



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

Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 6th, 2023-12:00 p.m.

Lincoln Center

1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601

And via

TEAMS

MINUTES

Attendees

Committee:

Janet Armstrong, Committee Chair
Linda Cleatus, Committee Member
Jeff Hindoién, Committee Member

Others:

Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Director
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by the Committee Chair, Janet Armstrong.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

IV. REVIEW OF THE 05.02.2023 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the 05.02.2023 Policy Committee minutes.

V. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR THIRD READING

A. Policy 2120: Wellness

The committee reviewed Policy 2120: Wellness. This policy has gone before the full board for review and no changes were recommended. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 2120: Wellness would go to the full board for action.

VI. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR SECOND READING

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

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 7080: District, School, Student Group Fundraising. This policy has gone before the full board for a first reading and there were no changes. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 7080: District, School, Student Group Fundraising would go before the full board for action.

B. Policy 5075: Termination of Employment

The committee reviewed and discussed Policy 5075: Termination of Employment. Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, 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 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 eliminated. The committee determined that Policy 5075: Termination of Employment will go before the full board for information.

C. Policy 5256: Reduction in Force

The Policy Committee has combined language from Policy 5256: Reduction in Force into Policy 5075: Termination of Employment and has determined that the recommendation to terminate Policy 5256: Reduction in Force would go before the full board for information.

VII. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIRST READING

A. Policy 3010: School Admissions

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 3010: School Admissions. 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.

The committee reviewed lines 21 through 63 which states:

Enrolling Students Under the age of 5 Before September 10 for Exceptional Circumstances

It is the policy of the District to provide enhanced educational opportunities to students under the age of 5 when individual exceptional circumstances exist.

The administration shall ensure admission, enrollment, and assignment of all qualifying children referenced in this policy. The administration shall place children enrolled pursuant to this policy in either a half-time or full-time program as part of the elementary school program. The administration shall review the criteria set forth in this policy and make the determination whether an individual student or class of students meets the criteria for exceptional circumstances.

The administration shall present the information to the Board for approval. In presenting the information to the Board, the administration shall remove all identifying information in order to protect the privacy rights of the student under state and federal law. The Board shall make the final decision on the enrollment of students under the District’s exceptional circumstances policy.

The administration shall include children enrolled pursuant to this policy in the District's calculation of average number belonging (ANB) as reported to OPI to the extent allowed by law.

The Board of Trustees declares the following to be qualifying "exceptional circumstances" within the meaning of that term as used in 20-5-101(3) and "special permission" within the meaning of that term as used in 20-7-117 MCA, that merit waiving the age provisions of 20-7-117 MCA for qualifying children under 5 years of age.

1 A child at least 3 years of age with a disability qualifying the child for services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

2 A child who is 4 years of age or older on or before September 10 of the school year in which enrollment is to occur who:

a. Meets the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced priced meals under the National School Lunch Program;

b. Is Limited English Proficient within the meaning of Title III of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act;

c. Is Gifted and Talented within the meaning of that term as used in 20-7-901 MCA;

d. Is an enrolled member of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe;

e. Is homeless as defined in 42 U.S. Code § 11302, or as determined by the administration, exhibits other characteristics or lives in circumstances that are uncommon, unusual, atypical, rare or otherwise distinguished from ordinary or typical which place the child at risk of failing to achieve at adequate levels,

f. Is an at-risk student as defined in Section 20-1-101(4). MCA;

g. Child's status as a member of a military family with prior enrollment.

The administration is authorized to enroll students in a manner consistent with this policy and to develop procedures to implement this policy.

The Policy Committee stated it would be beneficial to add language that clarifies a student doesn't have to meet all the criteria listed above in section 2 to qualify under "exceptional circumstances", rather, they would need to meet some of the criteria listed above in section 2 to qualify for "exceptional circumstances". The Policy Committee determined that Policy 3010: School Admissions would go before the full board for action.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD COMMENTS

There were no superintendent or board comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair, Janet Armstrong, adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.