

Superintendent Rex Weltz 324-2000 Business Manager Janelle Mickelson 324-2007

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Lincoln Center - 1325 Poplar Street April 4, 2023 Noon – 1:00 p.m.

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA
- III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.

- IV. REVIEW MARCH 7, 2023, BOARD POLICY MEETING MINUTES
- V. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIRST READING:

A. 2120 Wellness

VI. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR SECOND READING:

A. 5122 Criminal Background InvestigationB. 5610 Intellectual Property Rights

VII. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIFTH READING

A. 5030 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting (8.13.2013)

VIII. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR GENERAL REVIEW:

A. 5255 Disciplinary Action (6.11.2019)

B. 5075 Termination of Employment (8.13.2013)

- IX. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD COMMENTS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

**NEXT MEETING:** 

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 - Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Helena School District 2120

## STUDENT INSTRUCTION

### Wellness

Recognizing that good health and wellness are positively correlated to success in school, the Helena Public Schools Board of Trustees is committed to providing learning environments that promote children's health, well-being and ability to learn. This commitment includes nutrition, education, physical activity and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness.

Nutritional Standards for Foods Available to Students.

The District will serve meals that, at a minimum, meet the nutritional requirements established by the United States Department of Agriculture.

 Child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods which meet the health and nutrition needs of students; will accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings.

# Adequate time for students to eat will be provided.

The District strongly encourages that all foods and beverages individually sold before, during and 30 minutes after the school day, outside the school\_reimbursable meal programs\_ (including those sold through vending machines, student stores, a la carte programs, fundraising, or through programs for students after the school day) will follow the USDA Smart Snack regulations. Schools are discouraged from using foods and beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards and are sold individually, as rewards for academic performance or good behavior. In addition, foods and beverages will not be withheld as a form of punishment.

Schools are encouraged to limit the number of celebrations during the school day that involve food. Helena Public Schools encourage the promotion of a positive learning environment by providing healthy celebrations that shift the focus from food to the child. Providing nutritious food options demonstrates a school commitment to promoting healthy behavior and supports classroom lessons. Each celebration should include healthy foods and beverage choices, including water. Physical activity during celebrations is encouraged.

Foods and beverages offered and sold at school events should include choices that meet the nutrition standards for meals and beverages sold individually.

47 Development, Review, and Implementation of the Policy 48 49 The Superintendent or designee will establish a committee comprised of staff members, parents, 50 educators, and the public. The committee shall be responsible for the development of procedures 51 that support wellness for both students and staff and are necessary to implement this policy. 52 53 Members may include but are not limited to parents, students, school food service staff, health 54 and physical education educators, school and community health professionals, trustees, 55 administrators and members of the general public. 56 57 The District will assess the implementation of this policy and inform and update the public every three years, at a minimum, regarding compliance with the policy, how it compares to model 58 59 wellness policies, and progress in attaining the goals of the wellness policy. 60 61 Legal References: P.L. 108-265 Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 P.L. 111-296 The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 62 63 10.55.701, ARM Board of Trustees 64 65 Cross References: 66 67 Policy History: Adopted on: 68 2.28.2012 Revised on:

5.9.2017

69

**PERSONNEL** 

**Criminal Background Investigation** 

 Any requirement of an applicant or employee a candidate, volunteer applicant or employee of a contractor to submit to a fingerprint background check will be in compliance with the National Child Protection Act and applicable state and federal regulations. If an individual applicant has any prior record of arrest or conviction by any local, state, or federal law enforcement agency for an offense other than a minor traffic violation, the facts must be reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee who shall decide whether the individual applicant shall be declared eligible for appointment or employment or volunteering.

All applicants, employees of firms hold a contract with the District, and volunteers who will have unsupervised access to students will be required to submit to a comprehensive criminal background investigation to include fingerprinting. The authorization must be in writing.

Arrests resolved without conviction shall not be considered<u>in the hiring process</u> unless the charges are pending and prohibit the individual from working as an employee or volunteering<del>.</del>

Employees and volunteers have the responsibility to notify the District as soon as possible if they are arrested, charged with a crime, or served a restraining order. The District will take appropriate action, up to and including termination, if upon notification it is determined the criminal activity impacts the individual's continued employment or ability to volunteer.

