



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, April 9th, 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

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
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

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda and no changes to the agenda were requested.

III. RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Trustees recognized the staff and students listed below.

A. Mann Gulch Overlook Trail Placed on the National Recreation Trail Registry

C.R. Anderson Educators Shannon Thomas and Dick McMahon have worked for 30 years to get the Mann Gulch Overlook Trail placed on the National Recreation Trail Registry. This February 2024, Ms. Thomas and Mr. McMahon and their students made their mark on Montana history as the trail was formally recognized and placed on the National Recreation Trail Registry.

B. Capital High School Cheerleading Awards

Congratulations to the Capital High School cheerleaders who recently competed in the state-wide Cheerfest competition. Capital High took 1st place in the "AA" large squad division, earned first place in the individual stunt group division, and had the highest score out of every team attending, thus earning them the grand champion trophy for the second year in a row! Special thanks to Coach Bailey for all that she does to train and support her team.

C. Harrison Writing Awards

The Harrison Writing Awards include up to four \$350 awards given annually in the categories of either expository or creative writing to Helena Public Schools high school students by the Helenda Education Foundation. Special thanks to Helena Education Foundation Executive Director Lisa Cordingley for all that she does to support students and staff of the district. The 2024 Harrison Writing Award recipients are:

- Nathaniel Fang, a senior at HHS, for "*Paper Flowers*" and "*Home*"
- Greydyn Gildroy, a sophomore at HHS, for "*Elaine*" and "*My Sunshine*"
- Fiona Kuntz, a sophomore at CHS, for "*Gardenry of Faireen*" and "*You Matter*"

D. National BPA Qualifiers-Capital High School

Congratulations to our National BPA Qualifiers from Capital High School and special thanks to Mrs. Toivonen for her guidance. The following students qualified to compete at the 2024 National Leadership Conference May 10-14 in Chicago, IL:

- Liam Kelly - 1st in Digital Communication and Design Concepts
- Taylor Ferretti - 1st in Advanced Accounting, and recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and Community Service BPA Cares Award
- Ryan Fuller - 2nd in Server Administration Using Microsoft
- Brooklyn Haab - 2nd in Advanced Interview Skills & 4th in Business Law and Ethics
- McKenzy Heppner, Joey Casey and Brooklyn Haab - 2nd in Presentation Management Team
- McKenzy Heppner - 4th in Legal Office Procedures
- Sam Flynn - 5th in Device Configuration & Troubleshooting & 3rd in Java Programming
- Kayle Andriolo - 3rd in Fundamentals of Web Design
- Capital High BPA was also awarded the Silver Star Award for Chapter Development

E. **National BPA Qualifiers-Helena High School**

Congratulations to our National BPA Qualifiers from Helena High School and special thanks to Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Smith for their guidance. The following students qualified to compete at the 2024 National Leadership Conference May 10-14 in Chicago, IL:

- Matthew Roberts - 1st in Information Technology Concepts, 2nd in Python Programming, 5th in Java, and 7th in Computer Programming Concepts
- Khalil Elias - State Champion in Java
- Titan Raskovich - 1st in Device Configuration and Troubleshooting, 2nd in Computer Network Technology, 3rd in Computer Security, 5th in Information Technology Concepts, and 11th in Computer Programming Concepts
- Kaden Price - 2nd in C# and Java
- Dominic Blake - 3rd in C# and 5th in Python

F. **Helena High School Mock Trial State Champions**

Congratulations to the Helena High School Shea Team for winning the 2024 Mock Trial State Championship. Congratulations to Caili Lowney, Grey Gildroy, Gabbi Lavoie, Lily Pierson, Kai Moser, Ben Cleary, Owen McDaniel, and Camille Certain. Special thanks to Mr. Askin for his guidance.

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.

- Recognition
 - Month of the Young Child – MOYC
 - School Librarian Appreciation Day, April 2, 2024
 - National Assistant Principal Week, April 1-5, 2024
 - Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, April 9, 2024
 - National Volunteer Recognition Week, April 15-19, 2024
 - National Administrative Professional's Day, April 24, 2024
 - Thank you to Lisa Cordingley and the Helena Education Foundation for hosting surprise visits across the district when our Distinguished Students surprised their Distinguished Educators in preparation for the 2024 Celebration of Excellence Event.
 - Congratulations to CHS Paraprofessional Nancy Johnson who has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award through the Montana Council for Exceptional Children.

