



*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, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 12:00pm

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## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Others:</i>
Jennifer McKee, Committee Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Katrina Salois, Administrative Assistant
	Jonna Schwartz, Instructional Coach

### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Committee Chair Jennifer McKee.

### 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 03.01.23 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

#### V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

##### A. Updates On Curriculum, Assessment, and Title for The Year

Ms. Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs, gave an update on curriculum, assessment, and title for the year to the Teaching and Learning Committee. Ms. Hess began by discussing Instructional Professional Development including:

- Joy-Into Reading and the Literacy Grant in schools
- Yolanda-Modeling writing and training coaches on opinion writing
- Michelle-Math standards alignment, modeling manipulatives, number sense, and fluency in classrooms

Ms. Hess discussed that the district is transitioning into a new reading program called *“Into Reading”* which will be rolled out district-wide this fall. All the products that are needed for the *“Into Reading”* curriculum have been purchased and sent to schools. Ms. Hess discussed grade level meetings where the groups modeled Math games and manipulatives, and teachers shared out the *“Into Reading”* pilot, along with standards-based grading updates. During the standards-based grading updates the groups did a deeper dive into what they need to know from the program, and they had an opportunity to talk with each other about what’s working, what’s not, and lastly, they put together the pacing guides for the modules. Those guides will then be given to the Standards Based Grading Task Force, and they will integrate those into the progress reports. Ms. Hess reviewed the content area curriculum development in 6-12 Social Studies and 6-12 Science. The 6-12 Social Studies standards are entirely new, and there were new 6-12 Science standards implemented a few years ago. The teachers have been working on revamping the Social Studies Curriculum with these new standards for over three years. During this time the teachers have reviewed what the standards look like, what do they look like in action, and what do they look like as you are building out scope, sequence, and pacing guides.

Ms. Hess reviewed summer professional development that will include K-5 *“Into Reading”* training, K-5 Math-Fluency and Manipulatives, 6-12 curriculum work, Conscious Discipline, Jeremy Bullock Safe Schools, new teacher orientation, and content area curriculum in 9-12 ELA at CHS, 6-12 Social Studies, and CTE. Teachers are very excited about Conscious Discipline professional development. They really love this K-12 program for behavior management and social and emotional learning in the classroom. The Jeremy Bullock Safe Schools Summit moved from Butte to Helena and will take place at Central Elementary this year. Ms. Hess stated that we tried to be really intentional with our professional development this summer and offer teachers opportunities that align with our strategic priorities and goals.

Ms. Hess reviewed assessments with the Teaching and Learning Committee. Spring state assessments include: WIDA (12/3-2/28), CogAT (3/13-24), Alternative Assessments (3/13-4/13), ACT-April 11<sup>th</sup>, SBAC (4/24-5/5 Elementary, 5/8-5/19 Middle School). The WIDA assessment is for

our multilingual learners (EL/ML). The CogAT assessment is given to all second-grade students and the Alternative assessments are given to our special education students. The ACT assessment is for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and will be all online this year. Ms. Hess stated there is a 95% participation rule regarding assessments which means that 95% of the students in our district must complete the spring assessments. The district spring benchmark will be (5/15-5/26) and includes Acadience, Universal Number Sense Screener, and iReady.

Ms. Hess moved on to review federal programs including Targeted Support Grant Awards, private/non-public spring outreach, new transitions classroom at HHS, and homeless data for the district. The Targeted Support Grant was awarded to three of our elementary schools: Broadwater, Byrant, and Smith. It is based on their spring assessment scores and having a subpopulation that scored less than five percent of the state. The grant money awarded is put towards helping that subpopulation group.

Ms. Hess discussed the private/non-public spring outreach. Part of our federal funding includes Title 1-A: Improving Basic Programs, which goes towards private/non-public schools in our community. Every March we send out notices to individual home schools and private schools offering them to participate in our title programming. The only school that showed interest this year was Helena Christian School, so we assist them with their Title program.

Ms. Hess discussed the new Transitions classroom at Helena High School. The teacher for that classroom has anywhere from two to ten students a period. Most of those students are credit deficient due to being in foster or group homes. The teacher is working to set up personalized learning programs for them to get the credits they need to get back on track for graduation. We are piloting the Edgenuity Program for this Transitions classroom. We are hoping to hire a transitions teacher for Capital High School next year, so that there will be a Transitions classroom at each high school. Ms. Hess concluded her presentation by discussing the new Sheltered Curriculum pilot at Helena High School for our EL/ML students.

## **VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee Janet Armstrong asked how curriculum will be affected by the budget shortfall for the upcoming school year. Ms. Hess stated that Math Expressions for grades K through five will be sunsetting a year from now. That means that we won't be able to order any of the consumables or new textbooks from the publisher. We are starting to explore cost effective options for updating that curriculum without having to adopt an entirely new curriculum which would be very costly. We are looking at two of the top publishers and their programs, and they are Bridges in Mathematics and Eureka Squared. We are also looking at what other districts are doing for cost effective ways to adopt curriculum.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. by the Committee Chair Jennifer McKee.