The Superintendent or designee shall keep all criminal record information confidential as required by law. All records must be retained in accordance with state and federal law.

Paid Full & Part-time Employees / Certified and Classified Substitutes

It is the policy of the Board that any finalist recommended for hire to a paid position with the District shall authorize in writing their agreement to a comprehensive criminal background check, which will include a fingerprint background check. The criminal background check will be conducted by the appropriate state and/or federal agencies. Any offer of employment or appointment shall be contingent upon the results of the comprehensive criminal background check. The employee will not be allowed to begin work until the District has received and approved the results of the criminal background check. The cost for the criminal background check shall be borne by the District.

 The District will accept the report of a previous fingerprint-based background check completed within the six (6) months before for the non-licensed substitute teacher applied if it is submitted by a Montana university or college where the applicant is

currently or was formerly enrolled in an accredited Montana professional educator program or from a public or nonpublic state- accredited school that previously employed the applicant.

The Superintendent may determine that a critical staffing need exists and in such cases the Superintendent and/or his or her designee may allow the employee to begin work after the District has approved a name-based background check. Such employment will be temporary, pending completion of the comprehensive criminal background check, including a fingerprint background check.

## Student Teachers

 The District will accept the report of a previous fingerprint-based background check completed no more than six months prior to the student teacher's start date. The fingerprint-based background check must be submitted to the District by a Montana university or college or a public or non-public Montana accredited school where the student teacher is currently or was formerly enrolled in a Montana professional educator program.

Student teachers from a teacher education program outside the state of Montana must agree in writing to a finger-print based background check conducted by the appropriate state and/or federal authority.

#### **Volunteers**

All volunteers who have unsupervised access to District students on District property or at a District sanctioned event will be required to provide two forms of identification, (a government issued photo ID and another reliable proof of identity). In addition, all volunteers will be required to submit to a comprehensive criminal background check, which will include a name-based fingerprint-based background check. Volunteers who have unsupervised access to students or who serve as chaperones for school-sponsored trips are required to submit to a comprehensive criminal background check including a fingerprint background check and will not be able to serve until the District has received and approved the results of the criminal background check.

The District may, at its discretion, <u>conduct a name based background check at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.</u> waive criminal background checks for volunteers who assist with events similar in nature to bake sales and book sales and who do not have unsupervised access to students.

#### Other

 The following applicants for employment shall be required as a condition of any offer of employment to authorize, in writing, the District to conduct a comprehensive criminal background investigation to include fingerprinting. The

<u>authorization must be in writing.</u> determine if he or she has been convicted of certain criminal or drug offenses:

- Education support personnel seeking full- or part-time employment within the District;
- Any employee of a person or firm holding a contract with the District.;

Any requirement of an applicant or employee of a contractor to submit to a fingerprint background check will be in compliance with the National Child Protection Act and applicable state and federal regulations. If an applicant has any prior record of arrest or conviction by any local, state, or federal law enforcement agency for an offense other than a minor traffic violation, the facts must be reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee, who shall decide whether the applicant shall be declared eligible for appointment or employment.

Arrests resolved without conviction shall not be considered in the hiring process unless the charges are pending and prohibit the individual from working as an employee.

The Superintendent shall keep all criminal record information confidential as required by law.

Cross Reference: 5085 <u>Substitutes and Student Teachers</u>

Legal Reference:

42 USC 5119a
10.55.716, ARM Substitute Teachers
10.57.201a, ARM Criminal History Background Check
§ 44-5-301, MCA Dissemination of public criminal justice information Dissemination of criminal justice information Dissemination of confidential criminal justice information — procedure for dissemination through court

**Policy** 

History: 5.14.2019

Adopted on: Revised on:

115116

93

94

95 96

97

98 99

100

101

102

103

104 105

106107

108 109

110111

112

### PERSONNEL

# **Intellectual Property Rights**

The purpose of this policy is to establish provisions which define how intellectual property rights are recognized when employees develop materials and other forms of intellectual property and how equitable allocation of royalties, compensation, and other ownership rights are established for intellectual property valued in excess of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500.00).

 It is the policy of the Board to encourage its employees to ethically create innovative and progressive materials and/or other forms of intellectual property. Intellectual property is defined as original and creative work manifested in a tangible form that can be legally protected, in a manner that may include but is not limited to a patent, trademark, or copyright.

The Board also recognizes the need for all employees to understand the circumstances where the District may have proprietary rights to intellectual property produced during paid time using public resources. Depending upon the situation, royalties or compensation for such materials and/or other forms of intellectual property may be paid to the District.

 Prior to the development of new materials and/or other forms of intellectual property related to an employee's employment or an employee's sabbatical, the employee must meet with the Superintendent or designee to obtain permission to create the material and/or other forms of intellectual property and to gain an understanding of any ethical considerations. The meeting should occur regardless of whether the materials and/or other forms of intellectual property will be developed outside or during the workday or will use some or no District resources.

Employees who receive approval for the development of materials and/or other forms of intellectual property that does involve full or partial use of District resources and/or partial use of the workday will seek to have the respective rights of ownership between the employee and the District addressed in a written agreement. If there is no such agreement, the rights of ownership shall belong to the District.

# Items Created Within the Employee's Scope of Responsibilities

by employees during their workday, as part of their employment, and/or using District resources.
In this situation, the District reserves the right to copyright or patent the intellectual property in its name and to otherwise exercise proprietary rights, including royalty or compensation rights.
Employees will not be compensated for the materials and/or other forms of intellectual property

Employees will not be compensated for the materials and/or other forms of intellectual property produced by employees during the paid workday, or as part of their employment, or with the use of public resources.

The Board retains the rights to all materials and/or other forms of intellectual property produced

Items Created Outside the Employee's Scope of Responsibilities

The Board does not inhibit employees, outside of their workday and apart from their employment with the District, from using their own resources, to research, author, or produce materials and/or other forms of intellectual property. The Board also recognizes the right of employees to own business interests in companies which produce such intellectual property

Employees who produce materials and/or other forms of intellectual property outside of their workday, apart from and not related to their employment, using their own resources, have the right to exercise total proprietary rights, including royalty rights and/or compensation, regarding the intellectual property.

However, if an employee uses District resources, equipment or facilities outside the workday to create intellectual property, the rights to such property belongs to the District unless an agreement is reached prior to the initiation of the work.

# Items Created Using a Combination of Paid and Personal Time

Work that an employee does in a combination of both paid and personal time that contributes to the job for which the employee was hired, may be considered within the employee's scope of responsibilities as defined by this policy. When an employee creates items used to perform their job function and any portion of the work on the item occurred when the employee was being paid by the District and/or the employee was using District equipment, resources or facilities the items may belong to the District, the employee or a combination of the two.

 Employees must receive prior approval for the development of materials and/or other forms of intellectual property that involves full or partial use of District resources and/or partial use of the workday. The written agreement will establish the respective rights of ownership between the employee and the District. If there is no such agreement, the rights of ownership shall belong to the District.

Should an employee develop intellectual property but not see to monetize or legally protect it, the District may make use of the property without additional compensation, but shall not distribute, copy, or monetize the property without the consent of the originating employee.

## District Purchase of Employee Developed Materials

Materials and/or other forms of intellectual property authored or produced by employees may be purchased by the District if they are approved for purchase according to standard evaluation and selection procedures for those items in accordance with Board Policies, state statute and administrative procedures.

An employee may not participate in the evaluation or procurement of materials and/or other forms of intellectual property wholly or partially produced by the employee and/or immediate family member.

