



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, June 13th, 2023
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair
Kay Satre, Trustee
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee

Willa Bishop, Helena 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
Tim McMahan, Activities Director
Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
Rich Franco, Human Resources Benefits Manager
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.

II. REVIEW AGENDA

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda. The Trustees determined that the Oath of Office for the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees Student Representative of Helena High School would be moved to take place before recognition, rather than after, so that the student representative would be able to sit with the Board of Trustees during recognition. The Mock Trial team needed to leave early for another meeting, so the Trustees moved them from item F to become item A on the agenda under recognition.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. Mock Trial National Championship

The Board of Trustees recognized Helena High School Mock Trial students that competed in the Mock Trial National Championship. Robert Stimpson, Melaina Kloberdanz and Wyatt Gant received Outstanding Witness awards and Mia Taylor, Kenzie Criswell, Melaina Kloberdanz and Robert Stimpson received Outstanding Attorney awards. Thanks to educator Kacey Askin for providing this opportunity for students.

B. 2022 Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) Outstanding Business Official

The Board of Trustees recognized Helena Public School's Business Manager Janelle Mickelson who was selected as the 2022 Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) Outstanding Business Official.

C. Montana Association of Student Councils High School Administrator of the Year

The Board of Trustees recognized Capital High School Principal Brett Zanto who was selected as the Montana Association of Student Councils High School Administrator of the Year.

D. Montana Association of Student Councils Middle School Administrator of the Year

The Board of Trustees recognized C.R. Anderson Middle School Assistant Principal Sol Jones who was selected as the Montana Association of Student Councils Middle School Administrator of the Year.

E. 2023 SMART Schools Award-Capital High School

The Board of Trustees recognized the Capital High Green Club under the leadership of Sarah Urban for winning the 2023 SMART Schools Awards. They are the recipients of \$2,000 which will go towards student-led projects at Capital High School including upcycling, composting, recycling, and living classroom projects in the greenhouse.

F. 2023 SMART Schools Award-Helena High School

The Board of Trustees recognized the Helena High Green Group under the leadership of Jill VanAlstyne for winning the 2023 SMART Schools Awards. They are the recipients of \$2,000 which will go towards taking students on two trips: one to Sage Mountain Center near Butte, the Berkeley Pit, and NorthWestern Energy in September, and the other to a statewide conference of high school green clubs in Livingston in October. The conference will focus on climate change.

G. National Business Professionals of America Conference Recognition-Capital High School

The Board of Trustees recognized the Capital High Financial Analyst Team comprised of Taylor Ferretti, Abi Grotbo, and Brendan Miller. Their team took ninth place in the nation at the National Business Professionals of America Conference.

Congratulations to Brendan Miller who earned the BPA Service Learning Award with the most volunteer hours of any national BPA member, as well as the BPA President’s Volunteer Service Gold Award with over 500 volunteer hours within the past year.

Congratulations to Ryleigh Bushnell and Abi Grotbo for earning the Ambassador Torch Award.

Congratulations to the Capital High BPA Club for receiving recognition for Quality Chapter Distinction, the Special Olympics Award, and the Community Service Award.

Special thanks to BPA Advisor Terri Norman for all that she does for these students.

H. National Business Professionals of America Conference Recognition-Helena High School

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Helena High students that placed top ten in the nation at the National Business Professionals of America Conference:

Java Programming:

Kaden Price: 2nd

Matthew Roberts: 3rd

Foster Smith: 4th

C# Programming:

Nolan Verrill: 5th

Kaden Price: 8th

Software Engineer Virtual Event: The team of Kaden Price, Foster Smith, Titan Russell & Nolan Verrill placed 2nd in the nation for their game idea and code and 10th for their presentation.

Special thanks to BPA Advisors Buffy Smith and Samantha Humphrey for all that they do for these students.

I. State Music Festival Recognition-Capital High School-Orchestra

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Capital High Orchestra students who received a rating of 1 or Superior at the State Music Festival:

Kayle Andriolo-Cello Solo, Lindsay Abelin-Viola Solo, Keiran Boyle-Violin Solo and Violin/Violin Duet, Hollis Elliott-Cello Solo and Violin/Cello Duet, Maren Elliott-Violin Solo, Violin/Cello Duet,

Makenzie Grotbo-Violin Solo-Violin/Violin Duet and Violin/Cello Duet, Fox Rowland-Cello Solo, Charlie Snellman-Cello Solo/Violin/Cello Duet, and Adeline Walters-Viola Solo

Special thanks to educator Zach Harris for all that he does for these talented students.