- New Business
 - Safety and Security Levies/Technology Levies Informational Presentations-Helena Kiwanis, Helena Area Chamber of Commerce, Helena Rotary, Helena Exchange Club, Helena Optimist Club
 - Hiring Update
 - Curriculum Director
 - HHS Principal
 - Special Education/Student Services
 - AA Health Trust Project Update
 - MAST Implementation – HPS/State
 - Charter School Opening Update
 - Early Literature – KinderSprout – HB352-Screenings
 - Superintendent Weltz invited Chief of Staff Ridgway to present. To summarize, Under HB 352 (now MCA § 20-7-1801 – 20-7-1804), 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 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. The district will start the program this fall.

College-Davidson and Airport Campus, Holter Museum, St. Peter's Health, Montana Wild, and Dick Anderson Construction. Ms. Carter shared how the program will look next year and answered any questions the Board of Trustees had regarding the 6th Grade Career Exploration Program.

- Outreach/Meetings
 - Cabinet & Leadership
 - MQEC Board of Directors Meeting-March 14th
 - Board of Public Education Meetings
 - Levy Educational Meetings
 - Board Leadership
 - AA Superintendents
 - HEA/HSD Meeting
 - HEA/HSD Negotiation Meeting
 - HEF Board Meeting
 - HEF Executive Committee
 - TV, Print, Radio-Media
 - OPI – MAST

- Other
 - Vigilante Day is Friday, May 3rd No school grades 9 through 12 and 11:00 a.m. Dismissal for grades K-8
 - No School May 27th Memorial Day

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. Beth Murphy gave general public comment. Ms. Murphy is a former classroom teacher for the Helena Public Schools and was an active union member with the Helena Education Association and was on the HEA Board of Directors. Ms. Murphy commented on topics including but not limited to her opposition of instructional coaches, teachers on special assignment (TOSA), or any employee who has the designation of a teacher but who has no students assigned to them. Ms. Murphy suggested utilizing something such as a free teacher mentorship program or curriculum committees instead.

Mr. Jon Bennion is a resident of Clancy. Mr. Bennion commented on topics including but not limited to the new out of district placement policy and the funding piece associated with that, and he believes if there are issues there that parents are very much willing to go to their resident school districts and extract every last penny that they can.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items For Information

1. 2023 District Audit: Anthony Gerharz, Manager, Wipfli LLP

Mrs. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager and District Clerk for Helena Public Schools, introduced Mr. Anthony Gerharz, Manager for Wipfli LLP, who conducted the Helena Public Schools 2023 District Audit. Mr. Gerharz stated that he was pleased to report that they issued an unmodified audit opinion on the financial statements which means that they are free from material misstatements and that the numbers can be relied upon. There were no findings, no material weaknesses, and no significant deficiencies. Additionally, as part of their audit, as usual, they must look at our federal awards and during that portion they also did not find any issues or findings that need to be reported to the federal agencies. Specifically, the grants that they looked at were ESSER funding, Title One, and Strive Readers which is also known as the Montana Comprehensive Literacy Program. Mr. Gerharz answered any questions the trustees had regarding the 2023 District Audit. The Trustees thanked Mr. Gerharz and Ms. Mickelson and her team for all of the work that went into the audit.

2. Cancellation of Elementary Trustee Election

Business Manager Janelle Mickelson introduced the item for information *Cancellation of Elementary Trustee Election*.

Background:

Pursuant to 20-3-313, MCA, whenever the number of candidates filing for vacant positions or filing a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the election administrator may cancel the election.

Considerations:

- There were two open trustee positions in the elementary (K-12 positions) to serve a three-year term and one open trustee position also in the elementary (K-12) to serve a one-year term.
- Janet Armstrong and Rachel Robison filed for the two positions to serve a three-year term and there were no write-in candidates.
- Jeffrey Hindoien filed for the position to serve a one-year term and there were no write-in candidates.
- The number of candidates that filed a nomination petition equaled the number of open trustee positions and no declarations of intent to be a write-in-candidate were filed. Therefore, The County Election Administrator cancelled the elementary trustee election and provided notice.
- Trustees will be elected by acclamation at the May 21st Board of Trustees Meeting and Katrina Chaney, County Superintendent of Schools will administer the oath of office to trustees.

Ms. Mickelson answered any questions the trustees had regarding the *Cancellation of Elementary Trustee Election*.

3. K-12 School Nurse Health and Safety Report

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway introduced Nurse Shannon McNamee who presented for information the *K-12 School Nurse Health and Safety Report* to the Board of Trustees. Ms. McNamee shared a definition of school nursing which states, “*School nursing, a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses are grounded in ethical and evidence-based practices and are leaders who bridge health care and education. School nurses provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential.*” Ms. McNamee stated, “The registered nurses of Helena Public Schools believe the relationship between health and academic achievement is well demonstrated by research and that every student deserves and benefits from the services of a registered professional school nurse. We model our practice on current evidence-based school nursing and work diligently to continue improving our processes and our practices. We incorporate the framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice and prioritize keeping students’ health, safety, and readiness to learn in the center of all we do. We prioritize building collaborative relationships with our students, school team, community healthcare partners, and families for improved readiness to learn. The school nursing framework aligns with the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as our Helena Public Schools’ Vision, Mission, and Principals.” Ms. McNamee moved on to share the framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice followed by introducing the nurses that work in the Helena Public Schools. Our nurses are Shannon McNamee, RN, Emily Rodway, RN, Cori Wellenstein, RN, Isabelle McGreevey, RN, Autumn Boutin, RN, Franci Leonard, RN, Wendy Kowalski, RN, Marti Kuntz, RN, and Kelsey Mitchell, RN. Ms. McNamee discussed many of the various health concerns across the district and shared that on average, a school nurse may see between 20-70 students per day in their health room for various ailments and concerns ranging from chronic health concerns, acute illness, injury, or mental health needs. Ms. McNamee moved on to discuss topics including but not limited to the nursing services program goals, vaccinations, health screenings, nurse provided education, professional development plan, and use of technologies. Ms. McNamee concluded her presentation by stating, “Like the Helena School system itself, the school nurses have a reputation for quality, innovation, and collegiality. Relationships that benefit the health of all students are maintained with state and local health departments, healthcare providers, the dental community, mental health providers, the Carroll College nursing program, Helena College nursing program, St. Peters Health, and others. As dedicated health professionals who have specialized training and experience in the educational setting, the Helena School Nurses collaboratively provide comprehensive health services for students, families, and staff.” Ms. McNamee answered any questions the trustees had regarding the K-12 School Nurse Health and Safety Report.

4. Policy 1070 (1420) School Board Meeting Procedure

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for information *Policy 1070 (1420) School Board Meeting Procedure* to the Board of Trustees. This policy is previously numbered as 1070 but the number will be changed to 1420 so it aligns with the model policy. This policy revision is required only for first- and second-class districts. Under MCA § 2-3-214, the Board must make a video and audio recording for a public meeting over which the Board “has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power” at a public meeting that is publicly noticed as required by law. This recording must be provided through a link on the district website or social media page (if there is no district website) within 5 business days of the board meeting and must be maintained online for 1 year. It is not the official record of the meeting unless designated by the Board as the official record (which is not recommended). If there was a technological issue that prevented the recording of the meeting or ability to provide a link, there has to be a notice of this failure placed in the same location that public notices for meetings are located as well as where the meeting recording links are located with the reasons for the failure and efforts to avoid the failure in the future. Recordings will be retained for one year. Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 1070 (1420) School Board Meeting Procedure*.

5. Policy 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for information *Policy 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees* to the Board of Trustees. This policy revision is required only for first-class districts. This policy is being revised to reflect that trustees in a first class district only may share the responsibility for visiting each school within a district. Second- and third-class districts do not need to adopt this policy revision. The policy states that, “*The authority of individual trustees is limited to participating in actions taken by the Board as a whole when legally in session. Trustees shall not assume responsibilities of administrators or other staff members. The Board or staff shall not be bound by an action taken or statement made by an individual trustee, except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific instructions and official action taken by the Board. Each trustee shall review the agenda and attendant materials in advance of a meeting and shall be prepared to participate in discussion and decision making for each agenda item. Trustees share the responsibility to visit every school building at least once per year to examine its management, conditions, and needs.*” Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees*.

6. Policy 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention

Ms. Ridgway presented for information *Policy 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention* to the Board of Trustees. Under HB 352 (now MCA § 20-7-1801 – 20-7-1804), 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 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. The district will start the program this fall.

- A jumpstart program for eligible children who are 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 ensuing school year to be at or above a trajectory leading to reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade. Only “eligible” children can participate in these programs if offered – eligible children are those evaluated to be “below trajectory for 3rd grade reading proficiency for the child’s age or grade level.” The evaluation can only be done at the request of the parent/guardian. The evaluations are to be administered in April, May, or June to any child (at the request and consent of the parent/guardian) who will be 4 years old or older on or before the following September 10th and who has not yet entered 3rd grade. The district is hoping to start this program in the summer of 2025.

Districts may also offer a home-based program approved by the Board of Public Ed, but our District is choosing not to offer that option at this time. Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention*.

7. Policy 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules

Ms. Ridgway presented for information *Policy 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules* to the Board of Trustees. This policy is updated to reflect the language regarding safety distances for oncoming motorists and the need for the board to approve stops where students will cross a roadway. Updates were also made to the legal references. Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules*.

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

B. 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. 03.12.24 Full Board Meeting Minutes

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

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the Consent Action Items as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

C. Items for Action

1. Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for action *Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment*. Board Policy 3141 (3025) has been revised to address the updates to the out-of-district laws. *Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment* will be replacing *Policy 3025 Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance*. Ms. Ridgway stated that on line 27 the date of June 15th will be changed to June 1st. Ms. Ridgway stated that on line 53 it should state *Policy 1065* not *Policy 1400*. Ms. Ridgway reviewed the language on lines 57 through 86 that shows the three categories that allow you to potentially deny the candidate, which must be documented. Chief of Staff Ridgway answered any questions the Board of Trustees had regarding *Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment* including the changes recommended by Ms. Ridgway.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve *Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment* including the changes recommended by Ms. Ridgway. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Policy 3025 Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance-Repeal & Replace-Existing Policy

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for action *Policy 3025 Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance* to the Board of Trustees. This policy will be repealed and replaced with *Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment*. Chief of Staff Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 3025 Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to repeal *Policy 3025 Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance*.”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to repeal existing *Policy 3025 Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance* and replace it with *Policy 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment* as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Policy 7008 Tuition Policy

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for action *Policy 7008 Tuition Policy* to the Board of Trustees. *Policy 7008 Tuition Policy* is replacing the existing *Policy 7015 Tuition Policy*. This new policy states, “Whenever an out-of-district student is enrolled in the district, an attendance agreement must be approved by the Board. The district shall notify the district of residence of each out-of-district student attendance agreement approved by the Board of their tuition obligations by July 15 following the year of attendance. Tuition rates shall be determined by Montana law. For any resident student of the district enrolled in another school district as an out-of-district student, the district shall finance such tuition from the tuition fund, general fund, or any other legally allowable fund at the discretion of the trustees.” Chief of Staff Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 7008 Tuition Policy*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 7008 Tuition Policy* as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve *Policy 7008 Tuition Policy* as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. Policy 7015 Tuition Policy-Repeal & Replace-Existing Policy

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for action *Policy 7015 Tuition Policy*. This policy is being repealed and will be replaced by *Policy 7008 Tuition Policy*. Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 7015 Tuition Policy*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to repeal *Policy 7015 Tuition Policy*.”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to repeal *Policy 7015 Tuition Policy* and replace it with *Policy 7008 Tuition Policy*. Trustee Terry Beaver seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

D. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Reports

Ms. Willa Bishop, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, was not in attendance this evening, therefore, Ms. Hernandez gave the report for her this evening. “Last Thursday, Helena High’s student council put together an assembly encouraging participation in the 100th annual Vigilante Day parade. Bryant students kicked off the assembly by putting on their own parade for the school, with each grade making a “float” after doing class projects on that specific subject. They then joined us for most of the assembly, including a roping competition, a traditional potato dance, and some barrel racing. “The Vig” was also introduced as the trophy given to the class with the most school spirit. After the assembly, students were able to pick up registration material for their floats and will start to turn those in this coming Friday. While freshman, sophomores and seniors enjoyed their day off today, juniors took the district wide ACT test online. This test is important because even if students don’t want to take it, getting scores can give them the opportunity to receive scholarships or pathways into higher education if they desire. Helena High counseling department and teachers around the school have done a great job making sure students are prepared for the standardized test. Spring sports are in full swing, with tennis, softball, and track and field all traveling and competing multiple times a week across the state. The girls track team is looking for a 3-peat state title with five girls qualifying for state. Administration has noticed a drop in attendance recently, a trend that is happening across the state and country. This trend may have started during COVID, but looking at trends in the past, attendance will get worse before it gets better. Parents are notified when their child is marked unexcused in a class, and they must be checked out or excused to avoid this. Teachers, administrators and coaches are all working hard to make sure that students come to school so that they can succeed and take advantage of every learning opportunity.”

Ms. Luna Hernandez, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave her Student Representative Report. Ms. Hernandez commented, “The District Music Festival will be hosted in Helena later this week- orchestras will perform on Thursday night at the HHS gym and choirs and bands will perform during the day on Friday in both the HHS gym and HMS auditorium. On Saturday April 13th, students will travel to Gallatin High School where students will perform Solos and Small Ensembles with a chance to go to the State Music Festival.

Listening Sessions:

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support will be conducting student voice sessions throughout the

upcoming week. There will be 8 students selected from each grade level to help gain more student insight on issues/solutions regarding CHS. Students that have been randomly selected will miss a portion of their 2nd period class only for one day.

Testing this week:

The ACT test was today. All juniors tested today in various classrooms. The test was online- which meant it had to be on the district server on a district device. On Wednesday and Thursday this week, freshman will take the iReady benchmark assessment, and sophomores will take the pre-ACT. This will provide students with data (and practice) for the ACT next year. While freshman and sophomores are testing, juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to attend a career fair hosted in the cafeteria, as well as attend their choice of 15 different career presentations that will take place in classrooms.

Art students on display:

The Holter Museum is hosting the annual Youth Electrum Exhibition April 5th - May 8th in downtown Helena. This year they are featuring over 150 artworks from Helena School District students. Capital High School always brings a lot of amazing talent to this show and this year is no different so be sure to check it out!

Vigilante Parade:

Registration for the Vigilante Parade starts this Thursday. The 100th parade will be on Friday, May 3rd.

Choose To Include Week- This month Capital High School held Choose to Include Week. Thank you to all staff that participated and to Ellie Fjeseth and Heidi Foreman for setting it up. We had a lot of students and staff participate in various lunchtime activities as well as dress up in various themes each day of the week.

Registration update:

Registration for the upcoming school year is complete. We recently hosted all 8th grade students in the annual 8th grade tour and activities fair.

March Madness:

To promote the CHS Instructional Framework, all curricular departments had the opportunity to win a free lunch sponsored by Student Council. Throughout the month of March, through the use of a pineapple chart that was located in the staff lounge, teachers earned points by posting instructional strategies (as an invite to being observed) and staff earned points by completing observations in the classroom. The winning department was English!"

2. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn had no report this evening for the Helena Education Association.

3. Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre gave the Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report. Trustee Satre shared the April Facilities and Maintenance Update with the Board of Trustees that Facilities Director Todd Verrill shared at the Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting:

Projects Last 30 Days:

- HMS cafeteria door and hardware replacement
- Rossiter Elementary hot water heater replacement
- Field prep for spring sports
- AED wall cabinet installation
- CRA fire suppression system maintenance
- Smith interior painting is 95% complete
- Refurbished three speaker podiums
- Levy discussions with community groups and IR

Current Projects

- CHS basketball hoop system replacement
- Bryant Elementary door project
- Kessler Elementary playground improvements
- Bryant Elementary solar design and project advertisement

March Work Orders

Completed: 550

Custodial Projects:

- Prep for summer flooring projects
- Gym floors
- New flooring
 - HMS
 - Hawthorne
- Spring break deep cleaning in schools

Staff:

- Two new employees hired in MAR
- Three employee losses in MAR
- Current # vacancies: 6

Safety and Security Update

- CPR / AED training-Planning to train approximately 40 staff and admin
- PurpleAir outdoor air monitors installed at CHS and HHS (Smith monitor is forthcoming)
- Received MT Dept of Labor annual inspection report-Reviewing findings
- 18 staff attended active shooting training at Kessler on 9 MAR
- Monthly and quarterly water sampling....all water tested safe
- New employee safety training (x2 / month)
- Finalizing AED procedures and rollout

Superintendent Weltz shared that going forward we would add a technology component to the Facilities Committee Meeting and our Directory of Educational Technology Gary Myers would provide a report at the meeting, and going forward it would become the Facilities and Technology Committee.

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report
Trustee Janet Armstrong was not in attendance; therefore, Trustee Terry Beaver gave the Budget and Finance Committee Report this evening. The Budget and Finance Committee met today at noon and received the 2023 District Audit report from Anthony Gerharz, Manager, Wipfli LLP, that was presented tonight to the entire board.

5. Policy Committee Report
Trustee Jeff Hindoien gave the Policy Committee Report. Trustee Hindoien shared that the Policy Committee reviewed all the policies that were presented to the full board this evening.

6. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
Board Chair Hathhorn gave the Teaching & Learning Committee Report. At the meeting they first talked about the Week of the Young Child which is a district wide effort to get kids involved and there were activities at each school. There was a Eureka Training Update on the material that the board has approved. They are training on how to teach math at a deeper level, incorporating it into the professional learning communities including hands on work and how to use the manipulatives that go along with the elementary math materials. There will be teachers in each building that will get a higher level of instruction and they can be the lead in the buildings that other teacher can go to for advice and further training. There was also a discussion on MAST and charter schools.

7. Health Benefits Committee Report
Trustee Kay Satre stated there is no report to give for the Health Benefits Committee this evening, however, the Health Benefits Committee has a full day meeting tomorrow to talk about restructuring options for the current self-funded program.

8. Wellness Committee Report
Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn gave the Wellness Committee Report. The Wellness Committee met today, Robert Worthy spoke first and he's finishing up the Made in Montana Grants and he wrote and received a \$14,500 grant for the summer program, and with that he bought a new mobile refrigeration unit so that he can better serve the kids. He's expecting to serve 60,000 meals this summer, which includes serving enough food for seven days. There is a hydroponics grant that will possibly go through the Wellness Committee next year, but for now Principal Carey has started with a smaller version with a grant through the Helena Education Foundation, and they have been growing and eating their own vegetables which has been going very well. St. Peter's Health has put in a grant for a gardening space at Ray Bjork through the daycare and the space they are renting from us, and they are including high school students to be working through the science department and growing some of those vegetables and learning about gardening. The Helena Food Share have been focusing on Warren with the Charlie Cart, and their last recipe was beet canned pancakes, and they were extremely popular.

9. Montana School Boards Association Report
Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn gave the Montana School Boards Association Report. They held a three-day meeting that was mostly internal working on strategic goals of the organization, along with discussing MAST and MUST, and they will be joining the rest of the state in addressing the funding formula.

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, April 23rd, Board Work Session, 3:30 p.m., Hawthorne Elementary
- Wednesday, May 1st, Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, May 7th, Policy Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Monday, May 13th, Facilities & Maintenance Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, May 14th, Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, May 14th, Full Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, May 21st, Board Work Session, 3:30 p.m., PAL

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Superintendent Wertz thanked Facilities Director Todd Verrill and Director of Educational Technology Gary Myers and their team including Safety and Operations Manager Neal Murray and Jim Daanen, Safety and Security Developer, for their hard work all day on Saturday testing our 911 systems. Superintendent Wertz stated that we found two or three flaws in buildings that as we dial 911 it notifies the Great Falls emergency system, so our team is working on addressing those issues. Superintendent Wertz moved on to state that Valley Bank was a premier sponsor for the Helena Education Foundation, however, this year they stepped down from that role and no longer wanted to be a premier sponsor. Superintendent Wertz thanked St. Peter's Health for stepping up and becoming the premier sponsor of the Helena Education Foundation. Vice Chair Jennifer McKee expressed her appreciation of the Helena Public Schools IT department and her appreciation of their reverse-find feature for Chromebooks, which can help locate a Chromebook if it is ever lost. The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Wertz ended the meeting by having a brief discussion about the levies.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary Date