 5051 Insurance Benefits for Employees

The Board of Trustees moved on to review Policy 5051 Insurance Benefits for Employees presented by Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff. A minor change was made to update the language that describes the period of time an employee can elect to make changes in their coverage. Rather than calling it the “open season” it will now be called “open enrollment.” There have been no changes since the last time this policy went before the board.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 5051 Insurance Benefits for Employees.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve Policy 5051 Insurance Benefits for Employees as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

D. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Report

Ms. Loreley Drees, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, was not in attendance at the Board Meeting; therefore, there was no report to be given.

Mr. Keiran Boyle, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave his report. Mr. Boyle mentioned that Capital High counselors have been very busy with the RBHI screener and student registration for the upcoming school year. Last week marked the annual “Choose to Include Week”. A lot of students and staff dressed up according to daily themes and many students read various announcements regarding inclusion each morning. During PLC time on March 6th, all staff attended professional development aimed at implementing sentence level writing strategics across all curricular areas. Mr. Boyle concluded his report by mentioning that Capital High is starting a new “Bruin Student of the Month Award.”

2. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn, President of the Helena Education Association, gave the Helena Education Association Report. HEA had their general membership meeting and voted in their new officers and board members into office. Their state union is gearing up for

their annual conference which is held April 14th and 15th where they will be electing officers, adopting resolutions and the MFPE budget. The Helena Education Association

is committed to supporting the “For Our Kids, For Our Future” campaign this spring. MFPE will also be supporting this campaign. Ms. Shawn concluded her report by stating that they are supporting all three levies through this campaign.

3. Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz gave the Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report. Trustee Muszkiewicz thanked Facilities and Maintenance Director Todd Verrill and his team for leading some great discussions in our meetings. At the meeting the committee was given a Facilities Master Plan Update from SMA Architecture. They were given a facilities and maintenance update of projects from the last thirty days, the February work order count, current projects, projects for the next twelve months, and other projects. Mr. Verrill discussed the Capital High School Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project with the committee and requested that the Board of Trustees award the Capital High School Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project to Helena Sand and Gravel, Inc. Trustee Muszkiewicz mentioned that he hopes everyone take the community survey which has been emailed and is also available on the website. The survey is to solicit input from our community regarding our facilities, and the survey will be open until Friday, March 24th at 5:00 p.m. There have also been specific surveys sent out to staff, students, and administrators. The next Facilities Master Plan Key Stakeholder Meeting will potentially be held on Wednesday, April 26th at 4:00 p.m.

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Trustee Janet Armstrong was not in attendance at the Board meeting; therefore, Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz gave the report on her behalf. The Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the budget to actual reports for the elementary general fund and high school general fund. The committee also reviewed preliminary budget data sheets and tentative proposed ballot language. Trustee Muszkiewicz stated that this is a district that believes that our people and our processes are worth investing in, therefore, we maximize our revenue from the state and from our generous local taxpayers so that we can invest in our staff and our students. Some people don't realize that there is a limit in the amount that we can put on the ballots and that authority is very clearly defined in state code. The district is working with OPI to finalize our ANB counts so that we can finalize that number for the general fund levy. The Board of Trustees will finalize the ballot language on March 21st, 2023, at the Board of Trustees Work Session.

5. Policy Committee Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz gave the Policy Committee Report. Trustee Muszkiewicz thanked Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, for everything that she does with the ongoing review of policies and facilitating those discussions. Trustee Muszkiewicz also thanked Ms. Bea Kaleva, District Legal Counsel, for attending the Policy Committee meetings and providing great legal counsel during those discussions. The Policy Committee reviewed the policies that Ms. Ridgway presented tonight to the Board of Trustees.

6. Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Trustee Jennifer McKee gave the Teaching and Learning Committee Report. The Teaching and Learning Committee was given a District School Health Grant Facilitator Update from Ms. Lona Carter. Ms. Lona Carter is the Principal of Jefferson Elementary and is on special assignment paid through a grant to do work around the mental health of students. Ms. Carter discussed the Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI) screening. This screening is offered to middle school and high school students. It is a free, voluntary, opt-out screening conducted during school hours with same-day data, safety intervention along with free case management and a link-to-care. Ms. Carter discussed nine resiliency programs currently in the Helena Public Schools that support the mental health of children.

7. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre had no report to give because the Health Benefits Committee did not meet.

8. Wellness Committee Report

Bryant Principal, Trish Klock, gave the Wellness Committee Report. The Nutrition Sub-Committee is going to continue to review the policies they are working on as part of the work with Sodexo and OPI in making sure that their policies are up to date. They are looking at adding some representation from middle school and high school on that committee. The committee had a great discussion with Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, discussing policy versus procedure. The committee is looking at documents and reviewing what should be policy and what should be procedure for nutrition and physical activity. Once the documents are finalized, they will present them to building administrators who will then present the documents to their staff members in August at the start of the new school year. The Physical Activity Sub-Committee is looking at recess and P.E. and other ways to get children moving and staying active and healthy and putting that information in a document that will also be put together for administrators and staff.

9. Montana School Boards Association Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz gave the Montana School Boards Association Report. The MTSBA is very focused on the legislative session. There are a lot of bills and the number of bills that are scheduled for hearing with very little advanced lead time make it very difficult for the people at organizations such as MTSBA, MASBO, MFPE and SAM who are monitoring these bills, to keep track of them. It also makes it very difficult for members of the public who want to participate in the process. The MTSBA approach is to try and engage with the legislature to get things done, provide funding where we can to public education, and to interact with legislative proposals that we feel would be damaging to public education to try and mitigate those negative consequences. A great accomplishment was the passing of HB 15 which will provide a 2.7% inflationary increase next year with a 3% increase the year after that. Trustee Muszkiewicz recognized a Helena Public Schools educator who is on leave serving as a representative in the

House, and that is Representative Melissa Romano who brought forth a very important

bill, which is House Bill 514. HB 514 would have removed or at least increased that inflationary adjustment cap. Although we are thankful for the inflationary increases we have received, they are not adequate to allow us to keep pace with inflation. Trustee Muszkiewicz thanked Ms. Romano for highlighting that issue, but unfortunately that bill was tabled in the committee meeting.

Trustee Muszkiewicz moved on to discuss charter schools. Charter schools can exist in Montana now as long as they are governed by the public school district. There are two competing bills, HB 549 by Representative Anderson and HB 562 by Representative Vinton. Both bills have passed the House and have been referred to House Appropriations. Trustee Muszkiewicz discussed SB 99 and mentioned that there are several bills that are looking to amend SB 99. One of those bills is HB 566 which would narrow the notification process and clarify that so that we are really just talking about sex-education classes. Other bills, SB 337, and HB 502, seek to expand the notification requirements.

Trustee Muszkiewicz concluded his MTSBA report by discussing HB 774 introduced by Representative Hopkins. Essentially, it's a proposal to require all elections to occur during the general election in November on even numbered years. Currently we typically run our elections in May. We have the option of running certain bonds and voted levies in November if we want to, and we've done that in the past, but largely we operate on the May timeline.

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.

- March 21st at 11:00 a.m.-Board of Trustees Work Session at C.R. Anderson Middle School
- April 4th at noon-Policy Committee Meeting
- April 5th at noon-Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- April 7th at noon-Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting
- April 11th at 11:00 a.m.-Executive Committee Meeting
- April 11th at noon-Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
- April 11th at 5:30 p.m.-Full Board Meeting

That concluded the Upcoming Meetings portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees moved on to Board Comments.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Jennifer McKee commented, “On March 4th, the dean of the Capitol Press Corps, Chuck Johnson, passed away. He was the longest serving and most influential reporter in Montana state history. He covered the Constitutional Convention and every legislative session through 2017. His very first job in journalism was writing for the Helena High Nugget. He is a product of our education system and attended Hawthorne Elementary, Helena Middle School, and Helena High School. He was a multi-sport athlete at Helena High School and won a scholarship to the University of Montana. He was a public education product through and through and the legacy that was planted in him, he gave back to the state and gave back to our community. It is a testament to how a community is knit together and the giants that come from Helena Public Schools.”

That concluded board comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary Date