



Board of Trustees Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

12:00pm

Lincoln Center & TEAMS

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Trustees:

Kay Satre, Committee Chair
Rachel Robison, Trustee

Others:

Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director
Ashlie Buresh, TOSA
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs Director
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Teal Hatten, TOSA
Katie Literski, TOSA
Jessica Brunett, Behavior Specialist
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Committee Chair Kay Satre. Following the call to order, members of the Teaching and Learning Committee and other attendees introduced themselves.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed and accepted the minutes from the 11.06.24 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Student Health Services & Special Education Update

Ms. Lona Carter, Student Health Services and Special Education Director, shared a Student Health Services and Special Education update with the Teaching and Learning Committee. Ms. Carter began by introducing the members of her team and their roles in the Special Education Department. Next, Ms. Carter shared data displaying the number of special education students that we serve districtwide and explained the various Special Education District Programs that our district offers including Bryant PBS, Central FLS, 4Gs FLS, Preschool, Trailhead, Day Treatment, PAL, Mount Ascension in both the middle schools and the high schools, and the Montessori program.

Next, Ms. Carter shared special education important projects to date including an audit by the OPI SPED Department with teacher trainings and support, Child Find process, PreK Behavior Intervention Program with parent education component, Pre-ETs programming at all three high schools, bi-weekly in-person meeting at every school site, quarterly para meetings in all school sites, development of Unified PE classes at all three high schools, development and implementation of ASEB referral form, developed a universal Helena Public Schools data collection form, developed a universal Helena Public Schools restraint/escort form, Mount Ascension Learning Academy case management, mentoring new case managers and instructional interventionists, Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) trainings, regular education SPED training, and updated Medicaid billings processes.

Ms. Carter shared the list of our Student Health Services partners:

- Pureview added to HMS, as well as CHS and PAL
- HIA at HHS and CRA, adding the Resiliency Lab at HHS
- Shodair continues to support HMS, Bryant, Hawthorne, Kessler, and Warren
- AWARE continues to support at Broadwater and CRA
- RBHI continues to provide screening and case management (6-12)
- PAXIS through UM continues to provide coaching and funding (K-5)
- The Stronger Together OPI Grant supports MTSS-B Training and Coaching (K-8) as well as teacher trainings around mental health (PreK-12th)
- Communities That Care Coalition supports 6th grade Career Exploration, 7th Grade Financial Literacy Course, and Growing UP Helena Initiative
- MT Cares App supported by StopIt

- Myrna Loy K-5 Mental Health and Arts workshops created to support SEL
- Montana Health Care Foundation ongoing support through:
 - MT School Based Health Leaders
 - MT Community Schools Coalition
 - Sponsoring SBH National Conference presentation, July 2025 and grant funding

Ms. Carter shared Student Health Services information and data with the Teaching and Learning Committee:

- OPI Stronger Together Grant in 2nd year (K-8)
- Implementing Character Strong (K-8)
- Tier 2 SEL Screener replaces BASC-BESS
- Tier 2 Student Interventions being employed
- Collaboration with Curriculum and Data and Assessment Departments

Continued Interventions and SEL Curriculum:

- PAX (K-5)
- Second Step (K-8)
- SOS (MS & 11th)
- YAM (9th)
- QPR (10th)

Ms. Carter concluded her presentation by sharing continued district needs for student health services including K-5 Case Management and Mental Health Supports, Behavioral Support Teams in every building, District Crisis Response Team(s), Universal Tier 1 Support Systems, and robust Tier 2 & 3 Interventions. Ms. Lona shared hopes for the program including grant funding from the MT Opioid Abatement Trust, universal PreK state funding, and future generations state funding for school-based health needs.

Ms. Carter addressed questions the Teaching and Learning Committee had about any of the information presented today.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Satre commented that the establishment of on-site healthcare facilities for students, particularly in our high schools and middle schools, is a significant development. The fact that students now have direct access to healthcare services on campus—something that has only been implemented in recent years—is truly amazing.

To conclude the meeting, Ms. Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director, provided the committee with a summary of the "Science of Reading: Montana Legislative Insights Evening" event.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m. by Committee Chair Kay Satre.