



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, August 13th, 2024
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Rachel Robison, Trustee
Janet Armstrong, Trustee

Charlie Snellman, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Adella Harris, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees

Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Lona Carter, Special Education Director
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Wynn Randall, Rossiter Elementary Principal
Lisa Cordingley, HEF Executive Director
Tim McMahon, Activities Director
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.

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

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- Recognition
 - o Facilities and Maintenance-Summer Work
 - o Janelle Mickelson & Business Office-Close-Out 2023-24/Start Up 2024-25 Budgets
 - o Karen Ogden-2024-2025 HPS District Calendar in the Independent Record
 - o Thank you, Lisa Cordingley and the Helena Education Foundation for sponsoring and organizing all the fall events.
 - o Thank you, Lisa Cordingley and the Helena Education Foundation and Jane Shawn, and the Helena Education Association for sponsoring the 2024 New Educator Orientation.
 - o Board of Public Education Visit to SACC Program-Thank You Kirstan Rousch & SACC Staff
 - o Helena Public Schools has been selected to receive the 2024 Public Sector Employer Governor's Safety Achievement Award-Thank You Neal Murray & Todd Verrill
 - o Solar Photovoltaic System-Bryant Elementary-Thank you Todd Verrill, Rob Brewer, and the amazing group of public and private partners that made this project possible.

- New Business
 - o Administrative Changes 2024-2025
 - o Lona Carter-Special Education Director
 - o Jesika Fisher-1/2 FTE Elementary Principal Hawthorne Elementary
 - o Erin Hunt-1/2 FTE Assistant Principal C.R. Anderson Middle School
 - o Brian Kessler-Principal Helena High School
 - o Abby Kuhl-Principal Warren Elementary
 - o Erin Maxwell-Assistant Principal Helena Middle School
 - o Eric Peterson-Assistant Principal Helena High School
 - o Tia Wilkins-Principal Bryant Elementary
 - o Compensation Philosophy Study with CMS
 - o HPS Hosted AA Superintendent Summer Summit
 - o Summary of 2023-2024 SY

- Outreach/Meetings
 - o Board of Health Meeting
 - o Board Leadership
 - o HPS Presented at Hometown Helena
 - o 2024 Jeremy Bullock Safe Schools Summit
 - o Rotary Club
 - o CMS Comp. Study
 - o SAM Delegate Assembly & Evening of Excellence
 - o Cabinet & Leadership
 - o All Administrators Meetings
 - o Student Board Representatives
 - o TV, Print, Radio Media
 - o SPH – Sponsorship
 - o Montana Digital Academy AI Training
- Other
 - o Administration Back – August 5th
 - o Staff Back – August 26th
 - o First Day School August 28th – Grades 1-6, 9-12 PAL, 9 graders HS, Kindersprouts
 - o First Day School August 29th – 7-8 Grade, 10-12 HS
 - o Sept 3rd Tuesday First Day Kindergarten

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.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment, and the Board of Trustees moved on to review the Item for Information.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Item for Information

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

Chief of Staff Barb Ridgway introduced Ms. Julie Mitchell who is a former Helena Public Schools Board of Trustee, and a retired teacher from the Helena Public Schools. Ms. Ridgway and Ms. Mitchell collaborated on a project regarding student recruitment and retention in the Helena Public Schools and to learn why people are choosing to educate their students in other districts and to discover if there are things that we could possibly do as a district to recruit families to remain in the district or to come back to the district. Through their research and analyzing information from OPI they learned that in the 23-24 school year 209 students