An employee who receives royalties or compensation on the sale of materials and/or other forms 89 90 of intellectual property to the District, must donate divide royalties and/or net pro rata profits to an approved charity as defined if: 91 92 1. The sale of the materials and/or other forms of intellectual property exceeds 93 twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) annually, or 2. The employee receives a pro rata share of payment of account on sales of 94 95 materials and/or other forms of intellectual property that exceeds twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) annually. 96 3. The amount that is to be donated in the royalties and/or net pro rata profits 97 98 on any sales exceeds twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00). 99 If the royalties and/or net pro rata profits exceed twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) annually the following distribution shall apply: 100 101 50% to employee 102 • 40% to District 103 • 10% to Helena Education Foundation 104 Any employee who chooses not to comply with the foregoing requirements may request of the Superintendent/designee that his or her materials and/or other forms of intellectual property not 105 106 be purchased by the District. Such requests will be honored. 107 108 An employee may not use District property, student work (without prior documented written 109 permission obtained from parents), or personnel, in preparing materials for private use or for use 110 unrelated to the school system. 111 112 The Superintendent is authorized to develop appropriate procedures to implement this policy. 113 114 Cross Reference: 5035 Staff Ethics and Political Activity 115 116 Legal References: §2-2-121, MCA Rules of Conduct for Public Officers and Public 117 **Employees** §2-2-121, MCA School Officers Not to Act as Agents 118 119 Copyright Act of 1976 120 121 Policy History: 122 Adopted: 123 Revised:

Reviewed:

Helena Public Schools 5030

PERSONNEL

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

 A District employee, third party contractors providing service to students, volunteer, student teacher or student nurse who has reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be an abused, neglected child or subject to sex trafficking by anyone regardless of whether the person suspected of causing the abuse, neglect, or trafficking is a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare, shall report such a case to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services or local law enforcement. They shall also notify the Superintendent or principal that a report has been made. An employee, contractor, volunteer, student teacher or student nurse does not discharge the obligation to personally report by notifying the Superintendent or principal.

Child abuse or neglect means actual physical or psychological harm to a child, substantial risk of physical or psychological harm to a child, exposure to or involvement with sex trafficking, and abandonment. This definition includes sexual abuse and sexual contact by or with a student. The obligation to report suspected child abuse or neglect also applies to actual or attempted sexual or romantic contact between a student and a staff member, contractor, volunteer or student teacher or nurse.

Any District employee who fails to report a suspected case of abuse or neglect to the Department of Public Health and Human Services, or who prevents another person from doing so, may be civilly liable for damages proximately caused by such failure or prevention and is guilty of a misdemeanor. The employee will also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Any District employee who fails to report a suspected case of abuse, neglect, or <u>sex trafficking</u> to the Department of Public Health and Human Services, or who prevents another person from doing so, may be <u>civilly</u> liable for damages proximately caused by such failure or prevention and <u>is-may be</u> guilty of a misdemeanor. <u>All District employees are responsible for reporting regardless of whether or not another employee has made a report.</u> The employee will also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination for failure to report.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to shall provide access to educational resources for the purpose of training interested parties how identify the warning signs of abuse, neglect, and sex trafficking, how to recognize predatory behaviors and how to make a report to the proper authorities.

When a District employee makes a report, the Department of Public Health and Human Services may share information with that individual or others as permitted by law. Individuals in the District who receive information related to a report of child abuse, neglect, or sex trafficking shall maintain the confidentiality of the information.

46 47 48	Legal References:	§ 41-3-201, MCA § 41-3-202, MCA § 41-3-203, MCA	Reports Action on reporting Immunity from liability
49		§ 41-3-205, MCA § 41-3-205, MCA	Confidentiality – disclosure exceptions
50		§ 41-3-207, MCA	Penalty for failure to report
51		§ 45-5-501, MCA	Definitions
52		§ 45-5-502, MCA	Sexual Assault
53		§ 20-7-1316, MCA	Child Sex Trafficking Prevention
54	Cross References:		
55			
56	<b>Policy History</b> :		
57	Adopted on:	8.13.2013	
58	Revised on:		
59	Reviewed on:		
60			
61			

1 Helena School District 5255

#### 2 PERSONNEL

- 3 <u>Disciplinary Action</u>
- 4 District employees who fail to fulfill their job responsibilities or to follow reasonable directions
- of their supervisors, or who conduct themselves on or off the job in ways that affect school
- 6 operations, may be subject to discipline. Behavior, conduct, or action that may call for
- 7 disciplinary action or dismissal includes but is not limited to reasonable job-related grounds
- 8 based on a failure to satisfactorily perform job duties, disruption of the District's operation, or
- 9 other legitimate reasons.
- Discipline will be reasonably appropriate to the circumstance and will include but not be limited
- to a supervisor's right to reprimand an employee and the Superintendent, building principal or
- supervisor's right to suspend an employee, without pay, or to impose other appropriate
- disciplinary sanctions. Disciplinary sanctions, including all forms or reprimands, will be
- documented and placed in the employees personnel file accordance with Policy 5040. In
- accordance with Montana law, only the Board may terminate an employee or non-renew
- 16 employment.

19

35

36

- 17 The Superintendent or designee is authorized to immediately suspend a staff member, with or
- without pay, and recommend retention or termination of employment.

20 21	Cross Reference:	Policy 5225	Termination from Employment / Non-Renewal of Employment
22		Policy 5040	Personnel Records
23			
24	Legal Reference:	§20-3-324, MCA	Powers and duties
25	C	§20-4-204, MCA	Termination of tenure teacher services
26		§20-4-207, MCA	Dismissal of teacher under contract
27		§39-2-903, MCA	Definitions
28		§45-8-361, MCA	Possession or allowing possession of a weapon in
29			school building – exceptions – penalties – seizure
30			and forfeiture or return authorized – definitions
31	Policy History:		
32	Adopted on:	6.11.2019	
33	Revised on:		
34	Historical Note:	Policies 3.20 Persona	al Conduct and 3.16 Employee Disciplinary Action

adopted on 1.14.2003 were combined to become Policy 5070 in 2013.

Policy 5070 was revised and became Policy 5255 on 6.11.2019.

Helena School District 5075

PERSONNEL

# <u>Termination of Employment</u>

Dismissal and Non-renewal

The Board, after receiving the recommendations of the Superintendent, will determine the non-renewal or termination of certified and classified staff, in conformity with state statutes and applicable District policies.

## Resignation

Certified and classified personnel will generally be expected to fulfill the terms of their contracts, unless clearly compelling, mitigating circumstances prevent the individual from doing so. The Superintendent is authorized to accept the resignation of an individual employee and must report such resignation to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. A certified employee who resigns after signing a contract with the District may face disciplinary action related to the employee's certificate.

#### Reduction in Force

The Board has exclusive authority to determine the appropriate number of employees. A reduction in employees may occur as a result of, but not be limited to, changes in the education program, staff realignment, changes in the size or nature of the student population, financial considerations, or other reasons deemed relevant by the Board. The Board will follow the procedure stated in the current collective bargaining agreement when considering a reduction in force of certified staff. The Board will consider performance evaluations, staff needs, and other reasons it deems relevant, in determining order of dismissal when it reduces classified staff or discontinues some type of educational service.

## Payment of Wages Upon Termination

When a District employee quits, is laid off, or is terminated, wages owed will be paid on the next regular pay day for the pay period in which the employee left employment or within fifteen (15) days, whichever occurs first. In the case of an employee terminated for allegations of theft connected to the employee's work, the District may withhold the value of the theft, provided the employee agrees in writing to the withholding or charges have been filed with law enforcement within (7) business days of separation. If no charges are filed against the employee within thirty (30) days of the filing of the report with law enforcement, wages are due upon the expiration of the thirty (30) day period.

Legal References: § 20-4-204, MCA Termination of tenure teacher services

5.16.2013 Board Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading 6.4.2013 Board Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 6.11.2013 Full Board – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading 8.13.2013 Full Board – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Final 1.3.2023 Policy Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> Review 2.7.2023 Policy Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> Review 3.7.2023 Policy Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> Review 4.4.2023 Policy Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> Review

45 46		§ 20-4-206, MCA acceptance – terminat	Notification of non-tenure teacher re-election –
47		§20-4-207, MCA	Dismissal of a teacher under contract
48		§10.55.701, ARM	Board of Trustees
49		§10.57.611, ARM	Substantial Material Non-Performance
50		Booth v. Argenbright,	, 225 M 272, 731 P.2d 1318, 44 St. Rep. 227 (1987)
51			
52			
53	Cross References:		
54			
55	Policy History:		
56	Adopted on:	8.13.2013	
57	Revised on:		
58			
59			