



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, November 26th, 2024

3:30 p.m. Tour of C.R. Anderson Middle School followed by
Business & TEAMS Portion of the Meeting at 4:00 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	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Charlie Snellman, Student Board Representative	Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director
	Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
	Sol Jones, C.R. Anderson Assistant Principal
	Erin Hunt, C.R. Anderson Assistant Principal
	Kathleen Prody, C.R. Anderson Principal
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Todd Verill, Facilities Director
	Hanna Warhank, Guest of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 4:04 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 Kathleen Prody, Principal of C.R. Anderson Middle School.

IV. PRESENTATION

Principal Kathleen Prody shared a brochure detailing information about C.R. Anderson Middle School and reviewed the details of the brochure with the Board of Trustees. The brochure begins with the mission of C.R. Anderson Middle School. C.R. Anderson Middle School's mission is to provide a positive environment where staff, parents, and the community work together to prepare students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of society. C.R. Anderson supports their mission through rigorous academic offerings, student social activities, student performances, student community, service, academic and social emotional supports, and through leadership opportunities for our students. Some examples of that are included below:

Sports: Girls' Volleyball, Cross Country, Wrestling, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Basketball, and Track

Clubs: Chess-6 & 8, Minecraft, Code Girls-All Grades, Dungeons and Dragons-8th, Mann Gulch-8th, Ping Pong-8th, Star Based Advanced-6th, Talent Search-All Grades, VOT-All Grades, Weightlifting-All Grades

Academic Support: ASK-After School Kids, Academic Assistance, IEFA, CAPS, and Study Skills

Student Council: School Dances, Staff Appreciation, Spirit Weeks, and Leadership

WEB Leaders: Leadership, Mentoring, and Hospitality

Principal Prody moved on to review assessment scores in iReady for both reading and math and action plan goals at C.R. Anderson Middle School including:

MTSS: Professional development in Tier I and II strategies will increase school wide fidelity leading to a 15% decrease in office referrals.

Math: 62% of students in grade 7 will demonstrate annual typical growth as measured by the iReady winter/spring benchmark assessment.

Reading: 60% of all students will demonstrate annual typical growth as measured by the iReady winter/spring benchmark assessment.

Family Engagement: Family engagement will increase by 25% for student awards assemblies as measured by visitor count. Family engagement includes parent teacher conferences, open houses, field trip chaperones, ski trips, and parent council.

SEL Goal: 100% of students will articulate what it means to be a cooperative, respectful, achiever in the school setting.

Next, Principal Prody shared demographics for C.R. Anderson Middle School:

Gifted & Talented: Grade 6 (18 students), Grade 7 (13 students), Grade 8 (29 students).

IEFA: Grade 6 (11 students), Grade 7 (10 students), Grade 8 (8 students).

Free & Reduced (28%): Free-248 students, Reduced-25 students.

McKinney Vento (24): Grade 6 (9 students), Grade 7 (8 students), Grade 8 (7 students).

Food Share: 55 per week.

Paraeducators: 6, Custodians: 6, Food Service: 4, Secretaries: 4, Librarians: 2, Counselors: 4, School Psyc: 1, Speech Path: 1.

Grade (FTE)	Enrollment-969
6 th (15.15)	308
7 th (15.33)	307
8 th (17.17)	354
Special Education (FTE 6) 15%	504 (7%)
Total Students: 148	Total Students: 63
6 th : 51	6th: 23
7 th : 47	7th: 19
8 th : 43	8th: 22
Speech IEP: 7	

Principal Prody concluded her presentation by providing an overview of the assessment scores for the 2023-24 SBAC, as well as the iReady results for both reading and mathematics. She also addressed a series of questions raised by the Board of Trustees. The

discussion that followed was both insightful and thorough, covering a range of topics including typical and stretch growth metrics and the rigorous process of implementing the newly introduced MAST testing. The MAST testing, introduced this year, was recognized as a demanding process for both staff and students.

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

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. 10.22.24 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
3. Consider Approval of MTSUIP Multi-District Participation Agreement
4. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, commented. "I would entertain a motion for the Consent Action Items as presented."

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

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

B. Items for Action

1. Policy 3015: Attendance and Truancy

Ms. Ridgway informed the Board of Trustees that, moving forward, she will begin sharing policies that have been reviewed by the committee but remain unchanged. Additionally, she indicated that, in accordance with legal counsel, she will no longer bring policies solely for the purpose of updating legal references before the Board. Instead, any necessary adjustments to legal references will be made directly, without requiring formal Board approval.

Ms. Ridgway presented Policy 3015: Attendance and Truancy for action to the Board of Trustees. Notable updates to the policy included the incorporation of relevant citations from the Montana Code Annotated, as well as the addition of

cross-references to Policies 3010 and 3141. Ms. Ridgway addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the policy.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, commented. "I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 3015: Attendance and Truancy* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Janet Armstrong moved to approve *Policy 3015: Attendance and Truancy* as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. **Policy 3020: Education of Homeless Youth**

Ms. Ridgway presented *Policy 3020: Education of Homeless Youth* for action to the Board of Trustees. The policy was revised to reflect updated language. Ms. Ridgway addressed questions from the trustees regarding the policy.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, commented. "I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 3020: Education of Homeless Youth* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Janet Armstrong moved to approve *Policy 3020: Education of Homeless Youth* as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. **Policy 3023: Education of Children in Foster Care**

Ms. Ridgway presented *Policy 3023: Education of Children in Foster Care* for action to the Board of Trustees. The policy was revised to reflect updated language. Ms. Ridgway addressed questions from the trustees regarding the policy.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair, commented. "I would entertain a motion to approve *Policy 3023: Education of Children in Foster Care* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve *Policy 3023: Education of Children in Foster Care* as presented. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

The trustees engaged in a brief discussion regarding the EPA grant, focusing on the submission timeline and the expected date for the district to receive notification of the grant's approval status. They expressed their gratitude to Facilities Director Todd Verrill, as well as the various community groups and individuals who contributed to the completion of the grant application.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathorn adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary