



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

11:30 a.m. Tour of Rossiter Elementary followed by
Business & TEAMS Portion of the Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Linda Cleatus, Trustee	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Rachel Robison, Trustee	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Kay Satre, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Jake Atherton, Senior Network Administrator
Charlie Snellman, Student Board Representative	Jane Shawn, HEA President
Jennifer McKee, Board Vice Chair	Wynn Randall, Rossiter Principal
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee	Kathleen Prody, C.R. Anderson Principal
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Several Guests of the Public
	Several Rossiter Elementary Staff Members

I. **CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn reviewed the agenda with the Board of Trustees and there were no suggested changes.

The Board of Trustees moved on to General Public Comment.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

The Board of Trustees moved on to view a presentation given by Principal Wynn Randall, Principal of Rossiter Elementary School.

IV. PRESENTATION

Principal Wynn Randall shared a brochure detailing information about Rossiter Elementary School and reviewed the details of the brochure with the Board of Trustees. The brochure begins with the mission of Rossiter Elementary. Rossiter's mission is to challenge and empower each student to respect themselves and become successful lifelong learners in a safe and positive environment. Rossiter's vision is to foster dynamic educational experiences that prepare all students for life. Next, Principal Randall discussed family engagement at Rossiter which includes various events such as:

- Jump Start
- Home Visits
- Open House
- Walk to School Day
- Movie Nights
- Family Nights
- Ice Cream Social
- Shiver Shack
- Week of the Young Child
- Governor Cup Run
- Game Nights
- Book Walks
- 5th Grade Hot Air Balloon Release
- School BBQ
- Baseball Night
- Field Day

Next, Principal Randall discussed academic performance at Rossiter Elementary School and reviewed iReady reading and iReady math data with the Board of Trustees. Principal Randall shared the action plan goals with the group. Rossiter students will increase their iReady reading scores by 40% for 75% proficiency on the spring 2024 iReady benchmarking assessment. Rossiter students will increase their iReady math scores by 54% for 70% proficiency on the spring 2024 iReady benchmarking assessment. Rossiter staff will use PAX

strategies to decrease disruptive behaviors as recorded through QR code by spring 2024 tracked data.

Principal Randall shared the school demographics at Rossiter Elementary School.

- Kindergarten (2 classrooms) 41 students
- 1st Grade (3 classrooms) 53 students
- 2nd Grade (3 classrooms) 49 students
- 3rd Grade (3 classrooms) 82 students
- 4th Grade (2 classrooms) 56 students
- 5th Grade (2 classrooms) 57 students
- Pre-K SPED (1 classroom) 18 students
- Kindersprouts (1 classroom) 29 students

Total Enrollment 385 students

PEAK (2) 4 Days/Week 124 Week

Principal Randall shared additional demographic information with the Board of Trustees:

- Free and Reduced-149 students
- Kid Packs-130 students
- Students with IEP's-38 students
- Students Receiving Speech-53 students
- Students on 504 Plans-7 students
- IEFA-23 students
- Mckinney Vento-25 students

The group engaged in a thorough discussion of the iReady Math assessment, during which Principal Randall addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding his presentation. The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Consent Action Items.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Approval of Multidistrict Cooperative Agreement 2025-2027
2. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
3. Personnel Actions

The trustees engaged in a thorough discussion regarding attendance agreements before proceeding to vote on the consent action items.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, commented. “I would entertain a motion for 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: 8-0 motion carries unanimously.

The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Item for Information.

B. Item for Information

1. EPA Community Change Grant Presentation

The Board of Trustees reviewed an Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program presentation given by Facilities Director Todd Verrill. Mr. Verrill noted that two billion dollars in awards are available, with applications due by November 21, 2024. The Community Change Grant was created as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022. It is intended to fund community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation. Focus areas include reducing and preventing pollution, building resilience to climate change, enhancing meaningful involvement in government processes, expanding access to high-quality jobs, and ensuring local residents receive the benefits of investments. Mr. Verrill stated that the grant requires a statutory partner, and the Helena Public Schools chose Northern Plains Resource Council (a community-based organization) as their statutory partner. The local affiliate for Northern Plains Resource Council is the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council. They are assisting the district in preparing the application, while we are collaborating with other community partners who are providing support in areas such as research, moral encouragement, and letters of recommendation, among others. These additional community partners are the Helena Indian Alliance, St. Peter’s Health (tentative), MT DEQ (tentative), and the City of Helena (tentative). Our technical business partners that we are working with include Slate Architecture and Ameresco.

Next, Mr. Verrill reviewed the EPA disadvantaged communities map with the Board of Trustees. The target schools addressed in this map that we are focusing on include Four Georgians Elementary School, Helena Middle School, and Rossiter Elementary School. Other schools within the designated disadvantaged community map include Capital High School and Helena High School (potential bonding within the next five years), Warren (potential site of new school within the next ten years), and Central and Bryant (both are new schools). Mr. Verrill reviewed proposed upgrades for the target schools:

- HVAC Systems
 - High efficiency system to include heat pumps
 - Air conditioning
 - Air filtration to improve indoor air quality
- Solar
 - 50Kw systems
 - Preferably roof-mounted
- LED
 - Full fixture replacement
 - Wireless controls

Mr. Verrill explained that the application will also include items such as project management, district indirect costs, and fees for professional grant consultation. Mr. Verrill moved on to review the climate action and pollution reduction requirements of the application. We are considered a Track 1 applicant, and each application for Track 1 must address one of each of these categories:

Climate Action Strategy

1. Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions
2. Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience
3. **Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings**
4. Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience
5. Community Resilience Hubs
6. Brownfields Redevelopment
7. Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy
8. Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce GHG Emissions and Air Pollutants

Pollution Reduction Strategy

1. **Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements**
2. Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
3. Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience
4. Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Under the category of *Climate Action Strategy* our district will be addressing item number 3: *Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings*, and under the category of *Pollution Reduction Strategy* our district will be addressing item number 1: *Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements*.

Mr. Verrill discussed how HVAC upgrades would be included in the *Climate Action Strategy number 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings* and would include electrification, low or zero-emission technology, and ventilation and for *Pollution Reduction Strategy number 1: Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements* HVAC upgrades would include high efficiency HVAC, filtration systems, and ventilation systems. Mr. Verrill discussed how replacing old HVAC systems in schools can significantly enhance energy efficiency in several ways and elaborated on each category including: modern technology, better efficiency ratings, improved controls, enhanced filtration, reduced maintenance needs, integration with renewable energy, decreased energy consumption, improved comfort and air quality, and longer lifespan of systems. By investing in modern HVAC systems, schools can enhance energy efficiency, reduce costs, and create a better environment for learning.

Mr. Verrill moved on to discuss how solar would be included in the *Climate Action Strategy number 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings* by providing reduced energy consumption and costs, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Verrill discussed how installing solar panels in schools can significantly improve energy efficiency and offer various benefits including: reduced energy costs, sustainable energy source, energy independence, educational opportunities, improved energy efficiency, and funding and grants. By harnessing solar energy, schools can not only improve their energy efficiency but also foster a culture of sustainability, benefiting both the environment and the educational community.

Mr. Verrill moved on to discuss how LED lighting would be included in the *Climate Action Strategy number 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings* through reduced energy consumption and costs, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Verrill discussed LED lighting upgrades and explained how replacing fluorescent lights with LED lights in schools can significantly enhance energy efficiency through several key benefits including: lower energy consumption, longer lifespan, reduced heat emission, instant on/off, and dimmability.

To conclude his presentation, Mr. Verrill presented a cost estimate for the HVAC, solar, and lighting projects at Four Georgians Elementary School, Rossiter Elementary School, and Helena Middle School. He also addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding his presentation.

The Board of Trustees moved on to hear any final board comments.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further board comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary