



Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025

Kessler Elementary School

2420 Choteau St., Helena, MT 59601

& Via TEAMS

4:00 p.m. Business & TEAMS Portion
of the Meeting

Members of the public can attend in person or remotely by clicking the link below:

[Join the meeting now](#)

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.

IV. PRESENTATION

Principal Riley Thatcher, Kessler Elementary School

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. 3.25.25 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
4. Acknowledge FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

B. Item For Information

1. Update on RFP for Medical/Dental/Vision & Rx-Richard Franco, Human Resource Benefits Manager

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

Item I.

☒ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Presentation

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Information

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

Item II.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☒ Review of Agenda

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Presentation

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Information

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: Review of Agenda

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item III.

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☒ General Public Comment

☐ Presentation

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Information

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: **General Public Comment**

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

Item IV.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ General Public Comment

☒ Presentation

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Information

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: **Presentation**
Principal Riley Thatcher, Kessler Elementary School

Services

Free and Reduced Lunch - 81
Kid Packs – 48
New Shoe Program - 118
Students with IEP's - 41
Students receiving Speech - 54
Students on 504 Plans - 8
Indian Education Tutoring -11
McKinney Vento - 16
CSCT Services - 14
Afterschool Tutoring - 8

School Demographics

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Kindergarten – 37
First – 38
Second – 33
Third – 49
Fourth – 26
Fourth/Fifth Combo – 25
Fifth – 30
Total Enrollment - 238

Kessler Elementary

Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be a Learner
ROAR...



.....

Commitment

Jobs Program – 47
Conflict Managers – 21
Book Pals – 12
Read Dog
Composting
PAX Assemblies
Tootle Ticket Drawings
Schoolwide Granny Wacky Prizes





24-25 ACTION PLAN

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MATH GOAL: By the end of the year, at least 90 1st-5th grade students will move a tier as measured by iReady math data.

EXTENSION: By the end of the year, tier 3 will decrease from 14% to 9%.

ELA GOAL #1: By the end of the year, at least 55 2nd-5th grade students will move a tier as measured by iReady reading data

ELA GOAL #2: By the end of the year at least 25 K-1 students will move a tier as measured by Acadience reading data.

EXTENSION: By the end of the year, well below benchmark will decrease by 10%.
By the end of the year, below benchmark will decrease by 10%.

CONNECTION

Open House

Number Sense Backpacks

Family Game Night

One School One Book

Trunk or Treat

Winter Extravaganza

Coffee with the Principal

CHS Basketball Game

Parent College 101

Kessler Carnival

Family Folk Dance Night

Storytime with the Principal

Parent College 201

Kindergarten Jumpstart

Mt. Wild Fishing Night

Career & College Readiness

Kessler BBQ

Field Day

.....

GRANT DOLLARS
AWARDED SINCE
2022

\$30,810

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

Item V.A.1 - A.4

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
-
- ☐
- Review of Agenda
-
- ☐
- General Public Comment
-
- ☐
- Presentation
-
- ☒
- Consent Action Items
-
- ☐
- Item For Information
-
- ☐
- Board/Superintendent Comments
-
- ☐
- Adjournment

Item Title: **Consent Action Items**

1. Personnel Actions

2. 3.25.25 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes

3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)

4. Acknowledge FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Robison					
Satre					
Hindoién					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

April 9, 2025 – April 22, 2025

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Broadwater/School Counselor	Betchie, Karen	Resignation	06/10/2025
HMS/Social Studies	Rieley, Patrick	Resignation	06/10/2025

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL\$

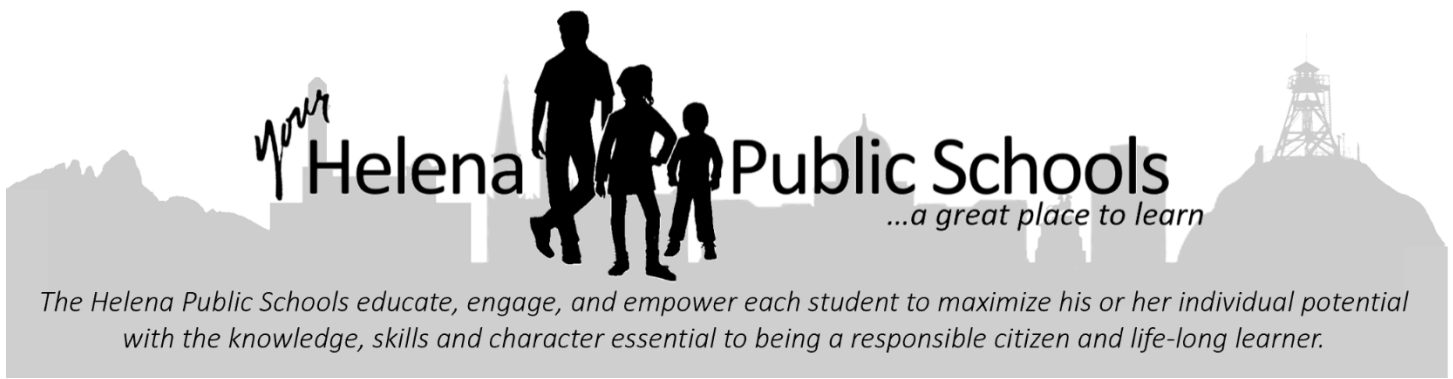
Appointments

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered Salary</u>	<u>Accepted Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Hawthorne/Day Custodian	Axthelm, Tamara	\$16.89/hr.	\$16.89/hr.	04/16/2025
Lincoln/Exec. Dir. Helena Educ. Fdn.	Leaphart, Rebecca	\$70,682.98/yr.	\$70,682.98/yr.	06/02/2025
Rossiter/Evening Custodian	McCraw, Daryl	\$16.90/hr.	\$16.90/hr.	04/08/2025
Business Office/Accounts Payable	Schmidt, Rachel	\$20.14/hr.	\$20.14/hr.	04/07/2025
CRA/Float Custodian	Schowengerdt, Joseph	\$16.90/hr.	\$16.90/hr.	04/07/2025
Kessler/Para Educator	Schwagerl, Andrea	\$15.75/hr.	\$15.75/hr.	04/08/2025*

*Start date correction

Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
CHS/General Secretary	Mayernik, Lori	Resignation	06/18/2025
Rossiter/SACC Para Educator	Roush, Mason	Resignation	04/25/2025
Broadwater/SACC Para Educator	Senger, Danielle	Resignation	05/01/2025
PAL-Lincoln/Day Custodian	Sibley Jr., Robert	Separation	04/14/2025
Warren/Evening Custodian	VanderGiessen, David	Resignation	04/08/2025
CRA/Evening Custodian	Waples, Brian	Resignation	04/04/2025
HMS/Social Services Coordinator	Ziegler, Iris	Resignation	06/10/2025



Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025

3:30 p.m. Tour of Helena High School followed by
Business & TEAMS Portion of the Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee	Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Linda Cleatus, Trustee	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Rachel Robison, Trustee	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Kay Satre, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director
	Lisa Cordingley, HEF Executive Director
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment & Federal Programs Director
	Todd Verill, Facilities Director
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Jesika Fisher, Hawthorne Elementary Principal
	Brian Kessler, Helena High School Principal
	Julie TeNyenhuis, Helena High School Assistant Principal
	Eric Peterson, Helena High School Assistant Principal
	Several Helena Public Schools Staff Members
	Several Guests of the Public
	Brian Solan, Ameresco, Inc.
	Kirstan Roush, SACC Coordinator
	Liese Zebrun-Gero, SACC Site Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and the Board participated in 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 then proceeded to hear the Superintendent Report.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Josh McKay presented information on school boundary adjustments, addressing the 'Why,' 'What' and 'When' of the process

The Why

Shifting the East/West boundary line will help balance middle and high school enrollments, ensuring that the district can offer equal educational opportunities to students at each of our middle schools and high schools. Without this change, students at Helena High School will continue to have fewer class options than their peers at Capital High, such as AP Honors courses and others. If we ask staff to travel among schools, we lose valuable instruction time that would be better spent with students. What's more, the projected school-age population in Helena is expected to remain stable.

The What

Student Choice-Current students may stay at their existing school. There will be changes to transportation routes.

Sibling Rule-Families can choose to keep siblings together in the same school, but parents must provide transportation or use designated courtesy routes.

In-District Boundary Exceptions-The established in-district boundary exception process, which has been in place for many years, will continue.

The When

Gradual Transition-The boundary shift will not take effect immediately; it will begin in the 2026-2027 school year.

Transportation Adjustments-Starting in 2026-2027, in-district students who stay at their current school may use existing courtesy routes with regional stops.

Routine Boundary Reviews: While new housing is being built in the Helena area, it is not expected to bring a significant increase in school-age children to our community. However, as existing neighborhoods age and new housing is built, the distribution of school-age children changes. Regular boundary adjustments are recommended every 7 to 10 years (or as needed) to help maintain balanced enrollment.

Assistant Superintendent McKay stated, “For me, this is about ensuring that kids in our community have equal opportunity and programming,” adding that there will be further opportunity for public engagement and discussion through the established board governance process. Assistant Superintendent McKay addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding his presentation.

The Board of Trustees moved on to hear general public comment.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carrie Jones gave general public comment. Ms. Jones stated she is a business owner, a Hawthorne parent, and concerned community member. Ms. Jones’ general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to concerns about the financial implications of closing Hawthorne School. She discussed the lack of detailed data on the proposal, the savings from deferred maintenance and staff salaries, and the challenges of meeting financial goals given tenure requirements. Ms. Jones also highlighted the disruption to students and families from splitting communities and friend groups. Additionally, she expressed concern about the potential failure of the upcoming levy and its impact on the district’s finances.

Ms. Eleanor Blitzer gave general public comment. Ms. Blitzer is the parent of two Hawthorne students. Ms. Blitzer’s general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to concerns about the proposed closure of Hawthorne School, emphasizing its negative impact on children, the community, and trust in public schools. She criticized the rushed timeline, particularly the June 9th closure date, which would leave little time for proper transition, especially for special needs students. Ms. Blitzer urged the board to reconsider both the closure and the timeline, advocating for a more thoughtful approach to ensure families and staff have adequate time to adjust.

Ms. Kathryn Dunkelberger gave general public comment. Ms. Dunkelberger is a Hawthorne employee and a Hawthorne parent. Ms. Dunkelberger’s general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to her opposition to the closure of Hawthorne School, emphasizing her personal connection to the school and how her family chose to live in Helena because of it. She expressed concerns that closing neighborhood schools would negatively impact the community’s growth and future. Ms. Dunkelberger also highlighted the potential consequences on future bond votes, pointing out the community’s dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency, the rushed timeline, and the absence of a clear plan. She urged the board to reconsider and focus on future growth.

That concluded general public comment, and the Board of Trustees moved on to view a presentation given by Principal Brian Kessler, Principal of Helena High School.

V. PRESENTATION

Mr. Brian Kessler, Principal of Helena High School, provided a comprehensive overview of the school and reviewed the pamphlet included in the agenda. The pamphlet begins by outlining the mission of Helena High School which states. *“Our mission is to provide a strong foundation for life-long learning by nurturing, challenging, and guiding all students toward their maximum academic, aesthetic, physical, social, and emotional potential.”*

Principal Kessler reviewed demographics at Helena High School with the Board of Trustees.

Total Enrolment: 961

9th Grade: 250

10th Grade: 252

11th Grade: 235

12th Grade: 224

Staff Count: 98

Free and Reduced Lunch: 51%

Students on IEPs: 125

Students on 504s: 87

McKinney Vento: 55

Participation in Activities for Spring 2025-25% of students involved in a spring MHSA activity

Accolades for 2024-2025

2 National Merit Finalists

1 US Presidential Scholar Candidate

Multiple Individual and Group Thespian Honors

2nd Place Boys' Cross Country

3rd Place Boys' Basketball

Countless honors in DECA and BPA

State and District Award winners in Speech and Debate

Western Conference Champions in Volleyball and Boys' Basketball

Graduation Rate: 85.5%-5th in the AA, 2nd amongst Title I Schools

Remediation Rate at Montana Universities: 2.6% in Math, 1.3% in Writing-both are 1st among the AAs

Next Principal Kessler reviewed the 24-25 Action Plan with the Board of Trustees.

Math: raise the percentage of students who meet the college and career readiness standard from 42% to 48% by the end of the 24-25 school year as measured by the ACT.

Reading: raise the percentage of students who meet the college and career readiness standard from 51% to 55% by the end of the 24-25 school year as measured by the ACT.

SEL: continue to work on whole staff engagement on establishing connections with students and families, decreasing dropout rates, behavioral referrals, and increase student attendance.

SLT Goals

SLT: all teachers will observe and be observed by at least one colleague by the end of the year.

Walkthrough: continue to monitor the “B - Begin Strong” in our BEST Instructional Framework and work on measuring the implementation of the “E -Engagement Strategies” for this school year.

PLC: the SLT will continue to plan all-staff PLC dates with professional development needs based on data gathered through our walkthroughs.

Intervention: a deeper and continual review of how our intervention systems are currently working and whether students are seeing the gains academically that we are hoping for. In addition to this, reviewing our staff’s understanding of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and the application of those tiers consistently.

Family Engagement: we will work to increase the following to help ensure families are provided the opportunity to engage with HHS - communication home from teachers and admin, increase opportunities to be at the school for events, and look at previous techniques and what we might want to bring back to build a strong connection.

Principal Kessler discussed community at Helena High School.

Helena High has always been the center of the community, and we continue to work to grow our connection between our high school students, our feeder schools, and the community around us. A few highlights of this include:

Bengal Buddies:

We have a few variations currently of our Bengal Buddies program. In Mrs. Preshinger’s 5th period class, they visit Bryant Elementary once a month and connect with those students, forming bonds and helping with skill development. In our Mentoring course with Mrs. Cleveland, students have started to build a connection with Bryant students as well this semester, serving as a strong role model for those in need. Finally, a new student-led

mentoring club has seen our students immerse themselves in our elementary schools, supporting them with reading, math, and having fun on the playground.

Family Engagement:

Working on building family and community engagement and support is a key aspect to this year's goals. Thanks to a great Family Engagement Committee, we have put together great opportunities for this to happen including:

- Restructure Open House with food trucks, more community feel, and recognize clubs and sports
- Winter chili feed connected to winter sports scrimmages and art show
- Growth in assemblies, inviting Bryant students to attend and be part of our community
- Grade Level Parent Nights led by our counselors
- Parent Learning Night providing an opportunity to learn together on topics related to student success and growth
- Start Your Day the Bengal Way - Donuts and breakfast items handed out by parents, teachers, and community members each month
- Others still to come!

Indian Education for All Involvement:

We are proud to have an amazing set of teachers who want to ensure our students understand the Native American Heritage - with connections to other cultures - around us. We have had strong events this year that include: Bison Hunt, Pow Wow Assembly, guest speakers, whole school immersion day, and more.

Next, Principal Kessler discussed AP/Dual Credit at Helena High School. HHS continues to offer a great assortment of AP and Dual Credit opportunities for students. Each year, students are leaving our building with enough credits to be considered a second semester freshmen or sophomore in college, eliminating a great deal of debt for their future. Additionally, our students continue to score well on the AP tests, keeping us as perennial members of the AP Honor Roll.

Ms. Meghan Schulte-Title and Instruction Specialist for Helena Public Schools, reviewed ACT scores at Helena High School. HHS continues to be one of the top performing AA schools in the state with our ACT scores. The preparation put in by our students and staff has helped put qualified individuals into the workforce and colleges around the state and nation. We are proud of the historical success our students have had with the test, highlighting the time and effort our students and staff put in to grow the necessary college and career readiness skills. This includes multiple perfect-scores on the ACT, with one of those coming from the Class of 2025. The pamphlet shared a historical view on ACT Scores at HHS, where HHS fell compared to the other AAs that year, and the state average.

Principal Kessler concluded his presentation by addressing questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. 2.25.25 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn 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 Jennifer McKee 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. Approval of SACC Rate Increases

Ms. Kirstan Roush, SACC Coordinator for Helena Public Schools, presented the action item *Approval of SACC Rate Increases* to the Board of Trustees. The proposed increases are based in part on the factors below.

The following factors were considered when adjusting rates:

1. Milk has risen in price by 35 cents since March of 2024. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) requires that 8 ounces of milk is served with every breakfast. Each gallon of milk provides 16 servings. Our total reimbursement for breakfasts and snacks for summer 2024 was approximately \$1580 compared with \$5000 to \$6000 per month during the school year.
2. City pool entry rates rose from summer 2023 at \$2.80/swimmer to \$5.50/swimmer in 2024. These are group rates. In the summer of 2024,

we planned to swim 3 days/week. Summer 2025 rates have not been released yet.

3. On average, our weekly Costco shopping trips are \$300-\$400 more than they were last year at this time.
4. We leave the school building the last week of Summer SACC and take daily trips to Sunshine Camp. The cost of the rental of the camp in 2023 was \$1000. The rental for summer 2024 was \$1500. The cost of two buses up to Sunshine Camp was over \$500/day in the summer of 2024. I am waiting to hear back on the rates for this summer.
5. Best Beginnings scholarship provider reimbursement rate was \$40/day in 2023 and raised to \$55/day in 2024. This is the rate that is reimbursed across the state for all childcare centers.

Ms. Roush addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the SACC rate increases.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for the action item *Approval of SACC Rate Increases* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve the action item *Approval of SACC Rate Increases* as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. **Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies a. Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies-Elementary District**

Business Manager Janelle Mickelson presented the next several action items to the Board of Trustees.

Background:

Pursuant to 20-20-401, MCA, the election administrator prepares the final ballot form. The Lewis and Clark County Elections Office (election administrator) has requested the ballot language for the propositions to be voted on in the upcoming election be submitted to them by March 28, 2025. Trustees must pass a resolution stating the exact levy amount, the estimated number of mills, and the tax impact on a home with a market value of \$100,000, \$300,000, and \$600,000. The resolution must include the durational limit, if any, on the levy.

Considerations:

- The highest levy that can be requested for the elementary general fund is expected to be approximately two hundred ninety-three thousand six hundred eighty-one DOLLARS (\$293,681), which is approximately 1.87 mills. Passage of this proposal will increase the taxes on a home with a market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$2.52 annually, on a home with a market value of \$300,000 by approximately \$7.57 annually, and on a house with a market value of \$600,000 by approximately \$15.15 annually.
- In addition to the elementary general fund mill levy approval, the District will be requesting an increase in the technology mill levy for both the elementary and the high school districts the purposes of purchasing, renting, repairing and maintaining technological equipment, including computers and computer network access, cloud computing services for technology infrastructure, platforms, software, network, storage, security, data, database, test environment curriculum, or desktop virtualization purposes, including any subscription or any license-based or pay-per-use service that is accessed over the internet or other remote network to meet the district's information technology and other needs, and the associated technical training for school district personnel. The increase being requested for the elementary district is \$1,979,500 annually for a term of 10 years. The increase being requested in the high school district is \$870,500 annually for a term of 10 years. Passage of these proposals will increase the annual taxes on a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 by approximately \$14.40 annually in the elementary district and approximately \$6.83 annually in the high school district, on a home with an assessed value of \$300,000 by approximately \$43.21 annually in the elementary district and by approximately \$20.49 annually in the high school district, and on a home with a market value of \$600,000 by approximately \$86.43 annually in the elementary district and approximately \$40.99 annually in the high school district. This request is in addition to the five hundred twenty thousand five hundred DOLLARS (\$520,500) previously authorized as a perpetual levy in the elementary and the five hundred fifty-nine thousand five hundred DOLLARS (\$559,500) previously authorized as a perpetual levy in the high school. If approved, the increased levies will take effect July 1, 2025, and expire June 30, 2035.
- The District is unable to request a general fund operational levy in the high school, therefore the county election administrator will cancel that election initiative.

Other Election Information:

- Election Day is Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- There are three open trustee positions in the elementary (K-12 positions) to serve a three-year term.
- The deadline to file a Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy is 5:00 pm on March 27, 2025.
- The deadline for filing a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is 5:00 pm on April 3, 2025.

Superintendent recommendation:
Approve the attached ballot language for the levy propositions.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for action item 2. *Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies a. Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies-Elementary District* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve action item 2. *Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies a. Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies-Elementary District* as presented. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 motion carries unanimously. *(Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh did not vote as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district and this action item is for the elementary district).*

2. Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies b. Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies-High School District

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for action item 2. *Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies b. Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies-High School District* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to approve action item 2. *Consideration For Approval of Resolutions of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies b. Approval of Resolution of Intent to Increase (Decrease) Non-voted Levies-High School District* as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Approval of Elementary Ballot Language for Levy Propositions
a. Helena Elementary Approval of Ballot Language-General Fund Operational Levy

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for action item 3. *Approval of Elementary Ballot Language for Levy Propositions a. Helena Elementary Approval of Ballot Language-General Fund Operational Levy* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve action item 3. *Approval of Elementary Ballot Language for Levy Propositions a. Helena Elementary Approval of Ballot Language-General Fund Operational Levy* as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 motion carries unanimously. *(Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh did not vote as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district and this action item is for the elementary district).*

3. Approval of Elementary Ballot Language for Levy Propositions b. Helena Elementary Approval of Ballot Language-Technology Levy Election

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for action item 3. *Approval of Elementary Ballot Language for Levy Propositions b. Helena Elementary Approval of Ballot Language-Technology Levy Election* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the action item 3. *Approval of Elementary Ballot Language for Levy Propositions b. Helena Elementary Approval of Ballot Language-Technology Levy Election* as presented. Trustee Jeff Hindoen seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 motion carries unanimously. *(Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh did not vote as she is a trustee strictly for the high school district and this action item is for the elementary district).*

4. Approval of High School Ballot Language for Levy Propositions a. Helena High School Approval of Ballot Language-Technology Levy Election

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for action item 4. *Approval of High School Ballot Language for Levy Propositions a. Helena High School Approval of Ballot Language-Technology Levy Election* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve action item 4. *Approval of High School Ballot Language for Levy Propositions a. Helena High School Approval of Ballot Language-Technology Levy Election* as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

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

C. Item For Information

1. SACC and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Ms. Kirstan Roush, SACC Coordinator for Helena Public Schools, presented the informational item, *SACC and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)*, to the Board of Trustees. SACC participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program to provide nutritious and delicious food for each of the children in our care.

- CACFP plays a vital role in assuring the nutritional quality of meals (five components) and snacks (two components) served to eligible children and adults attending non-residential child or adult care programs and making care more affordable for many low-income families. A variety of different eligible programs qualify to participate in the CACFP. SACC is one of them!
- Our menus are planned with food preferences of children in mind and ease of service by SACC staff. Each school has its kitchen nuances! We are proud to dish up great snacks and meals in a relaxed atmosphere where kids can share quality leisure time enjoying fresh wholesome food with their peers.
- SACC staff complete annual training to participate in CACFP. We are well versed in the food world regarding subjects from nutrition and food allergies to health standards and Civil Rights!
- SACC has been part of the CACFP since 2009.

Approximately 25 (wo)man hours, spread out between 10 SACC staff, are spent each week planning menus, purchasing, serving and cleaning up after our super meals.

