



Board of Trustees Meeting

Lincoln Center | 1325 Poplar St. | Helena, MT 59601

Tuesday, June 11th, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.

Lincoln Board of Trustees Conference Room and
via TEAMS

[Join the meeting now](#)

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER /PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

III. OATH OF OFFICE FOR 2024-2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

A. 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

1. Charlie Snellman-Capital High School Student Representative
2. Adella Harris-Helena High School Student Representative

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Speech and Debate National Qualifiers-Capital High School

Congratulations to the following students who are National Qualifiers in Speech and Debate: Evelyn Dachs, Fiona Kuntz, and Katherine Armstrong. Special thanks to Coach Ditch for all that she does to encourage and support students.

B. Speech and Debate National Qualifiers-Helena High School

Congratulations to the following students who are National Qualifiers in Speech and Debate: Layla Riggs, Samuel Hutchinson, and Ethan Taylor. Special thanks to Coach Hermanson for all that she does to encourage and support students.

C. **Montana Coaches Association Coach of the Year-Capital High Softball**

Congratulations to Capital High Girls Softball Coach Mike Miller who has been named the Montana Coaches Association Coach of the Year for softball!!

D. **Softball State Champions-Capital High Girls Team**

Congratulations to the Capital High Girls Softball team for winning the State Championship!! Special thanks to Coach Mike Miller for all that he does to support these outstanding athletes.

E. **Montana Coaches Association Coach of the Year-Helena High School Girls Track & Field**

Congratulations to Helena High School Girls Track Coach Jesse Zentz who has been named the Montana Coaches Association Coach of the year for girls track and field!!

F. **Track State Champions-Helena High Girls Team**

Congratulations to the Helena High Girls Track team for winning the Track State Championship!! This is their third state championship in a row!! Special thanks to Coach Jesse Zentz for all that he does to support these outstanding athletes.

G. **Individual State Champions in Track-Helena High Girls**

Congratulations to the following athletes who were individual state champions in track!! Special thanks to Coach Jesse Zentz for all that he does to support these outstanding athletes.

- Madi Todorovich - 300 Hurdles, 400
- Logan Todorovich- 100, 100 Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump
- Reghan Skogen- Pole Vault
- Logan Todorovich, Hazel Bishop, Reghan Skogen, Madi Todorovich - 4x100 Relay
- Hazel Bishop, Reghan Skogen, Evey Linden, Madi Todorovich - 4x400 Relay

H. **Individual State Champions in Track-Capital High Boys**

Congratulations to the following athletes who were individual state champions in track!! Special thanks to Coach Lon Carter all that he does to support these outstanding athletes.

- Gavin Mow - 110 Boys Hurdles
- Tyler Crum - Javelin

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

VI. 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.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. Warrants
3. Approval of FY 2023-24 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)
4. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)
5. Acknowledge Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)
6. 5.14.24 Full Board Meeting Minutes

B. Items For Action

1. Bryant Elementary School Solar Photovoltaic System Project Award Recommendation
2. Health Benefits Committee Recommendations for Plan Year 24-25
3. Board of Trustees Budget Reduction Recommendations 2024-2025 (Elementary District)
4. Board of Trustees Budget Reduction Recommendations 2024-2025 (High School District)

C. Reports

1. Helena Education Association Report
2. Facilities & Technology Committee Report
3. Budget & Finance Committee Report
4. Policy Committee Report
5. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
6. Health Benefits Committee Report
7. Wellness Committee Report
8. Montana School Boards Association Report

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item III.

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

☒

Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐

Recognitions

☐

Superintendent's Report

☐

General Public Comment

☐

Consent Action Items

☐

Items For Action

Item Title: **Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives**

1. Charlie Snellman-Capital High School Student Representative
2. Adella Harris-Helena High School Student Representative

2024-2025 HPS STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED

The following students were selected to serve as HPS Student Board Representatives for the 2024-2025 school year.

Charlie Snellman

CHS Student Board Rep for 2024-2025

Charlie is currently a Junior at Capital High School. As a student board rep it is his goal to make sure student and family voices are heard. He wants to make a positive difference for all Helena students. Charlie is the president of HOSA: Future Health Professionals and oversees every CHS blood drive. He is the principal cellist of the CHS Advanced Orchestra and president of the National Honor Society. He is a member of the CHS Science Club and the Student Council. Charlie is very active in 4-H and serves as an ambassador for Lewis and Clark County as well as being involved in other 4-H leadership roles. He is a gymnastics coach at the Helena Athletic Club and recently established his own music studio where he teaches cello to nine students ranging in age from 7-50 years old. Charlie hopes to ensure support for the arts and more support for mental health so students can realize their full potential.

Adella Harris

HHS Student Board Rep for 2024-2025

Adella is currently a junior at Helena High School. She hopes to be a voice for students. She has been a student council member for six years in both middle school and high school. During her time in student council she served as an officer for two years and a representative for four. She is an active member of Business Professionals of America (BPA), the National Honor Society and LINK Crew. Adella is a varsity athlete in golf and track and field. She is active in Students for Life and was Vice President in 2022. Adella also works as a dining room server at Touchmark. One of Adella's goals is to establish a Big Brothers, Big Sisters program at HHS. To foster community connections and school spirit she would like to organize more social events for students such as barbecues and game nights.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item IV.

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

☐ Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☒ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

Item Title: Recognitions

- A. Speech and Debate National Qualifiers-Capital High School
- B. Speech and Debate National Qualifiers-Helena High School
- C. Montana Coaches Association Coach of the Year-Capital High Softball
- D. Softball State Champions-Capital High Girls Team
- E. Montana Coaches Association Coach of the Year-Helena High School Girls Track & Field
- F. Track State Champions-Helena High Girls Team
- G. Individual State Champions in Track-Helena High Girls
- H. Individual State Champions in Track-Capital High Boys

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item V.

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

☐ Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☒ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

Item Title: Superintendent's Report

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

To: Board Chair Ms. Siobhan Hathhorn and Board of Trustees
FROM: Mr. Wetz, Superintendent
RE: Superintendent Report
DATE: June 11th, 2024

- **Recognition**

- Graduations – Seniors/Admin/Staff/Special Guests/Parents/Community
 - PAL – PAL Senior Speeches
 - Access
 - HHS
 - CHS
- End of the Year Celebrations
 - Staff that make the EOY so special
- Congratulations to Educator Jen Mooney at Helena Middle School, who was selected as the Helena Education Association Teacher of the Year!!
- Congratulations to Paraeducator Christi Redmond at Kessler Elementary, who was selected as the Helena Education Association Para Educator of the Year!!
- Congratulations 2024 Helena Public Schools Retirees
- Congratulations to Four Georgians, 2nd Grade Teacher, Mrs. Sheri Johnston, who was selected as the 105.3 KMTX Teacher of the Month for May 2024.
- Thank you, Helena Education Foundation, and the Helena Education Association, for sponsoring the Community School Safety Forum hosted by Jason Russell with Secure Environment Consultants.
- Congratulations to Kathy Kidder, Capital High Assistant Principal, for receiving the Montana Association of Student Councils Administrator of the Year for 2023-2024!
- Congratulations to Sol Jones, C.R. Anderson Middle School Assistant Principal, for receiving the Middle School Student Council Administrator of the Year Award for 2023-2024!
- Thank you to our generous sponsors of the 2024 Retirement Celebration Sodexo and Robert Worthy, Walmart, Costco, Safeway, Albertsons on North Montana, Super 1 Foods, Van's Thriftway, and Forget Me Not Flowers.
- District Office Team

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- New Business
 - Board of Trustees Work Sessions-Budget Discussions
 - Pre-registration is now open for Helena Public Charter Schools
 - Free screenings are now available now through the end of June for the district's new "KinderSprouts" public preschool program opening this fall.
 - Planning for Board Retreat in July
 - Staffing for the 2024-25 SY
 - HSD Hosting the 2024 AA Superintendent Summer Summit

- Outreach/Meetings
 - Cabinet & Leadership
 - Retirement Celebrations
 - Hometown Helena Kiwanis
 - Teacher Meeting
 - Parent Advisory Committee
 - Board of Health Meeting
 - Meetings Across District with Jason Russell, SEC
 - Board Leadership
 - AA Superintendents
 - Commercial Energy Meeting
 - HEA/HSD Meeting
 - HEF Board Meeting
 - HEF Executive Committee
 - TV, Print, Radio Media

- Other

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item VI.

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

☐ Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☒ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

Item Title: **General Public Comment**

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

Item VII.A.1-A.6

- ☐
- Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐☐☐☒☐

Item Title: **Consent Action Items**

1. Personnel Actions

2. Warrants

3. Approval of FY 2023-24 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)

4. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)

5. Acknowledge Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

6. 5.14.24 Full Board Meeting Minutes

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Robison					
Satre					
Hindoien					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

May 22, 2024 – June 11, 2024

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Appointments

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered Salary</u>	<u>Accepted Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
HHS/Special Education-Resource	Maharg, Sean	\$79,314.70/yr.	\$79,314.70/yr.	08/26/2024

Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
CHS/CTE	Dawes, Levi	Resignation	06/07/2024
HHS/Library	Driggers, Beth	Resignation	06/07/2024
HHS/Transitions	Harris, Emily	Resignation	06/07/2024

Leaves

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>
Hawthorne/Elementary Principal	Klock, Trisha	2024-2025	LOAWOP

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Appointments

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered Salary</u>	<u>Accepted Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Lincoln/Tier I Help Desk Technician	McTaggart, Shane	\$22.39/hr.	\$22.39/hr.	05/23/2024

Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Facilities/HVAC Plumber	Clark, Radley	Resignation	06/06/2024
CHS/Custodian	Forster, Michael	Resignation	06/21/2024
Broadwater/Elementary Secretary	James, Karen	Resignation	06/03/2024
CRA/E-Net Tutor	Jatkowski, Darlene	Separation	06/05/2024
Kessler/Para Educator	Kauffman, Kyla	Resignation	06/06/2024

Leaves

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>
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SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT

Helena School District #1

Warrants May 1 to 31, 2024

Direct Deposits: \$3,573,243.54

Payroll Warrants: 70131800-70131828

Payroll Deduction: 69299749-69299776

Non-Check Payroll Deductions: 5,650,667.10

Non-Check Accts Payable Deductions: \$1,764,778.39

Non-Check Accts Payable Deductions- HHS Extracurricular: \$0

Claim Warrants: 69299378-69299889

CRA Middle School Student Activity Checks: 17404-17419

HMS Middle School Student Activity Checks: 8773-8774

Capital High Student Activity Checks: 24641-24682

Helena High Student Activity Checks: 36635-36668

Cancelled Warrants: \$4,081.80

We certify that all warrants herein listed were prepared and previously paid for, are just and correct to the best of our knowledge, and that the board of trustees has authorized the issuance of the same.

Chairperson _____

Business Manager _____

APPROVAL OF FY 2023-24 OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS

(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Fiscal Year 2023-24

[illegible]

APPROVAL OF **FY 2023-24** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Grade	Address																		Total
	East Helena	Clancy	Jefferson City	Montana City	Townsend	Basin	Billings	Power	Missoula	Miles City	Butte	Anaconda	Marion	Kalispell	St. Ignatius	Glendive	Laurel	International	
K	1																		1
1	1																		1
2																			0
3	3															1			4
4	1						1							1	1				4
5	2												1						3
6	2					1													3
7		1																	1
8	1	1					1	1	1								1		6
9	5	42		3	2														52
10	9	18	3	3						1		1		1					36
11	6	24	1	1							1							1	34
12	11	28		3		1													43
	42	114	4	10	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	188

APPROVAL OF **FY 2024-25** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Fiscal Year 2024-25

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
6	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena Middle School
7	Basin Elementary	Basin, MT 59631	Helena Middle School
9	Jefferson High School	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Capital High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School

APPROVAL OF **FY 2024-25** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Running Total of FY2024-25 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements

Grade	Address					Total
	East Helena	Clancy	Montana City	Jefferson City	Basin	
K						0
1						0
2						0
3						0
4						0
5						0
6	2					2
7					1	1
8						0
9	3	41	10			54
10	2					2
11		2	1			3
12	2	7				9
	9	50	11	0	1	71

ACKNOWLEDGE OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(HELENA RESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS)

Fiscal Year 2024-25

<u>Discretionary:</u> -		
Grade	Address	District of Attendance
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
Pre-K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
K	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
2	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
2	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary

ACKNOWLEDGE OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(HELENA RESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS)

Discretionary: -

Grade	Address	District of Attendance
3	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
4	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
7	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
7	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
8	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary
8	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
10	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Augusta High School
12	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Augusta High School
12	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Augusta High School

ACKNOWLEDGE OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(HELENA RESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS)

Running Total of Acknowledged Out-of-District Attendance
Agreements
(Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

Grade	Montana City Elementary	Augusta High School	Total
Pre-K	10		10
K	11		11
1	8		8
2	2		2
3	12		12
4	1		1
5	6		6
6	10		10
7	2		2
8	2		2
9			
10		1	1
11			
12		2	2
	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 67



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, May 14th, 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
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum 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
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal
Steve Thennis, Helena High School Principal
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 5:30 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. MPTF and NEA Awards for Teaching Excellence

Congratulations to Capital High Educator Adam Clinch who is the recipient of the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation (MPTF) Award for Teaching Excellence and has been nominated to the NEA Foundation for the Awards for Teaching Excellence.

B. Great Northern Cheer & Dance Competition-Capital High School

Congratulations to the Capital High Cadettes for winning 1st Place in the AA Jazz Division for Dance in the Great Northern Cheer & Dance Competition. Special thanks to Head Coach Ms. Ruddell for all that she does to support students.

C. Great Northern Cheer & Dance Competition-Helena High School

Congratulations to the Helena High Cheer Team for winning 1st Place in the AA Division in the Great Northern Cheer & Dance Competition. Special thanks to Head Coach Ms. Navarrete, and Assistant Coaches Ms. Benton and Ms. Corso for all that they do for students.

