



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, March 12th, 2024
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Terry Beaver, Trustee

Luna Hernandez, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Willa Bishop, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees

Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Director
Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
Lona Carter, Student Health

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

In reviewing the agenda, under consent action items number 9a: *Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies – Elementary School District*, Board Chair Hathhorn noted this is specific to the elementary school district. This means that Trustee Jennifer Walsh will not be able to vote on any of the consent action items as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district, therefore, the trustees would like to pull Consent Action Items 9a and 9b and make them the final items for action, so they will become 11a and 11b. This will enable Trustee Jennifer Walsh to be able to vote on the consent action items and she will abstain from voting on item for action 11a which is specific to the elementary district.

III. RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Trustees recognized the students listed below.

A. State Wrestling Champion-Capital High School

Congratulations to Capital High School student Cole Graham who is the State Wrestling Champion in the 182-pound weight class. Special thanks to Shawn Graham, Head Wrestling Coach at Capital High School, for all that he does to support students.

B. State Swimming Champion-Helena High School

Congratulations to Helena High's Garrett Krattiger who is the State Swimming Champion in the 100 Yard Backstroke Boys and the 500 Yard Freestyle Boys and set a new state record time!!! Special thanks to swimming coaches Julia Shannon and Lisa Sommers for all that they do to support students.

C. DECA National Qualifiers-Capital High School

Congratulations to the following students with great performances at the recent state DECA competition who have now qualified for DECA's National Conference in Anaheim, California April 27-30, 2024. Thank you to DECA advisors, Levi Dawes, and Jessica Freeman for all that they do for students.

- Taylor Ferretti - Accounting Applications Series and Financial Consulting Event
- Byron Lloyd - Accounting Applications Series
- Ryan Ashley - Personal Financial Literacy
- Kynzie Belcher - Quick Serve Restaurant Management
- Kate Berg, Brielle Heller, Sarah Logan - Sales Project
- Addy Perschon, Vienna Teders - Sales Project
- Taylor Ferretti, Addy Perschon, Vienna Teders - Start-Up Business Plan
- Hailey Sorenson - School Based Enterprise Academy (School Based Enterprise Gold)

Certification)

- Idil Birgul - School Based Enterprise Academy (School Based Enterprise Gold Certification)
- Nolan Frazier - Ignite Leadership Academy
- Daniel Kockler - Ignite Leadership Academy
- Mercy Dulaney - Elevate Leadership Academy
- Brielle Heller, Kate Berg, and Kynzie Belcher - Gold Status for the Bear Necessities in the School Based Enterprise Competition

D. DECA National Qualifiers-Helena High School

Congratulations to the following students with great performances at the recent state DECA competition who have now qualified for DECA's National Conference in Anaheim, California April 27-30, 2024. Thank you to Helena High School DECA advisor, Kacey Askin, for all that he does for students.

- Layla Riggs - Principles of Hospitality and Tourism
- Taya Munden - Retail Management Services
- Aysia Phattavong - Entrepreneurship
- Cate Hardan and Makenzie Groom - Ignite Leadership Conference
- Claire Eaton - Elevate Leadership Conference
- Matt Velasquez, Inara Guliyeva, and Michael Leyva - Gold Status for the Catty Shack in the School Based Enterprise Competition

E. National Merit Finalists-Capital High School

Congratulations to the following students who have advanced from the round of more than 15,000 semifinalists to now being honored as National Merit Finalists. Representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, National Merit Finalists are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

- Anna Gates
- Carter Hoffman
- Liam McAdams

F. National Merit Finalists-Helena High School

Congratulations to the following students who have advanced from the round of more than 15,000 semifinalists to now being honored as National Merit Finalists. Representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, National Merit Finalists are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

- Kai Moser
- Annika Nehring

G. State Theater Recognition-Capital High School

Congratulations to the Capital High Thespian Troupe for winning Best Costumes in the state competition, as well as the Tech Olympics team placing first at the state competition. Congratulations to June Forsythe who was appointed Communications Officer for the State Thespian Board, which includes all the social media for the festival. Special thanks to educator Laura Brayko for everything she does to support her students.

H. State Theater Recognition-Helena High School

Congratulations to the Helena High Thespian Troupe for winning Outstanding Comedy in the state competition, and congratulations to Gibson Grigg for winning Outstanding Performer. Special thanks to educator Roger Scruggs for everything he does to support his students.

The Board of Trustees moved on to hear the Superintendent’s Report from Superintendent Rex Weltz.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Weltz gave his Superintendent Report to the Board of Trustees.

- Remembrance
- Recognition
 - March 1st, 2024, Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day
 - March 1st, 2024, National Employee Appreciation Day
 - Congratulations to Educator Mrs. Kimberly Carson from Hawthorne Elementary School who was selected as the 105.3 KMTX January Teacher of the Month!!
 - Thank you to the Myrna Loy arts education outreach program for bringing in world-renowned Italian guitarist Luca Stricagnoli to visit with students in Mr. Cleary’s music tech class at C.R. Anderson.
 - Congratulations to all the outstanding performers in the Night to Shine event and thank you to the DECA advisors, Kacey Askin, Jessica Freeman, and Levi Dawes for heading up this great community event. Thank you to the premier sponsor Stockman Bank for sponsoring this event along with many amazing additional business sponsors from across the community.
 - Thank you to Lisa Cordingley, Becca Leaphart, and the Helena Education Foundation for distributing lots of Spark and Great Ideas Grants to our outstanding educators across the district. Thank you to HEF as well for orchestrating the Trading Places event on March 5th. Trading Places helps strengthen the ties between our schools and the community at large.
- New Business
 - Safety and Security Levy/Technology Levy
 - Consensus Based Negotiations: HSD – HEA Update

- AA Superintendents' Interview with Media TV/Print
 - Helena Public Schools/Alliant Benefit Discussion
 - HPS/SMA Facilities Master Plan Key Stakeholders Meeting-March 7th
 - May Butler Center RFP Update
 - Teacher Mentoring Program Update
 - HSD Charter Schools Contracts Update
 - MAST
 - Education Interim Committee Visit at Central Elementary-March 11th
- Outreach/Meetings
 - Hometown Helena-HSD Presenting
 - Cabinet & Leadership
 - 2024 Spring Legal & Technology Conference (SAM)-March 11th and 12th
 - MQEC Board of Directors Meeting-March 14th
 - Board Leadership
 - AA Superintendents
 - HEA/HSD Meeting
 - HEF Board Meeting
 - HEF Executive Committee
 - TV, Print, Radio Media
 - Teacher Advisory Committee /FMP Key Stakeholder Meeting
 -
 - Other
 - No School March 25th through March 29th Spring Break

That concluded the Superintendent's Report portion of the agenda. Superintendent Weltz answered any questions the trustees had about his Superintendent Report. The trustees moved on to hear general public comment.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Erin Butts gave general public comment. Ms. Butts is a Helena resident, is involved in Friends of Neighborhood Schools, and has a child that will start kindergarten in the fall. Ms. Butts stated that she has worked closely with certified teachers in Montana's youth detention centers in cities across Montana. Ms. Butts commented on topics including but not limited to public school funding, educating the complexities of schools to voters, smaller class sizes, and the benefits of neighborhood schools.

That concluded general public comment and the Board of Trustees moved on to review the Consent Action Items.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 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. 02.13.24 Full Board Meeting Minutes
6. 02.20.24 Special Board Meeting Minutes-Open Session
7. 02.20.24 Special Board Meeting Minutes-Closed Session
8. 02.24.24 Special Board Meeting Minutes
9. ~~Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies~~
 - a) ~~Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies—Elementary District~~
 - b) ~~Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies—High School District~~

In reviewing the agenda, under consent action items number 9a: Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies – Elementary School District, Board Chair Hathhorn noted this is specific to the elementary school district. This means that Trustee Jennifer Walsh will not be able to vote on any of the consent action items as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district, therefore, the trustees would like to pull Consent Action Items 9a and 9b and make them the final items for action, so they will become 11a and 11b. This will enable Trustee Jennifer Walsh to be able to vote on the consent action items and she will abstain from voting on item for action 11a which is specific to the elementary district.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Action Items one through eight.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the Consent Action Items one through eight. Trustee Jeff Hindoien seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

That concluded the Consent Action Items. The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Items for Action.

B. Items for Action

1. Approval of K-5 Eureka2 Math Curriculum Purchase

Ms. Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Director for Helena Public Schools, presented the action item *K-5 Eureka2 Math Curriculum Purchase* to the Board of Trustees. At the end of 2023 – 2024 school year Math Expressions is sunsetting which means we will not have access to consumables or online resources for the program. Knowing this, during the 2022 – 2023 school year, district

Instructional Coaches and Administrators took proactive steps and identified three different math programs that were rated as meeting expectations for high quality curriculum as reported with EdReports. Using a 10-part math evaluation tool, each of the identified programs were analyzed. The categories utilized to score and evaluate the three programs included: Focus and Coherence of Content, Rigor and Balance of Tasks, Standards for Mathematical Practice, Equity, Diversity and Access, Assessment, and Technology. The program that emerged as the most viable replacement of Math Expressions was Eureka Squared. In early spring of 22-23, the curriculum department had hoped to purchase and work through a pilot scenario like the model used for Into Reading. Due to budget restrictions, the department was unable to move forward with that plan. After brainstorming possible solutions with our math consultant, Michele Douglass, one solution was to start by using the free version of Eureka Math with teachers who may be interested in trying the program. It is important to note that district third grade teachers had previously started supplementing a Eureka fraction unit into the third-grade curriculum due to the insufficient rigor of fraction related concepts in Math Expressions materials. Additionally, a second-grade team in one school had started using the program and had the highest Math growth in the district last year. During the 22-23 spring, the curriculum department purchased Math Expressions consumables for the 23-24 school year for all grade level teachers. During this current school year, District Elementary Math Coach, Melissa Romano, has been working closely with teachers who are using the original Eureka program. Her work includes modeling lessons, guiding teachers through planning lessons, supporting overall understanding of new vocabulary in modules, scoring and evaluating assessments, creating and delivering differentiated professional development at building and the district level. Teachers currently using Eureka recently completed a survey identifying their biggest challenges and successes using the program. Teachers identified printing materials and pacing of the program as their top two challenges. Teachers also identified improved number sense, student collaboration, and confidence. Eureka Squared is a high-quality math curriculum and will also address Helena teachers most significant challenges of printing and pacing due to improvements in teachability, engagement, and accessibility. For example, one accessibility component is the unique and intentional sentence length and words used in word problems. Students in K-2 will encounter names with CVC spelling patterns. First grade students will encounter high frequency words and visual symbols for words that are not high frequency words. This is one example that will drastically improve the challenge of pacing due to the significant improvement in accessibility for students. Ms. Davidson answered any questions the Trustees had regarding the proposed K-5 Eureka2 Math Curriculum Purchase.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the *K-5 Eureka2 Math Curriculum Purchase* as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the K-5 Eureka2 Math Curriculum Purchase as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2024-2025 School Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Josh McKay presented the *Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2024-2025 School Calendar* to the Board of Trustees. Members of the committee this year were: Thomas Baty, Jane Shawn, Nancy Peterson, Gary Myers, Jonna Schwartz, Shannon Callahan, Leighann Wilson, Kathleen Prody, Chelsea Kingston, and Josh McKay. This proposed calendar begins with students attending a 3-day first week, then a 4-day week (Labor Day), and then a 5-day week. Along with this startup routine, we included a weeklong spring break and a two weeklong winter break. The winter break is two weeks long, due to the location of January 1st. Returning for a 2-day school week is not a preferred practice for learning. Other aspects of the calendar are like past calendars. The committee has recommended maintaining changes from last year. The 2.5-day K-5 week that used to occur in prior calendars that follows Martin Luther King Jr. Day associating with the high school semester test week will continue to be two 4-day weeks in the middle of January, a very creative and beneficial idea for student learning. The 2.5-day week of the past was a challenge for unit planning and learning acquisition. Also, we are maintaining the K-5 only half (AM) student day and half (PM) staff records day in early December. This change corresponds to the end of the K-5 trimester. We are excited to continue this for our staff and students with the trimester concept. Our Calendar Committee is an enjoyable group of thoughtful participants. Together, we have rich discussions about our own ideas and the ideas shared with us from our partners throughout the district. The Calendar Committee's next steps include surveying our community on school calendar preferences for the committee's utilization in the creation of future calendars. Assistant Superintendent McKay answered any questions the Trustees had regarding the Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2024-2025 School Calendar.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the *Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2024-2025 School Calendar* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve the *Calendar Committee Proposal for the 2024-2025 School Calendar* as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Approval of HPS-HEA Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement

Human Resources Director Keri Mizell presented the action item *Approval of HPS-HEA Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement* to the Board of Trustees.

Background:

Pursuant to MCA 39-31-306, an agreement reached by the public employer and the exclusive representative must be reduced to writing and must be executed by both parties. The Helena School District and the Helena Education Association (HEA) reached a tentative agreement on February 28, 2024. The two (2) year agreement was open for language and wages for July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

Highlights of significant language changes include:

- Maximum of two-lane movements per year effective the 25-26 school year.
- For purposes of leave, family is defined as any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the family is the equivalent of a family relationship.
- Reasons for sick leave use expanded to include mental health and childcare emergencies due to the closure of a day care facility or illness of a primary childcare provider.
- Sick leave donations are to be approved for a qualifying event as defined under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Sick leave donations for a parent, sibling or for purposes of parental leave is limited to a four-week maximum.
- Provisions for prep time replacement at the elementary level if a thirty (30) minute block of prep time is interrupted for an administrator directed meeting.
- Provisions for high school teachers who teach zero (0) period to earn PIR hours or use discretionary time for staying past their designated contract day on PLC Mondays.

Compensation summary:

- The District shall increase the contribution to the employee cafeteria plan by \$62.50 per month (a total contribution of \$1,031.90 per month) for the 2023 - 2025 fiscal years.
- A one and a half percent (1.5%) increase to the salary matrix and Master’s stipend for those on PCAP for the 2023-2025 fiscal years. If all levies pass, a total increase of three (3%) to the salary matrix and Master’s stipend for those on PCAP for 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- Addition of a \$2,000 stipend for HOSA advisors for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The total estimated salary cost of this settlement is approximately \$1.3 million for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Considerations:

- HPS and HEA engaged in a five-day consensus model to build strong relationships and reach an agreement.
- This agreement supports the directive of the Board to support our staff members and address issues relative to the district budget.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve the collective bargaining agreement as agreed upon between HPS and Teachers.

Ms. Mizell answered any questions the Trustees had regarding the proposed HPS-HEA Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the *HPS-HEA Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement* as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the *HPS-HEA Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement* as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. Approval of Helena High School Re-roof Bid

Facilities Director Todd Verrill presented the *Approval of Helena High School Re-roof Bid* to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Verrill is requesting the Board of Trustees award the Helena High School Partial Roof Replacement Project to Summit Roofing, Inc. The project will replace approximately 7,120 square feet of roof in three sections with an average age of 22 years. The facilities office received bids from two contractors, and Summit Roofing submitted the lowest proposal at \$150,502. Summit Roofing has a very strong history of completing quality work for the district and he is confident they will continue to do so with this project. They will complete this roof project in the summer of 2024 before the start of the 24-25 school year. Mr. Verrill answered any questions the Trustees had regarding the proposed Helena High School Re-roof Bid.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the *Helena High School Re-roof Bid* as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the award of the contract for the Helena High School partial roof replacement project to Summit Roofing in the amount of \$150,502. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

5. Approval of Capital High School Re-roof Bid

Facilities Director Todd Verrill presented the *Approval of Capital High School Re-roof Bid* to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Verrill is requesting that the Board of Trustees award the Capital High School Partial Roof Replacement Project to Summit Roofing, Inc. The project will replace approximately 8,070 square feet of roof in five sections with an average age of 21 years. The facilities office received bids from two contractors, and Summit Roofing submitted the lowest proposal at \$274,135. Summit Roofing has a very strong history of completing quality work for the district and Mr. Verrill is confident they will continue to do so with this project. They will complete this roof project in the summer of 2024 before the start of the 24-25 school year. Mr. Verrill answered any questions the Trustees had regarding the proposed Capital High School Re-roof Bid.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the *Capital High School Re-roof Bid* as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the award of the contract for the Capital High school partial roof replacement project to Summit Roofing in the amount of \$274,135. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

6. Approval of Smith Elementary School Re-roof Bid

Facilities Director Todd Verrill presented the Approval of Smith Elementary School Re-roof Bid to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Verrill is requesting the Board of Trustees award the Smith Elementary School Partial Roof Replacement Project to K&K Roofing, Inc. The project will replace approximately 24,110 square feet of roof in seven sections with an average age of 29.5 years. The facilities office received bids from three contractors, and K&K Roofing submitted the lowest proposal at \$450,000. K&K Roofing has not previously worked for the district and Mr. Verrill's due diligence included checking previous project references to ensure their workmanship meets our specifications. Mr. Verrill is confident K&K Roofing will meet our expectations for this project. They will complete this roof project in the summer of 2024 before the start of the 24-25 school year. Mr. Verrill answered any questions the Trustees had regarding the proposed Smith Elementary School Re-roof Bid.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the *Smith Elementary School Re-roof Bid* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the award of the contract for the Smith Elementary School partial roof replacement project to K&K Roofing Inc for \$450,000. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

7. Policy 3050: Student Discipline

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, presented for action Policy 3050: Student Discipline to the Board of Trustees. This policy has been revised to reflect House Bill 128 which prohibits the use of marijuana products (as well as tobacco products) on district/school property. "Marijuana products" are defined as those products which include but are not limited to edible products, ointments, tinctures, marijuana derivatives, marijuana concentrates, and marijuana intended for use by smoking or vaping. It also reflects the self-defense/defense of others exception to the use of physical force by a student adopted under House Bill 450. The legal references were also updated to reflect House Bill 361. This policy went before the full board for information with no recommended changes. Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding Policy 3050: Student Discipline.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 3050 Student Discipline."

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve Policy 3050: Student Discipline as presented. Trustee Jeff Hindoien seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

8. Policy 3080: Maintenance of Student Records

Ms. Ridgway presented for action Policy 3080: Maintenance of Student Records. This is an existing policy, and legal references were updated to reflect a parent’s right to access and review student records under House Bill 676 as well as a reference to MCA 52-2-211 (which was revised by Senate Bill 213) that allows for a county interdisciplinary team/school safety team to access student records. This policy went before the full board for information with no recommended changes. Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding Policy 3080: Maintenance of Student Records.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 3080: Maintenance of Student Records.”

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve Policy 3080: Maintenance of Student Records as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

9. Policy 4040: School, Student, Parent, Family and Community Engagement in Education

Ms. Ridgway presented for action Policy 4040: School, Student, Parent, Family and Community Engagement in Education. This policy was updated to reflect changes in law from Senate Bill 518. The policy provides for public notification of a district plan to engage families and involve them in a student's education while providing information about educational opportunities within the district. This is the fourth time this policy has been before the Policy Committee, and several changes have been made at the past meetings which are reflected in the policy now. This policy has also been before the full board of trustees for information. Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding Policy 4040: School, Student, Parent, Family and Community Engagement in Education.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 4040: School, Student, Parent, Family and Community Engagement in Education.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer Walsh moved to approve Policy 4040: School, Student, Parent, Family and Community Engagement in Education as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

10. Policy 8225: Tobacco and Marijuana Free Schools

Ms. Ridgway presented for action Policy 8225: Tobacco and Marijuana Free Schools. This policy has been revised to reflect House Bill 128 which prohibits the use of marijuana products (as well

as tobacco products) on district / school property. This policy has been before the full Board of Trustees for information with no recommended changes. Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding Policy 8225: Tobacco and Marijuana Free Schools.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve Policy 8225: Tobacco and Marijuana Free Schools.”

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve Policy 8225: Tobacco and Marijuana Free Schools as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

11. Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies

a) Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies – Elementary District

Ms. Janelle Mickelson presented the action item *Consideration for Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies a) Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies – Elementary District* to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Mickelson stated that legislation requires school districts to pass a resolution and notice in the paper if we have any intentions of increasing our permissive levies in transportation, adult ed, and the tuition fund. Ms. Mickelson stated that at the bottom of the resolution we stated how we are going to spend our building reserve permissive levy plus the state aid that we will be receiving.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the *Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies in the Elementary District*.”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the *Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies in the Elementary District* as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously. (*Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh abstained from voting as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district, and this action item is for the elementary district.*)

b) Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies – High School District

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve *the Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies in the High School District.*”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the *Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies in the High School District as presented.* Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

That concluded the Items for Action and the Board of Trustees moved on to hear reports.

C. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Reports

Ms. Willa Bishop, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave her Student Representative Report. Ms. Bishop commented, “AA band was last week, with students traveling to show off their work in the year so far. In this showcase, students are not graded on their performances, but will be in the district competition coming up in April. On February 21st, we hosted our annual 8th grade tours for students coming from HMS and Montana City School. Student leaders toured the students around the school, set up booths for the incoming students to get involved, and in the afternoon, the music programs gave a performance. This is always a great opportunity to get 8th graders familiar with how the school is laid out and run while getting them excited for high school. The Student Council worked hard to put on the Winter Formal on February 23rd at the Helena High gym. As a final count, over 400 tickets were sold. Spring sports started yesterday, luckily followed by nice weather for tennis, softball, and track. The girl track team is the biggest in Helena High history, with 78 girls signing up and participating yesterday. During spring break, each team will begin competition with the hope the weather remains nice.”

Ms. Luna Hernandez, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave her Student Representative Report. Ms. Hernandez commented, “There were three staff members who were recognized by the Helena Education Foundation this month for receiving Spark Grants: Ted Reihl- Rocket Stoves, Jake Warner- 3-D Printer, and Kathy Kidder- Bruin Talks/MTSS Notecards for all students. The RHBI Screener was administered to all students in their 2nd period classes. Registration for the upcoming 24-25 school year is nearing the end. Counselors are meeting with 8th grade students this week. 8th graders will be visiting Capital High tomorrow and they will attend a series of presentations as well as an activity fair. We hosted the annual 8th grade parent night last week- both in person and via Teams. Last week, Capital High hosted *Career and Technical Education Industry Night* in conjunction with current freshman registration week. We started with a general session focusing on course pathways, internships, job shadows, and the pre-apprenticeship programs found at Capital High. The general session was then followed by breakout sessions hosted by some CTE

teacher advisory board members, including: Boeing, Todd Reser from Great Falls College, Mike Houghton from Dick Anderson, Chris McGowan from Montana Electrical JATC, Conor Prendergast from Freedom Fabrication, Brad Koon from Triple Tree Engineering, and Mike Ditch from Rapid Fire Protection, Fire Suppression. Current freshman student, Zeke Copeland, is in Seattle awaiting a heart transplant. Between money raised by staff and students in the building, as well as money donated during basketball games one day, over \$6,000 was raised! In order to get more teachers observing one another, the MTSS staff group organized a March Madness tournament where individual departments collect points when they invite others to join or when they observe other classrooms. The winning curricular department gets lunch!”

2. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn gave the Helena Education Association Report. Ms. Shawn commented, “We had our general membership meeting today of the Helena Education Association, and we held elections. I was reelected as president for a two-year term, Maria Foot was reelected as first vice president for a two-year term, Claire Pichette was reelected to Helena High School Board of Directors for a two-year term, Jesse Franzen, at Helena Middle School for a two-year term and Cathy Malach is our para educator at large and she was also reelected for a two-year term. We will have an election at Capital High School and for our two elementary at large positions as those were contested elections. You’ve heard a lot about the contract, and you’ve heard a lot about the consensus bargaining process, and if anybody ever says to you, would you like to participate in a consensus model to solve any problem, just say yes. It was just absolutely amazing. What we couldn’t do in over a year, literally, we did in five days, but the really cool part was the compensation piece took like an hour. It was just amazing. I do want to thank all of the members of the bargaining team: Anna Alger, Cal Boyle, Adam Clinch, Joslyn Davidson, Joanne Didriksen, Siobhan Hathhorn, Sol Jones, Kathy Kidder, Lizzie McClure, Josh McKay, Erika McMillin, Janelle Mickelson, Keri Mizell, Gary Myers, Larry Nielsen, Paul Phillips, Wynn Randall, Kay Satre, Emma Schmidt, Jonna Schwartz, Jane Shawn, Jake Warner, and Rex Weltz. Also, our facilitators, Diane Groves and Rob Watson were just amazing. And of course, you can’t do anything for five days and get off campus locations and food without Candice Delvaux preparing, she was just amazing, and worked with Sodexo and that was all really nice. So, the contract did pass, HEA ratified it today. We had 414 members vote, which is 79% of our membership. We had 386 people vote for the contract, so 93% of our membership voted for the contract. We had 28 members (7%) vote against.”

3. Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre gave the Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report. Trustee Satre commented, “We have covered quite a bit of what we talked about at our facilities meeting. We heard a lot about the proposals for the reroofing projects and we have just gone through those now. We also spoke about the RFPs for the May Butler building. There were two responses to those RFPs and the recommendation was to not move forward with any of those, partly because there is more work in thinking about how those buildings might more directly serve the needs of the district and some of those needs are just kind of emerging at this point. Then we heard about the ongoing and demanding work that Mr. Verrill and his crew continue to do all the time and some of those things include doing air filter work, circulation pump

maintenance work, and custodial projects like having to set up for high school basketball games, Destination Imagination, and wrestling tournaments. Evidently there was a giant unexpected number of people who came to Jim Darcy for the wrestling tournament, but they managed. Then they've been doing ongoing safety and security work as always. We have these AED devices that have been installed in our buildings and there's training around those. There are red phones that have been installed, and there's some interesting work with DEQ about installing outdoor air monitors. DEQ is interested in having them at high schools around the state. There has been active shooter training and valley schools well water sampling. All the water that was tested last month in the valley looks to be safe. And then there's just the ongoing challenges of staffing. One new employee was hired but three employees were lost. It continues to remind us that all our employee groups need their compensation to be addressed. So, we're back to currently six vacancies, which places a considerable burden on those who are still working and the experience in our buildings.”

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Trustee Janet Armstrong was not in attendance, therefore, there was no Budget and Finance Committee Report this evening.

5. Policy Committee Report

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway gave the Policy Committee Report. The Policy Committee reviewed all the policies that were presented to the full board this evening. Ms. Ridgway commented, “We have really been driven to get through the changes that were directed by the legislative session and now we are looking at policies that haven't been reviewed in over ten years and there likely won't be changes. I think we looked at ten, but we will note on the policies going forward, when they're adopted, when they're revised and when they're reviewed. So, if you have a policy from 2013 and there have been no revisions, at least you know it's been reviewed.”

6. Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Vice Chair Jennifer McKee gave the Teaching & Learning Committee Report. Vice Chair McKee commented, “At the meeting we talked about the Eureka2 Match Curriculum. Eureka2 is an extremely high-quality curriculum, and we will be very happy with it. Ms. Davidson mentioned that when the curriculum group was starting to look at a new curriculum to replace Math Expressions, which is the current Math Curriculum, one of the things that caught their eye was there was a couple of classrooms in the title school and a high poverty school that was performing better than the other grade levels. And when she talked to those teachers, they were using the free version of Eureka2, so we'd already had some real-life experience of this curriculum working and working in environments where not every kid was mastering number sense at four in the schools where this curriculum was already succeeding for Helena students. The other thing that we talked about was our winter assessments. I'm not going to go through all the details, but they were strong. These were our iReady scores that came out. iReady looks at a lot of educational benchmarks, so when you see somebody in the in the yellow zone that doesn't mean that they're not doing grade level work it just means that they haven't hit every single benchmark that the test is looking at. It can be kind of confusing for a person to just look at these bar graphs and you see green, yellow, red, and think they're not doing as well as

they should, but you should know it is looking at what they should know on the last day of school in the middle of the school year. It's also looking at this really deep pool of educational benchmarks, and it's really meant for us to see if we are hitting our goals along the way, is our instruction working, and where is it falling down; and you can drill it down by student. You often hear about third grade reading as being kind of like a pivot point, and we have a goal of 85% of all our third graders will be at grade level by the end of the year. This year, when you look at where we were last year in winter, 54% of our kids were at grade level. This year 63% are at grade level in 3rd grade for reading already and this test was done in January. So, we're doing really, really well. There was a conversation about some of the areas of concern and I love the growth mindset and I totally applaud their desire to just keep pushing. We did touch a little bit on MAST, which is supposed to be a through level test that will replace SBAC. Those are tests that are designed and approved at the state level. One of the flaws with MAST is that it's being built by a company that's never done this before, and so Montana is its test case and it's just not really there yet. It doesn't measure growth right now, so it makes it hard to see if it is working or not working because you're not measuring how the kids are growing. There's a lot of balls up in the air but Superintendent Wertz and his team are keeping track of the concerns.”

7. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre stated there was not a Health Benefits Committee meeting but shared that the work is ongoing. There is still work surrounding HB332 and whether that is going to be a good fit for our district, and we are still waiting for more information from our consultant Alliant about how we might restructure our plan. We are looking at how to keep our plan more flexible, keep it high quality, and make it more affordable, so we are just waiting for that data so we can get together to discuss that. Trustee Satre is hoping that the meeting will take place next month.

8. Wellness Committee Report

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn gave the Wellness Committee Report. Chair Hathhorn commented, “The Wellness Committee had a very robust conversation just a few hours ago. As Superintendent Wertz already mentioned, the Future Chefs competition happened over the weekend, and I would just like to add that it was a big trophy, in fact, it was 47 inches tall. There were 80 applicants and 12 were selected for participation, and then there was one winner. Thanks so much to Robert for getting the kids excited about food. We discussed the summer feeding program. Rossiter now meets the qualifications as a site for the No Kid Goes Hungry Program and so it will be the hub, especially for the valley, for free meals for kids. I learned about non congregate food, which means that before COVID, the kids had to eat their food and the only thing they were allowed to take with them was like an apple or a drink that had been started and now a parent can come and pick up food for all their kids for one whole week. I think it is more productive in getting kids fed, so that was really nice to hear. Bryant has been doing targeted nutritional events that come from their title funds, and on March 22nd they did a cultural event which included an indigenous kitchen where they made Native American food. I was really happy to hear that because I just got done talking with Joslyn Davidson, from curriculum, that there's some frustration statewide, that there's not enough Indian Education and that came up several times in our conversation just around nutrition, so I'm really proud of our district for making that a priority. We had a long discussion about some of the programs that

have become problematic for CEP schools. CEP schools are schools that have a high enough level of poverty that they don't have to fill out their free and reduced forms. So, there's sometimes the conundrum with how to collect that information when parents, of course, are a lot less motivated to fill the forms out because they get meals at the qualifying schools anyway. I did learn that if you do fill out your paperwork, there's more benefits beyond the school food, so hopefully they're going to get that word out and get more families motivated to fill out that paperwork. PAL also did a Native American event this week, they made bison tacos, which were enjoyed by all. Last week was free breakfast across the district and some of the older kids are less captivated by that but Matt said it was really successful and he feels like it will bring more of those students in for a healthy start. There's Harvest of the Month lessons going on at Rossiter and they are preparing beef and bison from a Montana ranch. Student representatives Hernandez and Bishop surveyed the students at their schools to see what kind of food that they would like in the vending machines. Now we're hoping to take that list and share it out with clubs and administration to try to get the healthy food list into the vending machines. Some of our vending machines are owned by the school and they're of course much easier to monitor, and then we have our vendor owned machines which the group is going to try to really promote those healthy snacks in those as well. There is a recognition program that schools can apply for to qualify and be recognized for the American Healthiest School Program and some of our schools are interested in applying for that program and getting that recognition.”

9. Montana School Boards Association Report

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn stated that she did not have a report to give for the Montana School Boards Association Report as they have not met.

10. Parent Council Visit Reports

There were no Parent Council Visit Reports this evening.

That concluded the Reports portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees moved on to review upcoming meetings.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn reviewed upcoming meetings with the Board of Trustees.

- Tuesday, March 19th, Board Work Session, 3:30 p.m., Warren Elementary
- Tuesday, April 2nd, Policy Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, April 2nd, Full Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Wednesday, April 3rd, Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Monday, April 8th, Facilities & Maintenance Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, April 9th, Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center

- Tuesday, April 23rd, Board Work Session, 3:30 p.m., Hawthorne Elementary

Board Chair Hathhorn noted that the Executive Committee meetings will no longer be held, as it is not a requirement, and the meetings were always extremely short, and it didn't seem like a good use of time.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further board comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary

Date