requested a boundary variance (this does not include homeschooled students.) These students were from 141 families. 40 of the 209 were first time boundary variances in 2022 or 2023. 19 of the 40 students were kindergarten aged students, 9 of whom followed older siblings. 73% of the students reside in the 59602 geographic area of HSD#1. During her research, Ms. Mitchell called a random selection of families out of the 40 students that were leaving the district for the first time to find out why their family chose to leave the district. Some of the reasons why families left our district to attend a different district was because: they live or work closer to schools in another district, there was no available seat in neighborhood school for student, they prefer a smaller “cozier” school district, they prefer a K, 1-2, 3-5 school model to a K-5 model, they heard negative talk about student safety and negative peer interactions and preemptively opted to educate elsewhere, or they were concerned about transitions to bigger middle and high schools. Families were asked if they had a “magic wand” what would they have changed in order to have stayed in our school district and their responses were: they wished there had been room in their neighborhood school classroom, they wished they knew more about the positive things going on in their neighborhood school, and they wished they knew more about steps HSD is taking around student safety and creating comfortable environments. When Ms. Mitchell looked at all the information gathered it indicated that families do not necessarily know what our schools are already doing to create a positive learning environment or a sense of belonging and support for students emotional and physical safety, as well as support during transitions between elementary and middle school and middle school and high school.

During their research, Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Ridgway discussed that there must be additional ways that we can communicate how cool and amazing our schools are and discussed that the people who work in our neighborhood schools are key to the process in creating connections with families. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Ridgway moved on to the next phase, which was inviting and engaging kindergarten aged students and their families. They began by emailing the registered childcare centers in the Helena area. The email was signed and sent by all elementary school principals inviting childcare providers to connect to elementary schools through the principal’s newsletter links (included in the email) and to schedule school tours for their students and families. They invited childcare centers to share this information with parents. Based on feedback from childcare centers, they revamped the kindergarten enrollment information page on the district website. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Ridgway sent a letter to every preregistered kindergartner stating that we were looking forward to meeting them in the fall and they all received a sticker with their school mascot. The bottom half of the letter contained a link to the principal’s and superintendent’s weekly newsletter with other important information. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Ridgway brainstormed more activities for the Week of the Young Child and Kindersprouts which created more opportunities for families to come into the schools and meet the principals. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Ridgway also reached out to homeschool families and sent them a bookmark and a letter inviting them to enroll in Mount Ascension Academy or part time enroll at HHS or CHS. So far 18 families receiving the letter have contacted the district about Mount Ascension Academy.

Ms. Mitchell stated that to increase communication to families, changes were made in Powerschool to streamline communication between principals and families, the superintendent’s weekly newsletter will be more broadly focused on K-12, there is the Superintendent’s Monthly Your Turn in the IR, the school board regularly shares recognitions of student accomplishments for grades K-12, and the district social media channels share student recognitions as well as important practical information. The elementary school

principals and central administration have created a list of strategies to increase a sense of welcome and belonging with a goal to implement this upcoming year. One of their ideas was the Board of Trustees, as a group of volunteer elected officials, could support the creation of a Helena School Volunteer Associates organization which would offer volunteer opportunities in the district for community members in order to build positive relationships between individuals and create stronger bonds between the schools and the community. Ms. Mitchell concluded her presentation by stating that we will continue to employ the identify, listen, and invite strategies focused on student recruitment. We will analyze incoming student data and investigate why those families are choosing to be educated in the Helena District and we will work through the mechanics of implementing the new legislation on tuition and billing. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Ridgway answered any questions the Board of Trustees had regarding the presentation.

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

B. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. Warrants
3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)
4. Acknowledge FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

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 Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

C. Items for Action

1. **Approval of HPS-Painters Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Background:

Pursuant to MCA 39-31-306, an agreement reached by the public employer and the exclusive representative must be reduced to writing and must be executed by both parties. The Helena

School District and District Council #82 and Local Union #1922 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades met on June 19, 2024 and on July 31, 2024 where a tentative agreement was reached with members. The District negotiation team recommends ratification.

The two (2) year agreement was open for language and wages for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. A summary of the conditions of the contract are noted below. Upon the Board's approval, a final copy will be made available electronically.