J. State Music Festival Recognition-Helena High School-Orchestra

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Helena High Orchestra students who received a rating of 1 or Superior at the State Music Festival:

Aine Cleary-Cello Solo

Freya Elias-Cello Solo

Special thanks to educator Zach Harris for all that he does for these talented students.

K. State Music Festival Recognition-Capital High School-Choir

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Capital High Choir students who received a rating of 1 or Superior at the State Music Festival:

Jazmine Mudget, Abi Hansen, Hollis Elliot, Erika Foot, Zach Heller, Isabel Beasley, Adrianna Helfrich, Aliester Ellis, Jayden Dupler, and Leolaga Brown.

Special thanks to educator Thomas Baty for all that he does for these talented students.

L. State Music Festival Recognition-Helena High School-Choir

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Helena High Choir students who received a rating of 1 or Superior at the State Music Festival:

Lyla Ackerman, Robin Bryce, Isabella Brewer, Aaron French, Milo Merrill, Serianna Kron, and Alessia Biancheri.

Special thanks to educator Molly Kohoutek for all that she does for these talented students.

M. State Music Festival Recognition-Capital High School-Band

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Capital High Band students who received a rating of 1 or Superior at the State Music Festival:

Hazel Helseth, Thomas Byron, Carter Slead, Marybelle Osborne, and Zoe Schneider.

Special thanks to educator Duane Zehr for all that he does for these amazing students.

N. State Music Festival Recognition-Helena High School-Band

The Board of Trustees recognized the following Helena High Band students who received a rating of 1 or Superior at the State Music Festival:

Percussion Ensemble - Lindsay Snarr, Andrew Madsen, Rachel Lewis, Ellie Clancy, Finn Morrison, Garrett Hinderman, Caleb Madsen

Piano Solo-Avery Sander

Symphonic Saxophone Trio - Ryan Burke, Avery Sanders, Jude Connor

Special thanks to educator Cody Hollow for all that he does for these amazing students.

O. REACH Air Quality Symposium

30 Honors Biology students presented their air quality research projects (either in a poster session or a presentation format) at the University of Montana REACH Air Quality Symposium. The Board of Trustees recognized Capital High students Kayle Andriolo and Kayleigh Starman who won 1st place for their poster. Thank you to educator Sarah Urban for all that she does to support these students.

P. Girls Track and Field State Competition-Helena High School

The Board of Trustees recognized the Helena High School Girls Track and Field Team for winning the AA MHSA State Girls Track Championship. Thank you to Coach Zentz for all that he does to support these amazing athletes.

The Board of Trustees recognized the following students who received individual state titles for the Helena High School Girls Track and Field team:

Hazel Bishop – 400 M

Logan Todorovich – Long Jump (all class record), 100 M Hurdles,

Madi Todorovich – High Jump, 300 M Hurdles

Q. Boys Track and Field State Competition-Helena High School

The Board of Trustees recognized the following students who received individual state titles for the Helena High School Boys Track and Field team:

Aayden Simmons-High Jump

Colter Petre-Long Jump

Thank you to Coach Garza for all that he does to support these amazing athletes.