For the 19 days of school and SACC in February

- Broadwater = 30 children are enrolled. 457 meals were served.
- Bryant = 25 children are enrolled from Bryant and Smith schools. 250 meals were served along with 60 afternoon snacks.
- Central = 50 children enrolled, 465 meals and 210 afternoon snacks served.
- Jim Darcy = 39 children enrolled, 384 afternoon snacks served.
- Four Georgians = 34 children enrolled, 468 snacks served.
- Hawthorne = 22 children enrolled, 288 snacks served.

- Jefferson = 51 children enrolled, 405 snacks and 51 five-component meals.
- Kessler = 30 children were served 349 afternoon snacks and 122 meals.
- Rossiter = 36 children were served 419 snacks.
- Warren = 23 children were served 23 meals and 271 afternoon snacks.

We also serve a light breakfast and afternoon snack at our full-day programs held at Smith Elementary School this year.

- February reimbursement = \$6,274.99
- Sept through Feb 2025 = \$39,402.07

*These amounts include different rates of reimbursement for At-Risk sites (Broadwater, Bryant, Central) and Out of School Time sites.

*Summer rates are strictly Out of School Time

We are required to share this information:

- The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program of the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is the State agency which administers the CACFP in Montana and ensures that program requirements are followed.
- A variety of programs that are licensed or approved receive reimbursement at free, reduced, or paid rates for eligible meals and snacks served to enrolled children. These programs can include Child Care Centers, Head Start programs, Adult Day Care Centers, outside school hours programs, and at-risk afterschool programs. The reimbursements help providers supplement the cost of providing nutritious meals and snacks to infants, children, and adults.
- The CACFP provides cash reimbursements for meals served to enrolled participants that meet Federal nutritional guidelines outlined in the CACFP meal pattern. Participating institutions may be approved to claim up to two reimbursable meals (breakfast, lunch, and supper) and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, for each eligible participant, each day.
- CACFP is provided by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service-U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Roush addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding *SACC and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)*.

2. **Basics of Performance Contracting-Ameresco, Inc.**

Mr. Brian Solan from Ameresco, Inc. provided the Board of Trustees with an informational presentation on the basics of performance contracting. Currently, Helena Public Schools does not have a contract with Ameresco, Inc.; however, the presentation was made to inform the trustees, and the district administration should they consider future collaboration with the company.

Mr. Solan highlighted that Ameresco's proven track record in energy conservation and cost savings contributes to enhancing the quality of K-12 school environments. The company offers expertise, innovative engineering solutions, and creative financial options aimed at reducing costs and energy demand, ultimately creating more sustainable classrooms for students to learn and grow

Mr. Solan proceeded to discuss energy performance contracting and the impact on customer cash flow before, during, and after an energy savings project. He explained that the savings resulting from capital improvements—such as utilities, operations, and avoided costs—must be quantified and guaranteed over the maximum term of 15 years. This project delivery model would enable Helena Public Schools to publicly demonstrate the guaranteed energy and operational savings generated by the project. Energy performance contracting allows for facility improvements with minimal impact on the capital budget, thereby freeing up funds for other school priorities. Additionally, it reallocates bond or levy dollars to non-energy or deferred maintenance projects

Mr. Solan concluded his presentation by reviewing key topics, including energy conservation measures, project delivery and value, energy usage intensity, and financing options. He then addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the basics of performance contracting.

