



*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 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

12:00pm

Lincoln Center & TEAMS

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### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Others:</i>
Kay Satre, Committee Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Rachel Robison, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director
	Valice Stevens, Administrative Assistant
	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs Director
	Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff

#### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 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 12.4.24 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

### V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

#### A. Accreditation Process and the Graduate Profile

Mr. Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent of Helena Public Schools, presented to the Teaching and Learning Committee on the Office of Public Instruction's (OPI) accreditation process and the associated graduate profile. Mr. McKay began by reviewing the proposed FY2025 Accreditation Status Criteria Reference Guide, a document from the OPI outlining the framework for accreditation. He explained that the accreditation process is based on both assurance and performance standards, which collectively determine the district's accreditation category. The guide also includes detailed information on the final determination of accreditation status (per ARM 10.55.605), an overview of the 2023-2024 process, and the related assurances and scoring criteria. Mr. McKay further discussed the district's use of planning documents and narratives to meet assurance standards in the context of accreditation.

Mr. McKay then moved on to discuss the Helena Public Schools (HPS) graduate profile and the policies that support it, specifically *Policy 1015: Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles*, and *Policy 2423: Personalized Learning Opportunities*. He shared a document with the committee titled *Portrait of a Graduate*, which outlines the guiding principles and personalized learning elements integral to the profile. Guiding principles for the *Portrait of a Graduate* states that each student enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle, learns in an intellectually challenging environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults, is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community, has access to personalized learning and to qualified, caring adults, and is prepared for success in college or further study and for employment in a global environment.

The personalized learning section of the *Portrait of a Graduate* outlines that Helena Public Schools will develop individualized pathways for career and postsecondary educational opportunities that honor individual interests, passions, strengths, needs, and culture. HPS will support the student through the development of relationships among teachers, family, peers, the business community, postsecondary education officials, and other community stakeholders. HPS will embed community-based, experiential, online, and work-based learning opportunities. HPS will foster a learning environment that incorporates both face-to-face and virtual connections and will support transformational learning through the development of individual learning plans for participating students.

Mr. McKay concluded his presentation by sharing information about the advanced opportunities grant in the Helena School District for grades 9-12 which we currently have. The Advanced Opportunities Grant in the Helena School District for Grades 9-12 provides funding to reduce student and family costs for educational opportunities. The grant, amounting to around \$200,000 annually, covers 75% of expenses like AP test fees and online course fees. The remaining 25% supports career and technical education (CTE) expenses, including materials, safety equipment, and certifications. This funding helps make advanced courses more accessible and offsets costs associated with college credit and CTE programs, benefiting students' academic and career preparation.

Mr. McKay shared that at the next Board of Trustees full board meeting we will be asking the board for approval of an Advanced Opportunities Grant in the Helena School District for grades 6-8. This grant is similar to the one for high school students but focuses on middle school. While the grant currently does not have state funding, the district anticipates that the legislature may fund it, and they want to have a pre-approved plan in place. The grant would support initiatives like career exploration, financial literacy, and career fairs, as well as enhance career preparation software and CTE programs for middle school students. If funded, it will provide valuable resources for these programs.

Mr. McKay invited and addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee, clarifying any aspects of the process or materials presented.

#### **VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no further board comments.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m. by Committee Chair Kay Satre.