D. Montana "Outstanding Earth Science Teacher" Award

Congratulations to Capital High School Educator Tom Caffrey who is the recipient of the Montana "Outstanding Earth Science Teacher" Award from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers.

E. State Envirothon Competition-Capital High School

Congratulations to the Capital High Envirothon Team for winning 1st Place in Forestry and Range at the State Envirothon Competition. The team consists of Paige Frumkes, Madelyn Holston, Lilly Rippingale, Sage Moler, and Spencer Frandsen. Special thanks to Coach Bosch and Coach Placko

for all that they do to support these students.

F. **Science Olympiad State Tournament- C.R. Anderson Middle School**

Congratulations to the following C.R. Anderson Middle School students who were First Place winners in the Science Olympiad State Tournament in the category of Agricultural Science - Braeden Burke & Judah Braese and the category of Wheeled Vehicle - Emily Townsend & Chris Lay. Special thanks to Coach Lane and Coach Hagengruber for all that they do to support students.

G. **Science Olympiad State Tournament-Capital High School**

Congratulations to the Capital High School JV Science Olympiad Team for winning 1st Place Overall in the JV Division at the Science Olympiad State Tournament!! Special thanks to Coach Humbert and Coach Urban for all that they do to support students.

H. **Science Olympiad State Tournament- Helena High School**

Congratulations to the following Helena High School students who were First Place winners in the Science Olympiad State Tournament in the category of Wind Powers-Owen McDaniel and Jonathan Abel. Special thanks to Coach Hollow and Coach Driggers for all that they do to support students.

I. **HOSA State Competition-Capital High School**

Congratulations to the following Capital High Students who were 1st Place winners at the HOSA State Competition. Tanner Davis-1st Place in Pathophysiology; Lyric Lanes-1st Place in Biotechnology; Paedyn McArthur, Abby Charlton, Adam Grasmick, and Riparian Moler-1st Place in Public Health, and Charlie Snellman, 1st Place in ATC Biology Test and ATC General Chemistry Test. Special thanks to Capital High School HOSA Advisors Mr. Duncan and Ms. Kurokawa for everything they do to support students.

J. **State SkillsUSA Competition-Capital High School**

Congratulations to Capital High student Allen Christopher who was a 1st Place winner in CNC Machining at the State SkillsUSA Competition. Special thanks to his advisor Mr. Croft for all that he does to support students.

K. **Lifetime Achievement Award from the Montana Council for Exceptional Children**

Congratulations to Capital High School Para Educator Nancy Johnson who has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Montana Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC).

The Board of Trustees moved on to hear the Superintendent's Report from Superintendent Rex Wertz.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- Recognition
 - Vigilante Day Parade
 - School Principal's Day, May 1, 2024
 - Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10, 2024
 - School Lunch Hero Day, May 3, 2024
 - School Nurse Day, May 8, 2024
 - School Communicators Day, May 10, 2024
 - Congratulations to our Capital High and Helena High students who were inducted into the National Honor Society!!
 - Thank you to Lisa Cordingley and the Helena Education Foundation for distributing grants across the district to educators as well as hosting the Pen & Ink Launch Party.
 - HEF - Celebration of Excellence
 - Thank you to Capital High Educator Kim Cook, who created a new Montana Cares App video to help create awareness of the resources available for students in this app.
 - Thank you to Janet Riis, Executive Director of the Angel Fund, for hosting various Stuff the Bus events. These events raise money to help schools purchase school supplies through Angel Fund's Stuff the Bus campaign for local Helena-area students.
 - Congratulations to our five Helena Public Schools educators who recently completed their coursework as members of the School Administrators of Montana (SAM) 2023-24 Aspiring Principal Cohort.
 - Roxanne Shockley, Helena Middle School
 - Ryan Schulte, Helena High School
 - Kayla Ryan, Byrant & Central Elementary Schools
 - Kelly Connolly, Smith Elementary School
 - Brittney Booton, Broadwater Elementary School
- New Business
 - Safety and Security/Technology Levy Update
 - Next Steps
 - Special Board Meetings
 - With the failure of the levies, the district will revisit the list of potential budget cuts presented to Trustees earlier this spring by the Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee. As our Board of Trustees begins the process of determining budget reductions for the 2024-25 school year based on recommendations from the Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee, we are

coordinating with the board to finalize dates and times for a series of special board meetings. As always, these meetings will be open to the public and will include opportunities for comment.

- Secure Environment Consultants (SEC)-Jason Russell
 - Jason Russell, founder, and president of Michigan-based Secure Environment Consultants (SEC) will return to Helena next week to perform safety audits at additional schools, consult with district leadership, meet with staff at C.R. Anderson Middle School, and will present a Community Safety Forum.
- Market Analysis
- Charter School and KinderSprouts Update
- Hiring Update
 - HHS Principal: Mr. Brian Kessler
 - Special Education/Student Services Director: Ms. Lona Carter
- City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County Housing Development Update
- May Butler Update
- Outreach/Meetings
 - Cabinet & Leadership
 - MTSBA Think Tank
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Hometown Helena Kiwanis
 - Parent Advisory Committee – Rescheduled
 - Teacher Advisory Committee – Rescheduled
 - Senator Daines Team Meeting – School Supports
 - MASS/OPI State Superintendent Candidate Forum
 - School Administrators of Montana Webinar
 - Board of Health Finance Meeting
 - Board of Health Meeting
 - 4-Rivers Regional Superintendents Meeting
 - Levy Educational Meetings Across the City
 - Board Leadership
 - AA Superintendents
 - City of Helena
 - HEA/HSD Meeting
 - HEF Board Meeting
 - HEF Executive Committee
 - TV, Print, Radio, Media
- Other
 - No School May 27th Memorial Day
 - Recognition of Board of Trustees Student Board Representatives Willa Bishop and Luna Hernandez
 - Recognition of Trustee Terry Beaver

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

Mr. Luke Muszkiewicz gave general public comment. Mr. Muszkiewicz is a district parent and a former trustee for Helena Public Schools. Mr. Muszkiewicz commented on topics including but not limited to applauding the Superintendent and Board of Trustees for facing the challenges in the district head on in a fair, transparent, and deliberative manner. Mr. Muszkiewicz also commemorated Trustee Beaver for his many years of service as an educator and trustee for the Helena Public Schools.

Mr. Jim Malizia gave general public comment. Mr. Malizia is a parent of children in the Helena Public Schools, a participant of Friends of Neighborhood Schools, and a supporter of special education programs. Mr. Malizia commented on topics including but not limited to his opposition of closing schools and his support of the PEAK program. Mr. Malizia discussed school funding and urged the trustees when they make budget cuts to avoid actions that directly impacts the students or special education programs. Mr. Malizia stated there is a constitutional obligation for the state to provide a free and high-quality education to our children.

Forest Malizia gave general public comment. Forest is a student in the Helena Public Schools. Forest commented on topics including but not limited to his appreciation of the PEAK program and his PEAK teacher.

Ms. Abby Nyhof gave general public comment. Ms. Nyhof has been a music teacher for fourteen years, is a Helena taxpayer, is president of the Montana General Music Teachers Association, and has two degrees in music education, and four music education related certifications. Ms. Nyhof commented on topics including but not limited to her opposition to restructuring or eliminating music and P.E. in the Helena Public Schools.

Mr. Zach Harris gave general public comment. Mr. Harris has taught in seven different schools in the district. Mr. Harris commented on topics including but not limited to stating that the board should consider the closure of smaller schools when making budget reductions, his opposition to the consideration of asking high school teachers to teach six periods with 25 students per class without extra prep time, and his opposition to the potential cutting of K-5 music and physical education programs.

Mr. Howard DesRosier gave general public comment. Mr. DesRosier has a son in the school district and is a taxpayer. Mr. DesRosier commented on topics including but not limited to the admin pay matrix, recent permissive levies, current state funding, and school closures.

Mr. Jake Warner gave general public comment. Mr. Warner teaches mathematics and robotics at Capital High School, is a National Board-Certified teacher, in 2023 was a finalist for Montana Teacher of the Year, and in 2021 was a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Mr. Warner commented on topics including but not limited to his opposition in asking teachers to teach six out of seven periods.

Mr. Eric Croft gave general public comment. Mr. Croft is an Automotive Teacher at Capital High School, a SkillsUSA Advisor, past State Officer Advisor, and past Montana ACTE President. Mr. Croft commented on topics including but not limited to concerns about nontenure staff members being cut and the impact that would have on their students.

Mr. Tom Kain gave general public comment. Mr. Kain has taught carpentry, welding, and woodworking at Capital High School for the past fourteen years. Mr. Kain commented on topics including but not limited to his opposition of the board eliminating an FTE position in the Industrial Tech Program at Capital High School and the impact that would have on students and their future.

Ms. Molly Schmidt gave general public comment. Ms. Schmidt has been an educator for 23 years, 20 of which have been in Helena, and is a parent of a student in the district. Ms. Schmidt stated that she holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a master's degree in Reading and Literacy and is a National Board-Certified teacher. Ms. Schmidt commented on topics including but not limited to the importance of maintaining manageable class sizes, her support of music and physical education curriculum, her support of emotional support services and special education programs and putting students first when making decisions about the budget.

Ms. Erika McMillin gave general public comment. Ms. McMillin is a school psychologist in the district, a taxpayer, and an aunt of a student in the Helena Public Schools. Ms. McMillin has worked in this district for twenty years, has been in eight schools, had seventeen offices, and fifteen different principals. Ms. McMillin commented on topics including but not limited to urging the board to maintain funding for programs for students with special needs and encouraged the board to look at accreditation standards across all staffing levels, not just class sizes.

Ms. Emma Schmidt gave general public comment. Ms. Schmidt is an elementary teacher and a mother of two children, and her oldest will start kindergarten next year in the Helena Public Schools. Ms. Schmidt commented on topics including but not limited to urging the board to follow the plan outlined by the Budget Consensus Committee. Ms. Schmidt also expressed her support for physical education and music programs and educators.

Ms. Jennifer Skogley gave general public comment. Ms. Skogley is a fifteen-year music educator here in Helena and a taxpayer. Ms. Skogley is a member of the Montana General Music Teachers Association as well as the Montana Bandmasters Association and is in the running for Helena Educator of the Year. Ms. Skogley commented on topics including but not limited to her support for physical education and music programs and educators.

Ms. Brittney Booton gave general public comment. Ms. Booton is a current kindergarten teacher and a mother of a child in the Helena Public Schools. Ms. Booton commented on topics including but not limited to her opposition to nontenure employees not having their contracts renewed this evening.

Ms. Nicole Evans gave general public comment. Ms. Evans is a Helena taxpayer and a Helena Public Schools employee. Ms. Evans commented on topics including but not limited to her opposition to the elimination or restructuring of elementary music and physical education programs.

Ms. Shana Berry gave general public comment. Ms. Berry is an educator, a taxpayer, a community member, and a parent of a student in the Helena Public Schools. Ms. Berry commented on topics including but not limited to the importance of small class sizes, her opposition to the reduction or

consolidation of special education programs, and her opposition to the elimination or restructuring of elementary music and physical education programs.

Ms. Cassandra Riehl gave general public comment. Ms. Riehl is a parent of students in the district and a wife to a high school teacher. Ms. Riehl commented on topics including but not limited to recommending that families of the district fundraise money for the district's general fund and for teachers. Ms. Riehl recommended the board create a committee that explores grassroots fundraising for the general fund.

Ms. Cheri Thornton gave general public comment. Ms. Thornton is the parent to two children in the Helena Public Schools. Ms. Thornton commented on topics including but not limited to state funding, and her support for the PEAK program and the PEAK teachers, and her opposition to any cuts to the PEAK program.

Ms. Angela DeWolf King gave general public comment. Ms. DeWolf King is a resident of Helena and a mother of a child in the district, and a soon to be kindergartener in the district. Ms. DeWolf King commented on topics including but not limited to stating that there is constitutional obligation for the state to provide a free and high-quality education to our children.

Mr. Thomas Baty gave general public comment. Mr. Baty is a parent of a kindergartener in the district, is a teacher in the district, and a taxpayer in the community. Mr. Baty commented on topics including but not limited to his opposition to the potential restructuring of the K-5 music and P.E. programs.

Mr. Matthew Hosking gave general public comment. Mr. Hosking has two students in the Helena Public Schools. Mr. Hosking commented on topics including but not limited to stating that there is a constitutional obligation for the state to provide a free and high-quality education to our children, and if they cannot, consider whether taking legal action to compel the state to fund a high-quality education is our responsibility.

That concluded general public comment and the Board of Trustees discussed that *Items for Information 1, Building Bridges: A Blueprint for Student Recruitment & Retention* would not be presented, as the presenter is not available to present this evening.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Warrants
2. Approval of FY 2023-24 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)
3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)
4. Acknowledge Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)
5. 4.9.24 Full Board Meeting Minutes

6. Resolution to Dispose of Facilities Vehicles

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

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the Consent Action Items as presented. Trustee Kay Satre 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 Item for Information.

B. Item For Information

1. Building Bridges: A Blueprint for Student Recruitment & Retention

2. Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations

Ms. Ridgway presented *Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations* for information to the Board of Trustees. This is a new required policy as a result of the last legislative session. The policy references MCA § 40-6-701, which requires parental consent for “all physical and mental health care decisions for the child” and a parental opt-out for “any personal analysis, evaluation, survey, or data collection by a school district that would capture data for inclusion in the statewide data system except data that is necessary and essential for establishing a student's education record.” Ms. Ridgway pointed out language in the policy that states, “*The District will not conduct physical examinations of a student without parental consent or unless ordered by a court to do so. A physical examination may be conducted without consent if or there is a concern for the health or safety of the student, or others is in question.*” Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations*.

