



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, May 23rd, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. | Kessler Elementary School and via TEAMS

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Terry Beaver, Trustee	Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Jeff Hindoein, Trustee	Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
Linda Cleatus, Trustee	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent PreK-5
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Neal Murray, Safety and Operations Manager
	Jim Daanen, Safety and Security Developer
	Riley Thatcher, Kessler Principal
	Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
	Laura Sankey Keip, Guest of the Public
	Carrie Shinkle, Guest of the Public
	Several Kessler Elementary Staff Members

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

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn reviewed the agenda with the Board of Trustees and there were no changes.

The Board of Trustees moved on to General Public Comment.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Sankey Keip gave general public comment. Ms. Sankey Keip is the parent of an incoming kindergartener in the Helena Public Schools and has two younger children that will eventually also attend Helena Public Schools. Ms. Sankey Keip is a full-time, nonpartisan staff attorney for the state legislature, and her primary focus for the last decade has been education policy. Ms. Sankey Keip expressed her concern that the SACC (after-school) program at the school where her child will be attending kindergarten is already full. Ms. Sankey Keip stated that she and her husband both work full time and she has no idea how they are going to bridge the gap between the end of the school day for their child and the end of the workday for her and her husband. Ms. Sankey Keip stated that our school system is still operating the same way it did 125 years ago, with very little regard for how our society has changed. Ms. Sankey Keip suggested that we need to consider moving to a year-round school calendar. We need to look at aligning the school day with our community's workday and that school should be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. During that time, we should expand the amount of time kids have to eat lunch, engage in P.E., art, music, and recess, and experiential learning for the older kids. Ms. Sankey Keip stated that we should be looking to provide time within the workday for teachers for professional collaboration, professional development, lesson planning, and grading. Ms. Sankey Keip stated that in two years the legislature will be creating their once-every-ten-years school funding commission and she is urging Helena Public Schools to create a task force to dig into the issues in the district, to gather data, to identify the gaps or the barriers in the existing laws, administrative rules, and the school funding formula. Ms. Sankey Keip suggested that we compare Helena Public Schools to the world-class, leading education systems from around the planet to figure out how to get from where we are to where those world-class systems are. Ms. Sankey Keip concluded her public comment by stating that she is willing to offer her expertise as a legislative staffer and a bill drafter to help us craft proposals to bring to the funding commission and the legislature, and she is willing to volunteer her time and effort.

That concluded general public comment and the Board of Trustees moved on to the consent action items.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. 04.25.23 Open Session Board Work Session Minutes
2. 04.25.23 Closed Session Board Work Session Minutes

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

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the Consent Action Items as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 motion carries unanimously.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Principal Riley Thatcher, Kessler Elementary School
Neal Murray, Safety and Operations Manager

The Board of Trustees viewed a presentation given by Kessler Elementary School Principal Riley Thatcher. Principal Thatcher began her presentation by sharing the mission statement of Kessler Elementary: *The primary purpose of Kessler School is to provide a high-quality education for students in a safe, engaging, and caring environment where each individual becomes a successful and responsible citizen.*

Principal Thatcher shared the staff demographics of Kessler Elementary.

- 11 classroom teachers
- 1 SPED teacher
- 1 SPED interventionist
- 1 Counselor
- 1 Librarian
- .5 Music - split with Hawthorne
- .5 PE - split with Hawthorne
- .5 SLP - split with Hawthorne
- .5 Nurse – split with HHS
- .5 School Psych- split with Central
- 8 Paraeducators: 4 SPED, 2 Gen. Ed, 1 Office, .5 overage
- 1 Day & 1 Evening Custodian
- 2 Food Service Staff
- 2 SACC employees
- 1 Administrator
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Instructional Coach

Principal Thatcher shared the student statistics at Kessler Elementary.

Enrollment = 238

- K 36
- 1 43
- 2 43
- 3 41
- 4 36
- 5 39

- Attendance Percentage 89.74%
- Free and Reduced Percentage 31.85%
- McKinney Vento Percentage 10.5%
- 2022-2023 PTC Attendance
 - 99% in November
 - 98% in March

Classrooms:

- 11 general education classrooms
- 2 Kindergarten
- 2 First
- 2 Second
- 2 Third
- 1 Fourth
- 1 Fourth/Fifth Combo
- 1 Fifth

Principal Thatcher discussed facilities at Kessler Elementary.

- Built in 1936
- 7 renovations
(1948, 1956, 1964, 1967,1976,1987,1994)
- Parking lot paved 2017
- Safety & security upgrades, staff lounge added 2020
- Safety fence added 2022
- Community Building Use
- YMCA
- Sports clubs
- Stampede

Principal Thatcher concluded her presentation by sharing the theme this year at Kessler Elementary School which centers around connection and consistency and they called the theme, “*All In*”. Principal Thatcher shared some of the fun activities that the staff and

students participate in at Kessler including dress up days and hat days, as well as family nights with the Kessler families.

The Board of Trustees moved on to view a presentation given by Helena Public Schools Safety and Security Manager Neal Murray.

Mr. Murray began by giving a security and security overview.

- K-8 Safety & Security Bond
 - Security upgrades and new schools
 - Bond Spend Down
- 9-12 Safety & Security
 - Secured entries and emergency dial codes
- Communications upgrades
 - Automated notifications
- Systems Testing and Spot Checks
 - 911 and emergency dial codes
- SEC Report
 - Interior door numbers and additional training

Mr. Murray moved on to discuss emergency response preparation.

- Safety Training
 - New Employee Orientation – District Safety Overview
 - Playground Safety Inspection Training
 - All elementary playground paras and day custodians
- CPR, First Aid, AED, and Stop the Bleed
- Fire Prevention and Extinguisher Use
- Run, Lock, Fight Trainings / Active Shooter
- Practicing Emergency Response
 - 8 Practice Drills Required
 - 4 fire drills with evacuation
 - 4 other drills - can choose from

Mr. Murray discussed meetings that he attends and partner collaborations.

- Building Level Safety Committees
- District Safety Committee – Monthly
- City/County Parks Advisory Board – Monthly
- Local Emergency Planning Committee – Monthly
- HSD Safety and Security Group – Monthly
- Chief of Police and City Manager – Quarterly

Mr. Murray reviewed access control and facility use.

- Managing Door Access
 - 605 Exterior Doors
 - 166 Fully Managed Doors
 - Schedules and door programming
- Facility Use
 - External Community Use
 - 3252+ events
- Internal School Use
 - 6502+ events

Mr. Murray reviewed his training and certifications.

- Training and Certifications
 - FEMA Incident Command Systems (ICS) Training
 - ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700, ICS-800
- FEMA Seismic Hazards Training
 - FEMA P-154, FEMA 395 (Earthquake Safety and Mitigation for Schools)
- Certified Playground Safety Inspector
 - 20 hours of CE credits in two years for renewal
- Certified Water Operator
 - 20 hours of CE credits in two years for renewal
 - Distribution – physical delivery
 - Treatment – quality assurance

Mr. Murray concluded his presentation by discussing challenges and future needs.

- High School Bond to include safety & security
- Aging doors, windows, and closures
- HVAC – Air Conditioning
- Training Materials (e.g., Stop the Bleed, CPR, AED, etc.)
- Define and document Incident Command Structure at all levels
- Regular checks on AEDs, fire extinguishers, doors, etc.
- Future technology upgrades, cameras, fobs, etc.
- Future infrastructure repairs and replacement
- Develop a comprehensive safety plan encompassing all safety topics
- Accountability

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no additional board comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary