



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
Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024
12:00pm
Lincoln Center & TEAMS

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Others:</i>
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Jane Shawn, HEA President
Linda Cleatus, Trustee	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Melissa Romano-Lehman, Instructional Coach
	Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Director
	Abby Kuhl, Instructional Coach
	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Online Guest of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Vice Chair, Jennifer McKee.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 3.6.24 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Week of the Young Child & Early Literature Program

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented information regarding *Week of the Young Child & Early Literature Program*. Early Literacy Targeted Intervention is a result of HB 352 (now MCA § 20-7-1801 -20-7-1804), and states that a district can but is not required to offer an early literacy intervention program. The Board has determined it will offer the following Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Program(s) for an eligible child:

- A full-time classroom based program for eligible children who are four (4) years of age or older on or before September 10 of the year in which the children are to participate in the program and are not entering and have not completed kindergarten. A parent/guardian may enroll an eligible child in a full-time classroom-based program on a part-time basis. The classroom-based program must align with developmentally appropriate early education learning standards determined by the Board of Public Education. Students must qualify based on an approved screening tool. The program includes requirements for ongoing evaluation of student progress and will utilize evaluation results to tailor instruction to each student’s needs. Districts will receive full or half-time ANB for each eligible student served-paid in arrears. The District will start the program this fall.
- A jumpstart program for eligible children who are aged five years of age or older on or before September 10 of the year in which the children are to participate in the program and who have not yet completed 3rd grade. The jumpstart program shall occur during the time between the end of one school calendar year and the start of the next school calendar year as determined by the Board preceding a child’s entry into kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, or 3rd grade. The jumpstart program shall be at least 4 weeks in duration and provide at least 120 instructional hours and be aligned to the framework determined by the Board of Public Education. The jumpstart program shall be designed in a manner to increase the likelihood of a child being evaluated at the end of the ensuring school year to be at or above a trajectory leading to reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade. Districts will receive .25 ANB for each eligible student served-paid in arrears. The District hopes to launch this program in the summer of 2025.

The committee discussed a third option which is a home-based program that the district will not be doing. Ms. Ridgway shared that as the District prepares to launch the Early Literature Program there are many things that must be done including selecting a screening assessment, determining sites, purchasing curriculum, preparing classrooms, hiring teachers and para educators, and staff development for ELTI educators. Ms. Ridgway shared that to qualify for the programs students must be 4 years old by September 10, parents must provide written authorization for any students to be screened, students must be screened using an approved assessment to determine if they would benefit from the program, students must be below the established cut score, and the assessment/screener must be administered in April, May, or June. Students arriving after June 30 are not eligible. A student determined to be eligible in another District is not necessarily eligible in our District and each District determines its own eligibility. Students on an existing IEP must be assessed using the District selected screening/assessment tool. Ms. Ridgway shared the upcoming screening dates and locations with the Teaching and Learning Committee. Ms. Ridgway discussed that in preparing for Summer Jumpstart intervention eligible students only count towards ANB, OPI criteria states that in order to qualify for funding for the 2024 summer program it must begin after July 1, 2024, per OPI summer Jumpstart programs in future years will be able to begin in June and receive funding, and qualified 4-year-olds, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students can attend Jumpstart. As stated before, our District hopes to launch the Jumpstart program in the summer of 2025. Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the Teaching and Learning Committee had regarding the Early Literature Program.

Ms. Ridgway moved on to share some of the activities occurring in the district for the Week of the Young Child.

- Jim Darcy Family Fun Mixer, April 8th, 4:00 p.m.
- Bryant Storytime & Treats, April 9th, 2:50 p.m.
- Warren Storytime, Tour, Q&A, & Treats, April 10th, 2:30 p.m.
- Central Storytime with The Principal, April 10th, 2:30 p.m.
- Kessler Storytime With the Principal, April 10th, 2:30 p.m.
- Four Georgians Storytime with The Principal, April 11th, 1:45 p.m.
- Hawthorne Buddy Reading, Tour, & Treats, April 11th, 2:45 p.m.
- Broadwater Storytime & Play, April 11th, 2:45 p.m.
- Rossiter Short Film, Games, Q&A, April 11th, 5:30 p.m.
- Smith Storytime, April 12th, 1:00 p.m.
- Jefferson Storytime With the Principal, April 12th, 2:30 p.m.

In Addition to screening for the Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Program during the Week of the Young Child, the District also focused on incoming 2024-2025 Kindergarten students who have preregistered, and every child received a welcome letter and a school water bottle sticker. Parents received a link to the school newsletter and the Superintendent's newsletter, and all were invited to attend the Week of the Young Child activities at their school.

B. Eureka Training Update

Ms. Melissa Romano-Lehman, Instructional Coach, gave an update on Eureka Training in the District. Ms. Romano-Lehman met with the PD reps from Eureka and identified a reasonable opportunity to get at least one person from each building trained before the June opportunities. There will be a six-hour virtual training on April 9th and this session provides teachers with a process for practice with effective planning and instruction using the curriculum materials. This will be a *Train the Trainer Model* and a group they can work with to support teachers as they work through the new resource next year. On April 11th there will be *Lead Training* which is a one-day session designed for K-9 District and school leaders. It provides an introduction to the EM2 curriculum for instructional leaders and prepares them to support teachers with early implementation. On June 10th and 11th, they will offer initial training for all K-2 and 3-5 teachers and paras who wish to attend. This training will be offered again in August during the week of the 19th. Ms. Romano-Lehman answered any questions the Teaching and Learning Committee had regarding the upcoming Eureka Training.

C. MAST and Charter Schools Update

Superintendent Rex Weltz gave an update on MAST and Charter Schools. There is a new statewide assessment called MAST that will be replacing SBAC testing beginning the 2024/2025 school year. Other Districts have piloted the program and have voiced what is working well and what is not working. Our District met with three representatives from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), and we were able to ask questions and voice our concerns. Superintendent Weltz stated that OPI is offering webinars regarding MAST which will give people opportunities to learn more information, voice what their concerns might be, and to provide other feedback. Superintendent Weltz answered any questions the Teaching and Learning Committee had about the MAST assessment and moved on to give an update on charter schools. There are disagreements between Montana's Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) about who is responsible to oversee the opening of the charter schools and questions about funding so there is a lot of confusion for school districts about which direction they need to take to move forward with this process. The Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) has filed a suit against OPI in an effort to get the judge to rule on who has the authority to oversee the opening of the charter schools, so we are waiting to see what that decision is before we can move forward. Superintendent Weltz answered any questions the Teaching and Learning Committee had regarding the charter schools update.

The Teaching and Learning Committee concluded the meeting with a brief summary provided by Human Resources Director Keri Mizel sharing some of the district data for absences and vacancies for teachers and paraprofessional positions. Ms. Mizel stated this data may be helpful as we are looking at the overall picture and how we are trying to figure out staffing models and how we recruit and retain staff in our District.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further board comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. by Vice Chair Jennifer McKee.