The Board of Trustees moved on to view the Items for Action.

C. Items for Action

1. Personnel Actions

Superintendent Weltz and Ms. Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director, presented for action the

personnel actions. The Board of Trustees had a robust discussion about the nonrenewal recommendations and Ms. Mizel answered any questions the Board of Trustees had regarding the personnel actions.

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

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the personnel actions as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2025 Elections

Ms. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager, presented the action item *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2025 Elections*.

Background:

Pursuant to 20-20-417, MCA, the trustees of a district may request the county election administrator to conduct certain school elections during the ensuing school fiscal year. The request must be made by a resolution of the board of trustees. Whenever the county election administrator agrees to conduct a school election, the administrator shall perform the duties imposed on the trustees and the clerk of the district for school elections and deliver to the trustees, for the purpose of canvassing the vote, the certified tally sheets and other election items needed for canvassing the vote.

Considerations:

- The county election administrator has agreed to run elections scheduled for the regular election day, May 6, 2025.
- If a special election is requested, the county election administrator would want to find an agreeable date for the election and may refuse to run elections on a date that does not work for election office.
- The District must provide copies of all candidate filing forms and any ballot issue language by the candidate filing deadline.
- The county election office will run the election by district, not by precinct. Requests to run the election by precinct will not be accommodated.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve the resolution requesting the county to conduct the 2025 elections for Helena School District No. 1.

Ms. Mickelson answered any questions the trustees had regarding the *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2025 Elections*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2025 Elections*.”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the action item *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2025 Elections* as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Policy 1070 (1420) School Board Meeting Procedure

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for action *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 must be a notice of this failure placed in the same place 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*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 1070 (1420) School Board Meeting Procedure* as presented.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve *Policy 1070 (1420) School Board Meeting Procedure* as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. Policy 1240: Duties of Individual Trustees

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway presented for action *Policy 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees* to the Board of Trustees. This policy establishes the authority of individual trustees is limited to participating in actions taken by the Board as a whole when legally in session. Trustees do not assume responsibilities of administrators or staff. Ms. Ridgway noted that lines 18 and 19 have been removed because of the advice of legal counsel at our last Policy Committee Meeting. Ms.

Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees*.”

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve *Policy 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees* as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

5. Policy 2165: Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs

Ms. Ridgway presented for action *Policy 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs* 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. There were no changes since this policy last went before the full Board of Trustees for information. Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs*.”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve *Policy 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs* as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

6. Policy 8110: Bus Routes and Schedules

Ms. Ridgway presented for action *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. Ms. Ridgway pointed out on line 83 the word *caution* was changed to the word *educate*. Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 8110: Bus Routes and Schedules*.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve *Policy 8110: Bus Routes and Schedules* as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

7. Policy 3035: Student Appearance-Repeal

Ms. Ridgway presented for action *Policy 3035: Student Appearance*. This policy was adopted on 3.20.2012. When the Policy Committee reviewed this policy, they discussed we have this information in our handbooks, therefore it does not need to be a policy, since it is a building level issue. The Policy Committee determined that *Policy 3035: Student Appearance* would go before the full board of trustees with the recommendation to repeal the policy. Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 3035: Student Appearance*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to repeal *Policy 3035: Student Appearance*.”

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to repeal *Policy 3035: Student Appearance*. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

8. Policy 3065: Participation in Inter-Scholastic Athletics-Repeal

Ms. Ridgway presented for action *Policy 3065: Participation in Inter-Scholastic Athletics*. This policy was revised on 9.10.2002. When the Policy Committee reviewed this policy, they determined we do not need this policy because we have athletic handbooks that cover this information. The Policy Committee determined that *Policy 3065: Participation in Inter-Scholastic Athletics* would go before the full board of trustees with the recommendation to repeal the policy. Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway and Tim McMahon, Activities Director, answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 3065: Participation in Inter-Scholastic Athletics*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to repeal *Policy 3065: Participation in Inter-Scholastic Athletics*.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to repeal *Policy 3065: Participation in Inter-Scholastic Athletics*. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

9. Policy 3066: Obligation of Students Participating in School Sponsored Activities-Repeal

Ms. Ridgway presented for action *Policy 3066: Obligation of Students Participating in School Sponsored Activities*. This policy was adopted on 2.12.1995 and revised on 9.10.2002 and again on 1.9.2007. When the Policy Committee reviewed this policy, they determined we do not need this policy because we have athletic handbooks that cover this information. The Policy Committee determined that *Policy 3066: Obligation of Students Participating in School Sponsored Activities* would go before the full board of trustees with the recommendation to repeal the policy. Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway and Tim McMahon, Activities Director, answered any questions the trustees had regarding *Policy 3066: Obligation of Students Participating in School Sponsored Activities*.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “At this point I would entertain a motion to repeal *Policy 3066: Obligation of Students Participating in School Sponsored Activities.*”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to repeal *Policy 3066: Obligation of Students Participating in School Sponsored Activities.* Trustee Linda Cleatus 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.

D. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Reports

Ms. Luna Hernandez, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave her Student Representative Report. Ms. Hernandez commented, “Another Vigilante Parade is over. As always, the parade is a great community event! A shout out to all our students who participated on a float, played in the band, carried a flag on horseback, as well as to the Cadettes. The CHS Counseling staff has been busy administering AP exams- both in the building and at various locations in the community. We’ve ordered a total of 656 AP tests this spring. During recent “Student Voice” meetings organized by Mrs. Kidder and the MTSS team, the idea of an intervention time was discussed. On the Vigilante Parade workday, various Capital High teachers visited Hellgate High School in Missoula to observe their built-in intervention time and to discuss this time with Hellgate staff members. We then had a staff meeting last week after school where teachers who visited Hellgate High School were able to discuss their experience during the visit. The annual senior grad walk will occur next Wednesday morning (May 22nd) at the westside elementary schools. Next Monday is the Choir Dessert Show. The Capital Choirs will close out the year with the final concert and dessert show in our CHS gym on the evening of Monday, May 20. The theme this year is “Musicals of the Stage and Film.” You can expect to hear tunes from “Hamilton,” “Greatest Showman,” and “Pitch Perfect,” to name a few. Please contact Mr. Thomas Baty if you are interested in purchasing a ticket for the show.”

Ms. Willa Bishop, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave her Student Representative Report. Last night HEF honored 50 students from the Helena area in their annual Celebration of Excellence. Students were recognized as distinguished scholars or achievers and then selected an educator that significantly impacted their educational career. We are in the middle of AP testing, with it wrapping up at the end of the week. From Helena High, 404 tests were taken with 244 students taking those tests. Spring sports are finishing with divisional and state meets/tournaments for teams starting this week, with the girls track team looking for a 3-peat of the state title. Graduation is approaching quickly for the roughly 200 students that will be leaving Helena High. This year, the school has recognized 19 valedictorians each of whom have earned a 4.0 GPA while in high school. There are also 3 salutatorians graduating with honors. Schedules and hiring are at a standstill because due to the budget everything from class sizes to teacher workload is up in the air. Just hearing from

teachers, many of them are feeling overwhelmed by the possibility of more students and classes with less time to prepare for the classes they already have. Mr. Kessler has been selected as the new principal of Helena High School to replace Steve Thennis. As an HHS alumni, he then worked as a teacher and assistant principal here and will now take the lead as principal. Eric Peterson will be replacing Willie Schlepp as assistant principal as well. The beginning of next year has already been planned, with sporting events, school pictures and activities already on the calendar. Finally, while ACT scores have not officially been released, the preliminary data from the fully online test shows that HHS improved in all areas of the test, but we are not sure how it compares to the rest of the state.”

2. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn, HEA President, gave the Helena Education Association report. Ms. Shawn commented, “I totally enjoyed the Celebration of Excellence dinner last night. It was amazing and truly heartwarming to see and hear all of the distinguished educators being recognized with kind words and moving memories by their distinguished students. Thirty-four teachers were nominated for Helena Educator of the Year, and eighteen paras were nominated for Para Educator of the Year. Elections will be held later this month and we're looking forward to celebrating with our new 2024 Educator and Para Educator of the Year. Obviously, tensions are running high among our teacher ranks with the long list of non-renewals and the many unknowns that we face as educators in this district. As the boots on the ground working directly with our students, teachers like to prepare and be ready to face each challenge, but when these challenges are not known, it can feel incredibly frustrating and overwhelming, as I'm sure you heard and understood during public comment. Our para educators are also facing challenges not knowing what budget cuts may mean for them. We're waiting for the outside market analysis to be completed before we begin to bargain for an equitable living wage for our para educators. We do have high hopes that we'll be able to bargain a wage that allows the district to hire quality para educators. Mr. Beaver, it's been a pleasure and thank you for your service.”

3. Facilities and Technology Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre gave the Facilities and Technology Committee Report. Trustee Satre commented, “So our committee has been renamed, we are now the Facilities and Technology Committee, so we have equal presentations from our Facilities Director and our Technology Director. Todd Verrill went through the work that they've been doing over the last month, including all kinds of work for the Vigilante Day Parade and Mr. Verrill gave a shout out to Rob Brewer, who did a lot of work for that. They've also been doing work on things like preparing grounds, getting irrigation started up, and Vigilante Field readying. They are lining up summer projects such as summer flooring and having to postpone a few other ones. He talked about custodians and looking at how they might be able to cut around ten percent out of their budget, and Todd did say a reduction in staffing will result in different cleaning standards next year. They were able to hire a couple of new employees. That's been an ongoing challenge for facilities, and now the current vacancies in that department are at five. He also gave a safety and security update which included training for earthquake preparedness, and summer safety project preparations. The Warren water chlorination system is near its end and so they're getting ready to replace that. Then Gary talked with us about the kinds of things that his crew have been working on such as attending a cybersecurity tabletop exercise in Missoula

and then updating their cybersecurity incident response plan. We've had one, but now after that work in Missoula, they came back and they have updated, expanded, and refined it. We talked a little bit about the real importance of cybersecurity and significant threats that are sort of pressing all the time and some of the ways in which they have been working on cybersecurity. They participated in a phishing campaign with the HSD staff and around five percent of users were compromised and there was about six percent of the users who actually reported the suspicious email, so that was good. The users who were compromised completed the assigned training. 534 work tickets were created, and I think it's amazing. The average ticket first response time was in about 3 1/2 hours, so people who send in a ticket get a pretty speedy response. They filled two empty positions, Tina Johnson, the Department Secretary, and they have a new Help Desk Technician who will come on May 6th. That group is also looking at how they can cut ten percent out of their budget. The one thing that we talked a little bit about is that we may have to look at our schedule for device replacements because that costs a lot yearly to keep up with the kind of replacement schedule that we've had."

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Trustee Janet Armstrong was not in attendance; therefore, Trustee Jeff Hindoien gave the Budget and Finance Committee Report this evening. The Budget and Finance Committee met this afternoon and reviewed the Budget to Actual Reports and in the elementary general fund we are sitting close to where we were last year, and the high school is a little tighter. During the second portion of the Budget Committee meeting, they discussed they would like to hold additional work session meetings to discuss and plan for the budget decisions that must be made due to the levy failures.

5. Policy Committee Report

Trustee Janet Armstrong was not in attendance; therefore, 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

Trustee Jennifer McKee gave the Teaching & Learning Committee Report. The Teaching & Learning Committee reviewed the Comprehensive District Literacy Draft Plan. Trustee McKee commented, "This report (plan) writes down all of the ways that the district has used the grant (literacy grant) and the way that it is now a sustainable thing that is just simply the way we teach, and it's so incredible, and I encourage everyone to go read it."

7. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee Kay Satre gave the Health Benefits Committee Report. Trustee Satre commented, "The Health Benefits Committee met in mid-April and again April 25th. So potential premium increases on the plan for this coming year look pretty steep and if we assume no changes to our plan, we might be looking at a 26% increase, give or take a couple of percent. It's a big increase and there's a few factors that are going into that and I'm just going to briefly name them. First of all, there's a trend increase in raising costs and medical, dental and vision. So

that's contributing to that premium rise for our plan. Another factor is we're down in premium revenue from last year and that's because I believe our premiums increase and we were talking about whether or not the members were going to have to shoulder some of that. People switched plans; so, they moved from a premium plan to a standard plan. So, we had 130 individuals go from a single premium plan to the single standard plan and of course that means less premium income for the plan. We had 85 people switch from single plus children to single children from the premium plan to the standard plan. We had 45 people switch from a single-family premium to the standard plan and so with all of that, there was a loss of about \$1.3 million to the plan in premiums. So, we have rising costs and income premium revenue going down, then we also had our expenses rising last year from claims. We had some high-cost claims and some of those are ongoing, so they'll probably continue into next year. Our unreserves were sitting at about 1.6 million at the end of March and that's our halfway point in the plan year. If we didn't have such a decrease in premium income, we'd be in a better place with the unreserves, and they would probably be at about 2.3 million instead. We also typically lose about another \$500,000 to a million dollars over the next six months because that was the first half of our plan. The second half of our plan is usually more costly to the plan because members will have already met their deductibles and max out of pocket so then it draws more. That puts us in a pretty low spot in terms of our unreserves. We are exploring ways to make our plan less expensive and we're exploring unbundling as one way of doing that by separating out the medical and then you can choose dental and vision. We're also exploring some changes in our two options, changes in deductibles and in covered percentages. We are looking at ways that we might have to change some of those elements of our plan in order to hold down premium costs while at the same time providing some flexibility and choice for members that will impact benefits to some extent. Our plan has been so very generous and so very robust, so we're trying to keep the plan financially solvent and trying to figure out ways of making it affordable and a very strong plan. We will be meeting again to vote on the changes that we want to propose, and that meeting is going to happen this week, and then we will bring that before the board for review."

