

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, March 5th, 2025 12:00pm Lincoln Center & TEAMS

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Trustees: Others:

Jennifer McKee, Board Vice Chair Rex Weltz, Superintendent Rachel Robison, Trustee Jane Shawn, HEA President

Kay Satre, Committee Chair Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent

Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director 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

Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff

Tim McMahon, Activities Director

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Committee Chair Kay Satre.

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 2.5.25 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Review Action Plan

Curriculum Director Justine Alberts provided an update on the district's action plan, highlighting the progress made and ongoing efforts. The team has been working towards student achievement goals, with some targets set for completion by 2026. These goals are part of the larger framework of initiatives aimed at improving student outcomes through various applications and strategies. Ms. Alberts emphasized the completion of certain items on the action plan, particularly in the areas of standards and curriculum. While two items have been checked off, others are ongoing, and progress continues to be monitored. One key aspect of the plan was the self-assessment conducted as part of the accreditation process, which has now been finalized and submitted. Additionally, building principals, district-level administrators, and instructional staff continue to collaborate regularly, meeting twice a month to review progress and refine strategies. Data-driven decision-making remains a central focus, with continued assessment and review of instructional practices. The leadership teams have been actively using data to guide conversations with principals, ensuring alignment with the district's goals. Ms. Alberts and her team regularly participate in school leadership team meetings to support the development of individual building action plans. Efforts to engage families and the community are ongoing, with monthly activities, such as recent family engagement events. There is also a continued focus on student well-being, with collaboration across departments and regular meetings of counselors to ensure coordinated support for students. Ms. Alberts addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee regarding the action plan.

B. Winter Benchmark Data Review

The Teaching and Learning Committee reviewed a winter benchmark data presentation given by Ms. Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs Director and Ms. Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director. The winter benchmark serves as a growth checkpoint for academic achievement. The purpose is to measure student's growth from fall to winter to assess if they are on track for the end of the year. It is a time to pause, investigate, reflect, and adjust instructional decision making for students. The data shows information such as % meeting typical growth which is the % of students meeting 100% of typical growth. Students are given a growth score based on the average student growth. Teachers should set goals with students to exceed 100% of their typical growth. It also shows information for the % proficient which is the % of students that are on or above grade level performance standards. Next is grade level (math and reading)-this measurement evaluates the progress of students in each grade level. The body of students changes from year to year in the grade level. This helps to evaluate the program of instruction

within the grade level, regardless of the students. Lastly is cohort (math and reading)-student cohorts track the progress of the same group of students as they progress through grade levels.

The committee reviewed data for the following: Acadience Reading Fall to Winter Growth 2024-25, % On or Above Benchmark Trends-Acadience Reading, iReady Winter % Meeting Typical Growth Reading Trends by Grade Level, iReady Winter % Meeting Typical Growth Math Trends by Grade Level, iReady % Meeting Typical Growth Trends by Cohort-Reading, iReady Winter % Meeting Typical Growth Trends by Cohort-Math, iReady Winter % Proficient by Grade Level Trends-Reading, iReady Winter % Proficient by Grade Level Trends-Reading, and iReady Winter % Proficient Trends by Cohort-Math. Ms. Alberts and Ms. Hess addressed questions the Teaching and Learning Committee had regarding the winter benchmark data review.

Ms. Alberts concluded the presentation by providing curriculum updates and work happening for ELA, Math, and Social Studies for all grade levels.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further board comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m. by Committee Chair Kay Satre.