R. Boys Track and Field State Competition-Capital High School

The Board of Trustees recognized Coach Carter and the Capital High School Boys Track Team who tied for the state AA MHSAA State Boys Track championship title with Gallatin. Thank you to Coach Carter for all that he does 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 Thank you to Kevin Ward for coordinating the annual publication of Pen and Ink, as well as hosting the launch party recently held at the Holter Museum.
 - o Thank you to the Helena Police Department who partners with the Angel Fund to purchase shoes for local kids through Running for Montana’s Future (RFMTF). Thank you to our amazing SROs!!
 - o Internationally acclaimed children’s author Laura Numeroff, who wrote “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie”, visited Jim Darcy Elementary School where she visited with first and second graders. Thank you, Ms. Numeroff, for visiting with students and Dr. Brian Robinson for making her visit possible.
 - o Congratulations to 105.3 KMTX April's Teacher of the Month, Mrs. Madeline Wolter from C.R. Anderson Middle School.
 - o Congratulations to Capital High School Counselor Jeramie Robinson, who was named runner-up for the 2023 Montana School Counselor of Year at the recent Montana School Counselor Association Conference here in Helena.
 - o Congratulations to Capital High Photography Teacher Genevieve Anderson who is the 2023 Expressions by Walgreens Art Challenge Teacher Champion for the Western United States!
 - o Congratulations to our Vigilante Parade Float Winners! Thank you to our students, business sponsors, volunteers and parents who made the 99th Annual Vigilante Parade one to remember, with nearly 90 floats! And congratulations to the Senior Class, which won the A.J. Roberts Cup with 47 percent of students participating!
 - o Congratulations to Capital High’s Kari Skadberg, who was selected as the Helena Education Association (HEA) Para Professional of the Year.
 - o Congratulations to Central School Upper Montessori Teacher Tony Napoletano who is the Helena Education Association (HEA) Teacher of the Year.
 - o Thank you to PAL Principal Matthew Carey and Dara Kittelmann for everything they did to make the 2023 PAL Graduation a success. Congratulations PAL graduates!!
 - o Thank you to 6-12 Assistant Superintendent Josh McKay and his assistant Allison Balboni for all your hard work to make the Access to Success graduation a success, and congratulations graduates!!

- o Thank you to Capital High School Principal Brett Zanto and Office Manager Gina Fuller and Helena High School Principal Steve Thennis and Officer Manager Betsy Allen for all your hard work to make graduation a success. Congratulations to our 2023 graduates!!
- o Carroll College – Support for our Graduations
 - John Cech
 - Charlie Gross
- o Thank you Mr. Cummings – Retirement

- New Business
 - o HEA / HSD Negotiations Update
 - o Summer Professional Development Implementation
 - o Communication - Fine Arts
 - o Budget Update – June 2023
 - o Budget Recommendation Consensus Committee
 - June 20th
 - o Facilities Master Plan
 - o Strategic Planning – 2023-2024 Planning Process
 - o Reorganize our central office team
 - o District Priorities and Focus
 - o Board Retreat – June 26th
 - o All Administration Meeting – End of the year meeting(s)
 - o 2023-2024 School Community Calander
 - o Year in Review
 - o Early Kindergarten – Bryant Elementary
 - o Safety and Security – InformaCast Implementation
 - o Extend Transportation Contract/Agreement
 - 2yrs
 - o RFP – Request for Proposals out:
 - 7th Ave Gym
 - RBLC

- Outreach/Meetings
 - o Hometown Helena
 - o Shodair Fundraiser
 - o Chamber of Commerce
 - o MQEC Board of Directors
 - o Cabinet & Leadership
 - o Board Leadership
 - o Teacher Advisory Meeting
 - o AA Superintendents
 - o HEF
 - o Executive Meeting

- o Board Meeting
- o HEA President/Superintendent Meeting
- o Rotary Club
- o SMA

That concluded the Superintendent's Report portion of the agenda. The Trustees moved on to hear general public comment.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items For Information

1. Policy 5075: Termination of Employment

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, presented Policy 5075: Termination of Employment to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Ridgway pointed out that we have a separate policy, Policy 5256: Reduction in Force, that was adopted in October of 2019 that has similar language that is found in Policy 5075. It would be redundant to keep both policies because Policy 5075: Termination of Employment has language regarding Reduction in Force on lines 22 through 31. The Policy committee determined that some of the language in Policy 5256: Reduction in Force could be combined with the Reduction in Force language stated in Policy 5075: Termination of Employment, and Policy 5256: Reduction in Force could be recommended for elimination.

2. Policy 5256: Reduction in Force

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, presented Policy 5256: Reduction in Force to the Board of Trustees. The language in this policy is being incorporated into Policy 5075 Termination of Employment. The recommendation is to terminate this policy.

That concluded the Items 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. Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Students Attending Other Districts)
5. 05.09.23 Full Board Meeting Minutes
6. 05.16.23 Special Board Meeting Minutes
7. 05.23.23 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
8. 05.30.23 Special Board Meeting Minutes

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

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the Consent Action Items as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus 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. Health Benefit Committee Premium Recommendation for Plan Year 2023-2024

Mr. Rich Franco, Human Resources Benefits Manager, reviewed the Health Benefit Committee Premium Recommendation for Plan Year 2023-2024 with the Board of Trustees. Mr. Franco discussed the premium analysis 5% PY 23-24, final calculations PY 23-24, unreserves lookback over the past four years, and the employee OOP expense outlook.

- Premium Analysis 5% PY 23-24 – Mr. Franco shared what the expenses for the insurance are expected to be for the plan year 2023-2024. The trend (inflation) numbers we received from Allegiance and Alliant (Consultant Group) were Medical 2.30% to 7.25%, Dental 3.70% to 4.60% and Vision 2% to 5.80%. The Health Benefit Committee voted on a 5% Medical, 3% Dental, and 2% for Vision. With that said, with our current Premiums, we are projected to lose \$1,563,440.

- Final Calculations PY 23-24 – Mr. Franco shared what it would take to cover the \$1,563,440 loss which would be a 12.88% Premium Increase. This would only get us to breakeven and not lose any more money from our unreserves. Mr. Franco stated that if we did a 13% increase in premiums, we would cover the cost and be around \$14,904 over the breakeven point.

- Unreserves Lookback 4 Yrs. – Mr. Franco shared an outlook of the health insurance unreserves through the last 6 months (1/2) of the Plan Year, over the past 4 years. This is helpful to understand that the last 6 months the Health Plan pays for more expenses due to employees/insurance members hitting their Deductibles and Max Out of Pockets (OOP). Our unreserves take on average a \$731,851.83 loss in the last 6 months. The last 3 years have been the hardest on our plan and if we look at just those last 3 years the average rises about \$157,000 (\$888,814.16 avg).

- Employee OOP Expense Outlook – Mr. Franco showed the difference the employees will see in comparison to the current plan year we are in. For the Standard Employee Only plan, they would see (\$86) difference which would mean they would have less “leftover” Benefit Dollars going into their check or to utilize for FSA and so forth. On the Premium Employee Only the employee would see a (\$125) difference meaning they would incur that cost per month. The Employee (EE) plus Spouse and EE plus Family plans cost more because the Spouse is an additional adult life. We give a discount of about 8%-10% for the Spouse in the calculations.

Mr. Franco stated that the Health Benefit Committee has had a very hard decision to make, to maintain the viability and solvency of our health plan. With the 12.88% increase needed, the Health Benefit Committee voted to make a 13% Premium increase so there is no loss to our unreserves. Mr. Franco stated that the Board of Trustees will vote if they approve of the 13% premium increase, but that would not determine where those dollars would come from. Bargaining work is going on right now for the upcoming year and it's that process that will determine what portion, if any, of next year's premium hike will be paid by the district. The other option, of course, is for employees to pay for some portion of the hike.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve the Health Benefit Committee Premium Recommendation of a 13% premium increase for Plan Year 2023-2024 as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoién moved to approve the Health Benefit Committee Premium Recommendation of a 13% premium increase for Plan Year 2023-2024 as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Hinge Program

Mr. Franco presented the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Hinge Program to the Board of Trustees. The Hinge Program was voted by the Health Benefit Committee to be implemented beginning 10/1/23. This program targets Musculoskeletal Conditions (MSK) which was one of our top 10 claims last plan year. MSK affects your joints, bones, muscles and sometimes tissues such as nerves. This program can help reduce pain amongst those with MSK which would help with mental health improvement and less opioid usage. Based off our data, approximately 98 members would have benefited from the Hinge program last plan year saving us about \$4,336 per successful patient. This would have helped save about \$195,000 in a year. This program also does not cost us unless members actively join the program.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Hinge Program.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Hinge Program. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Livongo Program

Mr. Franco presented the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Livongo Program to the Board of Trustees. The Livongo program was voted by the Health Benefit Committee to be implemented beginning 10/1/23. This program targets diabetes which was one of our top five claim costs last plan year. The cost is about \$67 per participant per month (PPPM), with savings of \$101 PPPM. That would be about \$34 net savings PPPM and our members that join this program would get a welcome kit. This is another program that doesn't cost our plan unless a member actively joins the program. Express Scripts and Livongo review the claims data yearly for savings to our plan.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Livongo Program.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Livongo Program. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Employee Assistance Program Options (EAP) Program

Mr. Franco presented the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Employee Assistance Program Options (EAP) Program to the Board of Trustees. The Health Benefit Committee voted on the Aetna option. Aetna is a more robust EAP than our current one through our life insurance carrier. They provide six sessions per issue per year and currently we have four sessions per issue per year. Aetna also provides Unlimited Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) events. This means that if we have any critical incidents such as death/suicide, threats, etc., that we can have a counselor attend the school where the event occurred for 1 on 1's or a group session. We get ten hours and then after it costs about \$250/hr. Currently we do not have CISD with our EAP, in which the Health Benefit Committee has seen that we could have definitely used over the past couple of years. Mental health was our number one claim

expenditure. The total cost of the EAP through Aetna is \$18,694. We currently are having Alliant work with our Long-Term Disability carrier to lower the cost. We are anticipating a \$11,000 savings from lowering our rates, which would pay for over half of the EAP through Aetna.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Employee Assistance Program Options (EAP) Program through Aetna as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the Health Benefit Committee-Program Implementation: Employee Assistance Program Options (EAP) Program through Aetna as presented. Trustee Jeff Hindoien seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

5. High School General Fund Budget Amendment Proclamation

The Board of Trustees moved on to review the High School General Fund Budget Amendment Proclamation presented by Business Manager Janelle Mickelson.

Background:

Pursuant to 20-9-161, MCA, when the trustees of a district decide that a budget amendment is necessary, they may proclaim the need for the budget amendment by a majority vote. The proclamation must include: 1) the facts constituting the need for a budget amendment; 2) the budgeted fund(s) affected by the amendment; 3) the estimated amount of money required to finance the budget amendment in each effected fund; 4) the anticipated source(s) of financing the budget amendment; and 5) the time and place the board will meet for the purpose of considering and adopting the budget amendment. Copies of the proclamation must be sent to the county superintendent and the board of county commissioners (20-9-162).

Considerations:

- As a result of the creation of East Helena K-12 School District and the receipt of tuition payments from East Helena K-12, the district’s budget for the general fund needs to be amended in order to properly maintain and support the district for the current school fiscal year.
- The dollar amount of the budget amendment is \$126,215.
- The financing source for the budget amendment is tuition receipts received from East Helena K-12 School District.
- Budget Amendment Process and Procedures:
 1. Trustees proclaim the need for a budget amendment by majority vote.
 2. A copy of the proclamation is sent to the county superintendent and the board of county commissioners.
 3. Not less than one week before the adoption of the budget amendment, the Trustees must provide public notice of their intent.
 4. Trustees adopt the budget amendment by a majority vote.

Estimated Timeline:

- June 13, 2023 – Budget Proclamation passed by majority vote
- June 14, 2023 – A copy of the proclamation sent to the county superintendent and the board of county commissioners.
- June 18, 2023 – Public notice is provided
- June 26, 2023 – Budget Amendment is adopted by a majority vote
- June 27, 2023 – Budget Amendment is submitted to the County Superintendent and the State Superintendent of Schools.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve the budget amendment resolution to the Helena High School District No. 1 general fund.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve the High School General Fund Budget Amendment Proclamation.”

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve the High School General Fund Budget Amendment Proclamation as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

6. Policy 2120: Wellness

The Board of Trustees moved on to review Policy 2120: Wellness presented by Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway. The District Wellness Committee reviewed this policy and have suggested modifications that emphasize nutritious foods, address the diversity of the student body in meal planning, provide safe, clean, pleasant settings, and adequate time to eat. Additionally, the committee wants to encourage the promotion of healthy foods at celebrations. There have been no additional changes since the last board meeting.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 2120: Wellness.”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve Policy 2120: Wellness as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

7. Policy 7080: District, School, Student Group Fundraising

The Board of Trustees reviewed Policy 7080: District, School, Student Group Fundraising presented by Ms. Ridgway. The primary reason for modifying this existing policy is to provide more clarity regarding online fundraising. It also establishes the need to identify the impact on facilities, technology and curriculum before the fundraising is initiated. There have been no additional changes since the last board meeting.

