



*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**

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – 12:00 PM

This meeting will occur at the Lincoln Center (1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT. 59601) and via Microsoft Teams.

To participate remotely, please use this link on Microsoft Teams:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

**III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues, or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.

**IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Review of 03.06.24 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting Minutes

**V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

- A. Week of the Young Child & Early Literature Program
- B. Eureka Training Update
- C. MAST and Charter Schools Update

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**



*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, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
12:00pm  
Lincoln Center & TEAMS

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## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Others:</i>
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Kay Satre, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Melissa Romano-Lehman, Instructional Coach
	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Director
	Lona Carter, Student Health
	Abby Kuhl, Instructional Coach
	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Beth Murphy, Guest of the Public (In Person)
	Several Guests of the Public (Online)

### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Vice Chair, Jennifer McKee.

## II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Beth Murphy gave general public comment. Ms. Murphy is a former teacher with Helena Public Schools and a taxpayer. Ms. Murphy commented on topics including but not limited to her opposition of instructional coaches, teachers on special assignment, or any employee who has the designation of a teacher but who has no students assigned to them.

## III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 1.3.23 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

## V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

### A. K-5 Eureka2 Math Purchase Information and Discussion

The Teaching and Learning Committee discussed the proposed K-5 Eureka2 Math Curriculum purchase. At the end of the 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. Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Director, and Kaityln Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs answered any questions the trustees had regarding the presentation. The Teaching and Learning Committee moved on to review the winter benchmark data.

## **B. Winter Benchmark Data Overview**

Ms. Davidson and Ms. Hess presented an overview of the winter benchmark data to the Teaching and Learning Committee. They began by reviewing iReady Math growth for grades 1-5. The strategic academic math goal that they set states, *“Goal #1: By 2025, an average of 75% of HSD 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will demonstrate grade-level proficiency on math grade level standards by achieving a proficient score on the iReady math assessment at the end of the school year.”* Next, they reviewed the grades K-1 Acadience (Reading) data, and iReady Reading growth data for grades 2-5. The strategic academic reading goal that they set states, *“Goal #2: By 2025, an average of 85% of HSD 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be on grade level as evidenced by the iReady reading assessment at the end of the year.”* Next, the Teaching and Learning Committee reviewed the grades 6-8 winter benchmark data which included data for iReady Math Grades 6-8 and iReady Reading grades 6-8. Lastly, the committee reviewed upcoming assessments updates. *High School: April 9 -This will be a juniors only day, with options for students in grades 9, 10, and 12 remote learning day. April 10 & 11- CHS will assess 9<sup>th</sup> graders on iReady and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PreACT. May 22 and 23- HHS will assess 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders on iReady. Grades 3-8: MAST Assessment Planning February 27 – State Summit: Team will meet monthly this spring to plan for school next year.* Ms. Davidson and Ms. Hess answered any questions the committee had regarding the overview of the winter benchmark data.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

Vice Chair McKee and Trustee Satre thanked Ms. Davidson and Ms. Hess for the presentation and acknowledged the places where they are looking for more growth and have concerns and celebrated and highlighted the successes that are represented in the data.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m. by Vice Chair Jennifer McKee.



# Week of the Young Child

April 6 - 12th 2024

Helena Public Schools would like to welcome young children to their neighborhood schools to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. This is a great opportunity for pre-schoolers to visit their future schools for fun activities celebrating early childhood.

Jim Darcy family fun mixer,  
April 8, 4 pm

Bryant storytime & treats,  
April 9, 2:50 pm

Warren storytime, tour, Q&A  
and treats, April 10, 2:30 pm

Central storytime with the  
principal, April 10, 2:30 pm

Kessler storytime with the  
principal, April 10, 2:45 pm

Four Georgians storytime with the  
principal, April 11, 1:45 pm

Hawthorne buddy reading, tour &  
treats, April 11, 2:45 pm

Broadwater storytime & play,  
April 11, 2:45 pm

Rossiter short film, games, Q&A  
April 11, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Smith storytime,  
April 12, 1-2 pm

Jefferson storytime with the  
principal, April 12, 2:30 pm

**Your neighborhood school looks forward to welcoming you!**

With questions, please contact Jessie Mitchell at [jmitchell@helenaschools.org](mailto:jmitchell@helenaschools.org)



**Screening  
now for  
Fall 2024!**



**Helena Public Schools**

# **KinderSprouts**

**Your child's success starts now!**

**Introducing KinderSprouts – our FREE preschool program for QUALIFYING STUDENTS!**

**Caring relationships, hands-on activities and interactive play help children develop the learning skills they need for a solid start to kindergarten and beyond.**

**Students are nurtured in stimulating indoor and outdoor settings designed especially for them. Cognitive growth, social skills and curiosity are cultivated through play, meaningful work and caring relationships.**

To qualify your student must:

- Be 4 years old by September 10, 2024.
- Take a skills screening assessment to determine if they would benefit from early literacy intervention.

**Space is limited. Sign up for a screening today!**

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