- A one year agreement for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
- The District shall continue to contribute to the employee cafeteria plan an amount of \$1,031.90 per month/\$12,382.80 for the 2024-2025 benefit year.
- The District shall provide two additional floating personal days to be used no later than June 15th annually. One floating personal day will sunset June 2025.
- Employees who have at least eighty (80) hours of accrued vacation as of May 25th, may cash out up to forty (40) hours once per year in the June pay period.
- Expansion of paid bereavement leave of up to five (5) paid days per event.
- A one and a half (1.5%) increase of \$0.41 per hour to the base wage from \$27.04 to \$27.45 per hour for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- A cell phone allowance of \$50/month will continue to be paid on a quarterly basis on a separate check.
- The total estimated salary cost of this settlement is \$1,703.18 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Considerations:

- HPS and the Painters have a collaborative relationship and productive negotiations history.
- This agreement continues to bring parity to the bargaining units within HSD that work together on facilities projects.
- This agreement supports the directive of the Board to support our staff members and address issues relative to the district budget.

Superintendent recommendation:

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

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the HPS-Painters Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented."

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve the HPS-Painters Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-Elementary Fiscal Year 2023-24

Ms. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager, presented the next four action items to the Board of Trustees, including *Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-Elementary Fiscal Year 2023-24*, *Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-High School Fiscal Year 2023-24*, *Final Budget Adoption-Elementary Fiscal Year 2024-25*, and *Final Budget Adoption-High School Fiscal Year 2024-25*, and answered any questions the trustees had regarding the four action items. Ms. Mickelson stated there is one correction: the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) did get the pension information out and she updated that information.

Background:

School districts account for the receipt and disbursement of all money belonging to the district in accordance with the methods prescribed by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). The Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS) is the annual financial report prescribed by the OPI.

Considerations:

- Pursuant 20-9-213(6), MCA, the board of trustees transmit the TFS to the county superintendent of schools no later than August 15th and to the OPI no later than September 15th.
- Trustees are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and prompt submission of the TFS.
- Subsequent amendments to the TFS made by the clerk of the district are considered officially made on behalf of the trustees.
- The deadline for amendments is December 10th.

Highlights:

- Salaries and benefits accounted for 93% of elementary general fund expenditures and 89% of high school general fund expenditures.
- Tuition revenues in the high school general fund were down approximately \$123,000 due to East Helena K-12 opening all grade levels in the high school last year.
- Several factors resulted in unanticipated underspent budget in the transportation fund as follows:
 - Leadership changes – 50% of the staff changed in FY 2023-24 and one technical position wasn't filled until early Spring.
 - Vacancy & salary savings – A new manager was hired at a lower salary. The position vacated by the new manager wasn't filled until late in the year and became a part-time rather than a full-time position.
 - Bus lanes repaved – planned projects for repaving a number of bus lanes did not occur.
 - Field trips – The District budgeted for field trips but was waiting on a legal opinion as to whether field trips are an allowable expenditure out of the transportation fund. A legal opinion has yet to be received.
 - The cash remaining from the unspent budget was transferred to the interlocal fund.
 - Approximately \$1,808,895 of one-on-one Special Education Paraprofessional salaries were spent out of the elementary tuition fund and approximately \$440,183 was spent out of the high school tuition fund.
 - All but \$244,215 of the ESSER funding has either been spent or committed. The remaining \$244,215 will be spent on Lost Learning Instruction by September 30, 2024.