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoiien moved to approve Policy 7080: District, School, Student Group Fundraising as presented. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

8. Policy 3010: School Admissions

The Board of Trustees reviewed Policy 3010: School Admissions presented by Ms. Ridgway. The Legislature passed HB 352 “Early Literacy Targeted Intervention”. The “Early Literacy Targeted Intervention” legislation does not become effective until July 1, 2024. However, the legislation does allow districts to continue to enroll four-year-old students into early Kindergarten as defined in MCA 20-5-101 Admittance of Child to School for one more year – 2023-2024 only.

The District plans to establish a class at Bryant for students who won’t be five years old on or before September 10 but would qualify under the existing MCA 20-5-101 criteria. The recommendation is to expedite approval of this policy so the process of identifying children for the Early Kindergarten class can begin now. When the Policy Committee reviewed this policy, they stated it would be beneficial to add language that clarifies a student doesn’t have to meet all the criteria listed in section 2 on lines 49 through 60 to qualify under “exceptional circumstances”, rather, they would need to meet some of the criteria listed in section 2 on lines 49 through 60 to qualify for “exceptional circumstances”.

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve Policy 3010: School Admissions 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
There were no student representative reports to be given.

2. Helena Education Association Report
Ms. Jane Shawn, President of the Helena Education Association, gave the Helena Education Association Report. Ms. Shawn recognized Capital High's Kari Skadberg, who was selected as the Helena Education Association (HEA) Para Professional of the Year and Central School Upper Montessori Teacher Tony Napoletano who is the Helena Education Association (HEA) Teacher of the Year. Ms. Shawn recognized C.R Anderson P.E. teachers Rebecca Cleveland and Christine Maharg for receiving a \$100,000 grant for a fully equipped fitness center. This grant was received in recognition of their promotion of fitness, healthy living, and nutrition in their school and community. Ms. Shawn thanked Tom Foley for all his work in coordinating the Para Institute event. Ms. Shawn concluded her report by giving an update on HEA/HSD negotiations and events she and other MFPE members will be attending this summer.

3. Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report
Trustee Kay Satre stated that the Facilities and Maintenance Committee did not meet in June and there was no report to give, but Facilities Director Todd Verrill did give a brief facilities update. Mr. Verrill stated that summer is a busy time of year for his team with many projects to complete including the roof at C.R. Anderson, the Capital High tennis courts, the roof membranes on the shop buildings, along with mowing and maintaining 80 acres of grass in the district every week.

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report
Trustee Janet Armstrong stated that the Budget and Finance Committee did not meet in June and there was no report to give, however, the Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee will meet later in the month.

5. Policy Committee Report
Trustee Janet Armstrong gave the Policy Committee Report. The Policy Committee met on June 6th and reviewed Policy 2120: Wellness, Policy 7080: District, School, Student Group Fundraising, Policy 5075: Termination of Employment, Policy 5256: Reduction in Force, and Policy 3010 School Admissions.

6. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
Trustee Jennifer McKee stated that the Teaching and Learning Committee did not meet in June and there was no report to give. Trustee McKee did mention that the Board of Trustees would be reviewing spring data information at a future meeting.

7. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre had nothing further to report for the Health Benefits Committee because Rich Franco covered everything tonight related to the Health Benefits Committee in the action items he presented to the Board of Trustees.

8. Wellness Committee Report

Assistant Superintendent Brian Cummings gave the Wellness Committee Report. Mr. Cummings stated the Nutrition Subcommittee met today and continued their discussion regarding the Healthy Snacks Campaign.

9. Montana School Boards Association Report

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn gave the Montana School Boards Association Report. Chair Hathhorn attended the MTSBA orientation where they reviewed and discussed their strategic priorities as well as several legislative bills.

That concluded the Reports portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees moved on to final board comments.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Janet Armstrong and Board Vice Chair Jennifer McKee thanked Assistant Superintendent Pre-K-5 Brian Cummings for his many years of service in the district and stated it has been a joy to have him be a part of this team and that he has been an awesome contributor to Helena Public Schools.

There were no further board comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary

Date