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

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further board comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF **FY 2024-25** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Fiscal Year 2024-25

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
K	Trinity Elementary	Helena, MT 59602	Broadwater Elementary
1	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Central Elementary
1	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59602	MT Ascension Learning Academy
3	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Smith Elementary
4	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59602	MT Ascension Learning Academy
4	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Four Georgians Elementary
8	Elliston Elementary	Elliston, MT 59728	MT Ascension Learning Academy

Mandatory Attendance:

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
9	Anaconda High School	Anaconda, MT 59711	Helena High School

**APPROVAL OF FY 2024-25 OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)**

Running Total of FY 2024-25 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements

Address																								
Grade	East Helena	Clancy	Montana City	Jefferson City	Basin	Wolf Creek	Boulder	Elliston	Trinity	Chinook	Butte	Billings	Deer Lodge	Missoula	Townsend	Radersberg	Anaconda	Browning	Winston	Ronan	Superior	Whitehall	Total	
Ksprouts	3								1														4	
K	5	1				1			6													1	14	
1	11	4							5														20	
2	6	1				1	1	1	5													1	16	
3	4	1							6	1										1			13	
4	8	2							4														14	
5	6		1				1		10		1	1											20	
6	5	1						1	3		1										1		12	
7	3	2			1				6														12	
8	3	5	1			1		2	3				1										16	
9	7	50	10									1		1			1						70	
10	10	30	2												1	1		1					45	
11	12	19	4	3																			38	
12	12	29	3	2											1	1			1				49	
	95	145	21	5	1	3	2	4	49	1	2		1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	343	

ACKNOWLEDGE OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(HELENA RESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS)

HELENA STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Fiscal Year 2024-25

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	Address	District of Attendance
6	Helena, MT 59601	Montana City Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Montana City Elementary

Mandatory Attendance:

Grade	Address	District/Center of Attendance
2	Helena, MT 59601	Glasgow Elementary
7	Helena, MT 59601	Anaconda Elementary

**ACKNOWLEDGE OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(HELENA RESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS)**

Running Total of Acknowledged Out-of-District Attendance Agreements
(Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

Grade	East Helena K-12	Montana City Elementary	Clancy Elementary	Jefferson High School	Trinity Elementary	Cascade High School	Huntley Project K-12	Fairfield High School	Augusta High School	Kalispell High School	Great Falls Elementary	Anaconda Elementary	Glasgow Elementary	Aware CFE	New Day	Total
Pre-K	4	10	6													20
K	11	13	1				1									26
1	6	8	5		1											20
2	12	2	5										1			20
3	15	13	5													33
4	10	1	4		2											17
5	15	8	9		2										1	35
6	13	13	7													33
7	7	4	5								1	1				18
8	16	2	4												1	23
9	21			1												22
10	24			4		2		1	1	1				1	1	35
11	19			4		4										27
12	25			4		2			2	1						34
	198	74	51	13	5	8	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	363

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

Item V.B.1.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Presentation


☐ Consent Action Items

☒ Item For Information

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: **Item For Information**
Update on RFP for Medical/Dental/Vision & Rx-Richard Franco, Human Resource Benefits Manager

A golfer in a dark jacket is crouching on a green, possibly marking a spot. The background shows a lush golf course with trees, a golf cart, and a body of water.

HPS 2025 RFP

MED/DEN/VIS

Update

MEDICAL VENDORS



Allegiance Benefit Plan Management – Missoula, MT



Blue Cross Blue Shield – Helena, MT

DENTAL VENDORS



Delta Dental – Helena, MT



Ameritas – Lincoln, NE

VISION VENDORS



VSP – Rancho Cordova, CA



Ameritas – Lincoln, NE

PHARMACY/RX RFP

The Pharmacy/Rx RFP Timeline:

- **RFP went out 4/1/2025**
- **Proposals Due 4/22/2025**
- **Health Benefit Committee Review 5/9/2025**
- **Finalist Interviews 5/16/2025**



HEALTH BENEFIT COMMITTEE

The HB Committee Timeline:

- **Med/Den/Vis Decision 4/29 – 30**
- **Rx RFP Decision 5/21 – 23**
- **Insurance Premiums for PY 25-26: Decision 5/20 – 27**
- **Board of Trustees Vote 6/10/2025**





THANK YOU



Richard Franco
Health Benefits Manager

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item VI.

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Presentation

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Item For Information

☒ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: Board/Superintendent Comments

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item VII.

Meeting Date: 4/22/2025

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Presentation

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Item For Information

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☒ Adjournment

Item Title: Adjournment