- In addition to the above ESSER funding, the District has approximately \$30,034 of uncommitted ARP Homeless money to spend by September 30, 2024.
- In fiscal year 2023-24, the District and the Helena Education Association negotiated a 1.5% increase in salaries for fiscal year 2024. The cost of the increase in fiscal year 2023-24 was approximately \$583,500.
- Health benefits increased by approximately \$63 per month.
- Driver’s education expenditures outpaced revenues and approximately \$20,000 of expenditures were transferred to the interlocal fund.
- Approximately \$730,880 in technology costs were transferred to the interlocal fund. Although the elementary technology fund year-end cash balance was higher than last year (\$106,908 increase), the current levy just isn’t enough to support the technology needs of the district. The high school technology fund tends to do better financially but did receive nearly \$100,000 of support from the interlocal fund.
- The District received \$215,423.71 in Advanced Opportunity Aid. The grant money is accounted for in the flexibility fund and is used to reduce student and family out-of-pocket costs for AP exams, dual credit classes and other course fees and for the enhancement of career and technical education programs.
- The small year-end cash balance of \$80,805.93 in the building fund reflects that all projects have been substantially completed. The remaining balance will be used to complete door automation for Kessler Entry 9 and to complete the replacement of Entry 14 at CR Anderson.
- Major projects funded by the building reserve fund included: Smith Elementary re-roof, Capital High School partial re-roof, various repair & maintenance projects at Helena High School (basketball court upgrade, carpet & tile replacement, fire escape repairs and partial re-roof), bathroom upgrades at HMS, CRA, HHS, and CHS, and outdoor basketball court renovations at Helena Middle School.
- At year-end, after all cash transfers, the interlocal fund had an ending fund balance of \$6,962,233 of which \$736,182 is earmarked for school building budgets.

Superintendent recommendation:

Certify the Trustees’ Financial Summary and direct the clerk of the district to submit the report to the county superintendent of schools and to the Office of Public Instruction.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item *Certify the Trustees’ Financial Summary-Elementary Fiscal Year 2023-24.*”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the action item *Certify the Trustees’ Financial Summary-Elementary Fiscal Year 2023-24.* Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote: 5-0 motion carries unanimously. *(Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh did not vote as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district and this action item is for the elementary district).*

3. **Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-High School Fiscal Year 2023-24**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item *Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-High School Fiscal Year 2023-24*, as presented."

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the action item *Certify the Trustees' Financial Summary-High School Fiscal Year 2023-24*. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

4. **Final Budget Adoption-Elementary Fiscal Year 2024-25**

Ms. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager, shared highlights for the 2024-2025 budget for various accounts including the general fund, transportation, tuition, retirement, adult education, technology, flexibility, debt service, and the building reserve. Ms. Mickelson also discussed salary increases/decreases, health benefits, and other budgeted increases such as utilities and property and liability insurance. Ms. Mickelson answered any questions the Board of Trustees had regarding the final budget adoption for the elementary and high school fiscal year 2024-25.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item: *Final Budget Adoption-Elementary Fiscal Year 2024-25*:

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve the action item, *Final Budget Adoption-Elementary Fiscal Year 2024-25*. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote: 5-0 motion carries unanimously. *(Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh did not vote as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district and this action item is for the elementary district).*

5. **Final Budget Adoption-High School Fiscal Year 2024-25**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item: *Final Budget Adoption-High School Fiscal Year 2024-25*:

Motion: Trustee Jennifer Walsh moved to approve the action item, *Final Budget Adoption-High Fiscal Year 2024-25*. Trustee Kay Satre 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 Report**

Mr. Charlie Snellman, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave his Student Representative Report. Mr. Snellman commented, “Summer has been great and students from Capital High can be seen working in the Helena community, traveling abroad, recreating on Montana public lands and lakes, and enjoying time with friends and family. With the school year fast approaching, students are wrapping up (or more realistically just now starting) their summer assignments and research projects. At school, Mr. Zanto and other staff have been hard at work preparing for the new year and finalizing schedules. As of August 9th, approximately 1,344 students are enrolled at Capital High. 347 freshmen, 356 sophomores, 344 juniors, and 297 seniors. Underclassmen make up 52.3% of the student population with the remaining 47.7% being upperclassmen. Luckily, there were few changes to staff at Capital High. The few new teachers at Capital moved from other in-district schools and we have one new teacher filling in for a staff member on sabbatical leave during the first semester. I am also excited to say that the new director of orchestras at CHS is Kevin Cleary, who used to be my middle school orchestra teacher. I am looking forward to orchestra my senior year with him on the podium. On Wednesday, August 28th, before the official first day of school, we will welcome our 347 freshman students at Bruin Beginnings. Our youngest bruins will receive a tour, schedules, textbooks, lockers, and Chromebooks in the morning. Most of their day will be guided by upperclassman Link Leaders who are familiar with and active at Capital. An added feature this year is that all freshman students will take the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Assessment in the afternoon. Students will use their new Chromebooks to take both the math and reading diagnostic. The data from the assessment will be used to guide any possible course-level changes to help ensure that students will have the most successful freshman year possible. This early assessment also allows teachers to tailor instruction to meet individual needs, address learning gaps, and provide targeted support for freshman as they transition to CHS. Other students at CHS have been seizing opportunities to help their community this summer. Elaina Edwards, a CHS HOSA member hosted her 3rd blood drive, and her 4th is scheduled for January 2nd. So far, Elaina has helped the American Red Cross to collect a total of 82 units of lifesaving blood during an emergency time of need. CHS National Honor Society is gathering a database of opportunities to volunteer and increased their hours requirement from 10 to 20 hours of service per semester. This increase will not only help the community in monumental ways but serve as networking opportunities to connect CHS students with the greater Helena community. The Student Council is also looking forward to hosting dances and social events. Many sports teams have continued to meet for off-season training all summer. On behalf of the staff and students of Capital High, we are looking forward to another great and action-packed school year!”

Ms. Adella Harris, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, gave her Student Representative Report. Ms. Harris commented, “Helena High is approaching the 24-25 school year at full charge with staff working hard, athletes making the preparations, students enjoying their last few weeks of summer, all with new principal Brian Kessler leading

the way. Bengal counseling staff has been working hard to finalize and clean up student schedules, helping to set up pathways for success in every aspect that piques their student's interest. Professional development meetings are underway as educators prepare for the coming school year. Custodial crews are busy getting rooms and hallways clean and prepared for the students and staff about to roam the halls in just a few short weeks. We would like to give a huge shout out to our custodial staff for the work they have completed all summer. It is not an easy task to work in a hot building scraping wax, moving classrooms, and doing all of the necessary things to have classrooms and a large school ready for school to start, but our crew has done an amazing job of taking pride in their work and making sure our building is ready to go. Thank you to our Office Manager, Ms. Rainey for helping to keep the building running and fielding plenty of phone calls over the summer to help register new students, answer questions on when everything will be happening in the fall, and helping to ensure our building is ready to go for the coming school year. Our students' involvement in their activities doesn't stop when the school year ends. Their passion for what they believe in, and their talents keep them involved and active in the community. Helena High's new Student Council Officers have made it a priority to get a jumpstart on the school year. The team has met throughout the summer and is currently busy planning the HHS homecoming activities and events. Members of Helena High's choir have joined together and started a band over the summer. In June, members of the Bengals speech and debate team traveled to Iowa to compete in Nationals. The team also held mini day camps for team members and incoming freshman. As for our Bengal Athletics, our teams have made it a priority to put in the work to prepare for the fall season, as well as making their mark in the community. Throughout the summer the women's volleyball team has held weekly workouts, open-gym, and Friday yoga. They have had many new recruits, a large majority being the incoming class of 2028. The Lady Bengals Soccer team have been practicing three days a week all summer to focus on preparing their bodies and most importantly building a team connection. The men's team has been doing the same, working five days a week for the upcoming season. The Helena High women's and men's golf team has been able to practice and play every Thursday thanks to the kindness of local courses Green Meadow and Bill Roberts. The Helena High Football team has held workouts every morning throughout the summer. The team has attended football camp at MSU in June and players volunteered to help St. Peter's shovel bark and gravel for a new playground at Ray Bjork Learning Center. The Bengals cross-country team has been meeting five days a week since January 26, seeing more consistency in their team than any prior season. The team is expecting more than 70 runners this fall, making it the largest team in recent memory. As the school year approaches, there are a few traditional back to school events that will be happening:

- The annual Booster BBQ will take place on August 24 from 11-2, stop by and reconnect with those who you may not have seen for a while, or enjoy a burger or hot dog from the administrators
- Student schedule pickups/release will be on August 21, 22, and 23
- Staff is back on campus officially starting on August 26
- We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2028 for our annual Bengal Beginnings Day on August 28!

Lastly, Principal Brian Kessler is passionate to focus on family engagement throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Willing and ready to look at what are "we", Helena High, doing well? What can we improve, and how can we do it effectively? He is meeting with individuals and students from every corner of Helena High effectively adapting to our Bengal Family. HHS is

prepared, excited, and eager to welcome the upcoming school year with open arms.”

2. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn, HEA President, gave the Helena Education Association report. Ms. Shawn commented, “Kyla Owen who is a kindergarten teacher at Rossiter, was awarded the \$24,000 grant from the American Federation of Teachers. It centers around technology and expanding technology and AI knowledge, and she'll be interviewing teachers for the first round of the grant opportunity and then they'll expand every year for three years. In June, Erika McMillin and I went to a Power Worker training provided by MFPE and the National Education Association. It provided us with more guidance and support on member outreach and through some grant money from this training HEA is holding three events specifically for our para educators to build their voice and hear their issues, and one of them was today. In July, Kim Stout and I attended the NEA Representative Assembly in Philadelphia. Also in July, Kellen Alger, attended the AFT conference in Houston. The AFT meets to complete their business every other year and they usually have a very distinguished keynote speaker, and this year Kamala Harris spoke to members just a couple of days after she became the apparent Democratic nominee for the presidency. At the beginning of August, many HEA members attended the first annual Feaver Fest, which was held in honor of the late Eric Feaver, past president of both MFPE and HEA, it was a great time in Women's Park. It was really the first major fundraiser for the Montana Federation of Public Employees newly formed foundation, and that foundation is going to support public service workers. Two days later, HEA members marched in the Pride parade in Helena, along with MFPE delegation, and we saw lots of employees and students lining the parade route. Maria Foot and Jake West have been developing a new mentor training for the mentors in our buildings, and they're going to deliver that training on the morning of the 23rd before the mentors work with their mentees that afternoon for the new teacher day. Many teachers attended conferences this summer, I haven't heard about them all, but I usually do in September. Currently Kim Stout is in Chicago. She was invited by AFT to go to a Microsoft AI Conference. Teachers and para educators across the district are attending professional development activities this week and next. Many are also back in their classrooms, getting ready for new students. I have met one on one with several of our new educators and will be attending the orientation meeting and the new educator day on the 23rd. I am excited about that because I get to be the MC on the tour train.”

3. Facilities and Technology Committee Report

There was no Facilities and Technology Committee report this evening.

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report

There was no Budget and Finance Committee report this evening.

5. Policy Committee Report

There was no Policy Committee report this evening.

6. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
There was no Teaching & Learning Committee report this evening.

7. Health Benefits Committee Report
There was no Health Benefits Committee report this evening.

8. Wellness Committee Report
There was no Wellness Committee report this evening.

9. Montana School Boards Association Report
There was no Montana School Boards Association Report this evening.

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

VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

- Tuesday, September 2nd, Policy Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Wednesday, September 3rd, Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Monday, September 9th, Facilities & Technology Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, September 10th, Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, September 10th, Full Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, September 24th, Board of Trustees Work Session, Central Elementary, Time TBD

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Superintendent Weltz stated that we will be holding a Board of Trustees Orientation next month where trustees will be able to meet the staff of various district departments and find out more about what their role is in the district. Chair Hathhorn stated that she will be emailing the trustees to see if their preference is to meet at noon or 4:00 p.m. for the Board Work Sessions this year, or if they would like to alternate monthly between the two-time options.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary Date