



*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  
Budget and Finance Committee  
Lincoln Campus  
And via Microsoft Teams  
Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 – 12:00pm

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## MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

#### Trustees:

Janet Armstrong, Committee Chair  
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair  
Terry Beaver, Committee Member  
Kay Satre, Committee Member  
Jeff Hindoien, Committee Member

#### Others:

Rex Weltz, Superintendent  
Jane Shawn, HEA President  
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director  
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant  
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer  
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager &  
District Clerk  
Gary Myers, Director of Educational  
Technology  
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent  
Lona Carter, Student Health  
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff  
Tim McMahon, Activities Director  
Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment & Federal  
Programs  
Craig Towery, Guest of the Public

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Janet Armstrong called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment.

**III. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The committee reviewed and approved the 05.09.23 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

**V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

**A. Budget to Actual Reports**

Mrs. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager and District Clerk for Helena Public Schools, reviewed the budget to actual reports for the elementary general fund and high school general fund with the Budget and Finance Committee. Ms. Mickelson discussed in greater detail salary and benefits, and technical salaries and reviewed what percentage of the budget was left in the elementary and high school general fund. The committee discussed that most of the bargaining units have not settled yet, and we do not know what our ANB numbers are yet, and both will affect the budget. The committee had a robust discussion about the interlocal fund and the decrease this year in the overall building and department budgets.

**B. Budget Discussion**

The Budget and Finance Committee moved on to have an overall general discussion about the budget. Superintendent Rex Weltz shared that the Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee meets on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September and at that time the committee will review the updated Citizen's Guide to the Helena School District 2023-2024 Budget as well as discuss strategies on how to increase revenue. The committee had a robust discussion about potential future levies and mentioned

that informational handouts educating the public about the levies would be very beneficial when we get to that point in time. The committee discussed that student numbers are not increasing; however, expenditures are, which greatly impacts the budget. The committee concluded the budget discussion by discussing the funding mechanism in Montana and how it affects Helena Public Schools and other schools across the state.

**VI. BOARD COMMENT**

There were no board comments.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Janet Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m.