8. Wellness Committee Report

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway gave the Wellness Committee Report. Ms. Ridgway commented, "The Wellness Committee feels like they've made a lot of progress in considering applying for what's called America's Healthiest School award, and we worked through what the criteria is for that and there will be more to come on that as we continue to work through it. One of the things I want to share is the Helena Public Schools Free Summer Meals program. Robert has done a really nice job of expanding the sites. There will be nine sites this year and it's the first time he's had a site in the valley. There'll be a site at Rossiter, so there will be breakfast and lunch sacks at Memorial Park and the Public Library. There will be weekend meal sacks at Memorial Park and the Helena Public Library. There will be multi-day breakfast and lunch sacks Monday through Thursday at Warren, Rossiter, 4G's and Sharon Park next to Stuart Homes. There will be a fresh lunch option at Broadwater and Helena Middle School, and then there will be a fresh breakfast and lunch option at the YMCA camp at Camp Child. The only thing people have to do this year is register, so we're promoting it everywhere we can. This program in Helena fed more children last summer than any program in the state, including Billings and Bozeman. Robert is committed to making sure kids and families have the meals they need. He did note today that USDA will be out this summer and will do an audit on his summer program."

9. Montana School Boards Association Report

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn gave the Montana Schools Boards Association report. As part of the statewide health trust, they canvassed all the districts in the state and collected salary data and benefits data and that information has been dispersed.

10. Parent Council Visit Reports

Trustee Linda Cleatus gave a Parent Council Visit report based upon her visit to Helena Middle School. Trustee Cleatus commented, “There is a sinkhole in the parking lot at HMS. Principal Boyle thinks that it is from the 2022 flooding. Mr. Roberts had a 5-foot pole which he put into the hole, and you couldn't get to the bottom so it's about 8 feet deep. They're working on it, and they will fence off the area and do remediation work in the summer. They are going to do some work on the inside, replacing carpets and whatever is underneath those carpets, so the building will be closed for two to six weeks, so that means there'll be no Bob Camp. They talked about plans for the last couple weeks of school including a volleyball game with students and staff. The basketball game last year was very exciting. They do service projects every year, so 6th graders have smaller projects with teachers involved where they make tie blankets for the hospital or work with the Humane Society. The 7th graders are working on weed pulling and also working with the United Way and going to senior houses and cleaning up lawns. The 8th graders are going to the airport campus for a career day, and they'll check out thirteen stations, and they'll also do a session about what a two-year vocational program looks like. This summer they are going to resurface the outdoor basketball court and the PTSO has been asked to fundraise for the backboards. They talked about the staffing cuts and the potential impacts and Cal was talking about how his schedule is a collaborative teaching model which has worked well for him and his school, but that's definitely going to be impacted. Most likely those intervention classes for those students that need extra support in reading and math are going to get hit. The parent teacher council talked about the fact that it's hard to get parents involved. They've noticed a trend since the pandemic with a decrease in numbers, but they're small and mighty, and because they have limited funding, they've been innovative. They work with Sodexo on getting food for events at lower costs and neighborhood outreach. They are really focused on getting incentives for kids because Cal likes to give incentives for those who do academically well. They did have some questions; one is about the master plan because one of the pieces was the resurfacing of the basketball court, which they were putting on hold because of the master plan conversations, but now they are moving forward on that. They are a great group, and I was glad to sit in on their meeting.”

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, May 21st, Board Work Session, 3:30 p.m., PAL

- Tuesday, June 4th, Policy Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Wednesday, June 5th, Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Monday, June 10th, Facilities & Technology Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, June 11th, Full Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Lincoln Center

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

The trustees thanked Student Representatives, Ms. Luna Hernandez, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, and Ms. Willa Bishop, Helena High School Student Representative for their time they served on the board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary	Date
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HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

Item VII.B.1

- ☐
- Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐☐☐☐☒

Item Title: **Items For Action**
1. Bryant Elementary School Solar Photovoltaic System Project Award Recommendation

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Robison					
Satre					
Hindoien					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					

Todd J. Verrill

Director of Facilities
1201 Boulder Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 324-1734
tverrill@helenaschools.org

Helena School District Board of Trustees

1325 Poplar St.
Helena, MT 59601-0939
boardoftrustees@helenaschools.org

11 June 2024

Dear Helena School District Board of Trustees,

I respectfully request the board of trustees award the Bryant Elementary School Photovoltaic System Project to Solar Montana. The project will install a 62.08kW solar photovoltaic system on the gymnasium roof (see attached diagram). The facilities office received bids from three contractors, and Solar Montana submitted the lowest proposal at \$123,739 (see attached SMA memo and bid tabulation worksheet). Solar Montana has completed numerous projects for the district in the past and I am confident they will provide the same level of professional installation for the Bryant system. They will complete this roof project in the summer of 2024 before the start of the 24-25 school year.

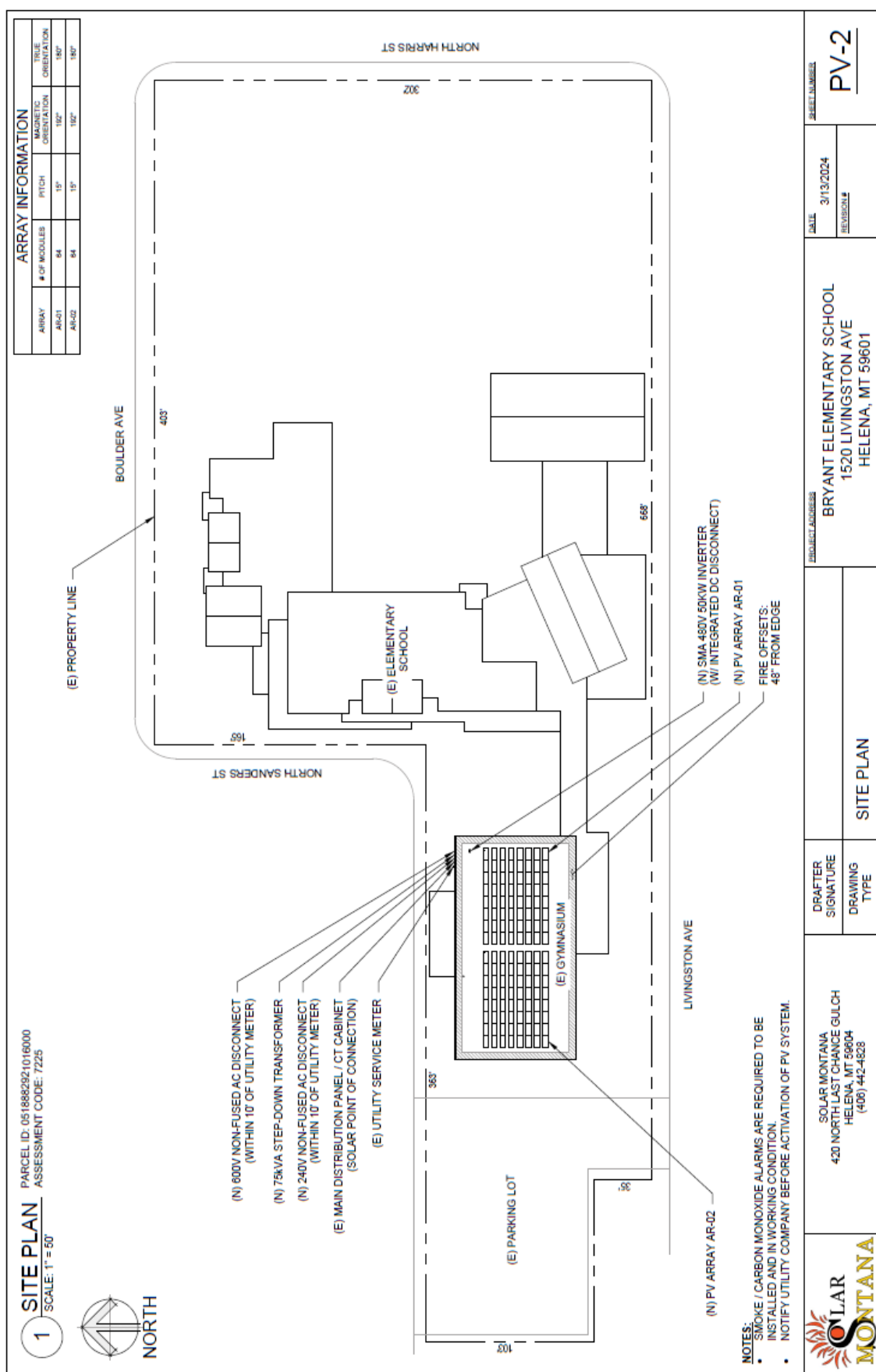
Sincerely,



Todd J. Verrill

Attachments

1. Bryant Elementary School Solar Photovoltaic System Diagram
2. Memorandum dated: 6 June 2024, Recommendation for Contract Award
3. Certified Bid Tabulation





920 Front Street, Suite 101
Helena, MT 59601
P: 406.442.4933



428 East Mendenhall Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
P: 406.219.2216



2024-06-06

Mr. Todd Verrill, Director of Facilities
Helena Public Schools
District Facilities Office
1201 Boulder Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

tverrill@helenaschools.org

Re: Recommendation for Contract Award

Mr. Verrill,

I am writing to recommend that the Helena School District move forward with contracting Solar Montana for the Bryant Elementary School Photovoltaic Project. Following the public bid opening on May 31st, 2024, Solar Montana was identified as the lowest bidder.

Solar Montana has qualified their bid, ensuring it meets all project specifications and requirements. They have also provided their subcontractor list. Their proposal offers competitive pricing that aligns with the project budget.

Based on their bid and qualifications, I believe Solar Montana is well-suited for this project and recommend awarding them the contract.

Thank you for considering this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Ali Martin, AIA, NCARB
Associate
SMA Architecture and Design

design ●
different ●

Attachment 3: Certified Bid Tabulation

Certified Bid Tabulation
Project No. 24-019

Bryant Elementary School Photovoltaic System
Bid Date 05.31.2024
2:00 PM



OFFICIAL BID TABULATION						
Contractor	Date and Time Received	Bid Bond	Receipt of Addendum #1	Receipt of Addendum #2	Receipt of Addendum #3	Base Bid
OnSite Energy	RECEIVED: 5/16/2024 10:14:00 AM	X	X	X	NO	\$133,622.00
Solar Plexus LLC	RECEIVED: 5/31/2024 12:51:00 PM	X	X	X	X	\$151,000.00
Solar Montana	RECEIVED: 5/31/2024 10:53:00 AM	X	X	X	X	\$123,739.00

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

Item VII.B.2

- ☐
- Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐☐☐☐☒

Item Title: **Items For Action**
2. Health Benefits Committee Recommendations for Plan Year 24-25

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Robison					
Satre					
Hindoien					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					

Health Benefits Committee Recommendation to the Board

6/11/2024

1. Unbundle the Plans
2. Increase in deductibles and max out of pockets to adjust the actuarial value along with making both Plans 70/30
3. Close the percentage gap in premiums between the 2 Health Plans
4. Adjust the ratios towards national benchmark

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

Item VII.B.3.

- ☐
- Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐☐☐☐☒

Item Title: Items For Action
3. Board of Trustees Budget Reduction Recommendations 2024-2025 (Elementary District)

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Robison					
Satre					
Hindoien					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 06/11/2024

Item VII.B.4.

- ☐ Oath of Office For 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Student Representatives
- ☐ Recognitions
- ☐ Superintendent's Report
- ☐ General Public Comment
- ☐ Consent Action Items
- ☒ Items For Action

Item Title: Items For Action
4. Board of Trustees Budget Reduction Recommendations 2024-2025 (High School District)

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Robison					
Satre					
Hindoien					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					

Budget Consensus Recommendation Committee				
	Elementary District		High School District	Row Total
	Elementary K-5	Middle School 6-8	High School 9-12	
Reduce central office/department budgets by 10%			\$92,667	\$92,667
Reduce building discretionary budgets by 10%			\$48,000	\$48,000
Reduce Cell Phone Stipends	\$18,590	\$10,010	\$15,400	\$44,000
Eliminate My Path program from iReady	\$29,473			\$29,473
Reduce K5 Principal by 0.5 and reduce MS principal 0.5 and salary savings (combine leadership at 2 schools to 1 Principal & assigning Charter duties)	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$16,344	\$136,344
Salary Savings in Central Office Administrative Changes	\$15,134	\$7,684	\$12,348	\$35,166
Reduce ES Secretary 1 FTE TBD	\$50,000			\$50,000
Reduce MS Secretaries by 2 FTE (1 at HMS, 1 at CRA)		\$100,000		\$100,000
Reduce HS secretaries by 2 FTE (TBD)			\$100,000	\$100,000
Reduce custodial services (restruc. k-12 services by 4 FTE)	\$97,500	\$32,500	\$70,000	\$200,000
Close 1 K5 School or more				
Reduce K-5 Independent positions (2 FTE TBD)	\$75,000			\$75,000
Reduce 9-12 Independent positions (1 FTE TBD)			\$45,000	\$45,000
Reduce paras (5 paras)	\$200,000			\$200,000
Activity consolidation			\$10,000	\$10,000
Restructure PEAK program (keep 2 teachers district wide)	\$66,000		\$33,000	\$99,000
Reduce the number of ES librarians by 1 FTE				\$0
Restructure elementary PE & Music. (Reduce total 6 FTE, 3 in Music, 3 in PE)	\$396,000			\$396,000
Reduce teachers by 2 FTE. Change the student/staff ratio		\$132,000		\$132,000
Reduce 11 FTE by teaching 6 out of 7 (if needed), Keep 23 credits			\$726,000	\$726,000
Share teachers across town				
Reduce by 1 Counselor			\$66,000	\$66,000
Increase the number of ES counselors (add by 0.5 FTE)	-\$33,000			-\$33,000
Column Total	\$974,697	\$342,194	\$1,234,759	\$2,551,650