



Board of Trustees Meeting

Lincoln Center | 1325 Poplar St. | Helena, MT 59601

Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.

Lincoln PD Center and via TEAMS

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AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER /PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

III. OATH OF OFFICE FOR 2025-2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

A. 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

1. Delaney Lynch- Capital High School Student Representative
2. Brock Gardipee- Helena High School Student Representative

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. State Champions in Track & Field-Helena High School

The Board of Trustees would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the outstanding student-athletes who achieved state championship titles at the recent track and field state meet.

Madi Todorovich – Girls Track & Field

Madi earned State Champion titles in four events: Long Jump, Triple Jump, 400 Meter Dash, and High Jump. Her remarkable performance is a testament to her dedication, athleticism, and perseverance.

The Board also extends sincere appreciation to Girls Track Head Coach Jesse Zentz for his support and coaching excellence.

Jaxan Lieberg – Boys Track & Field

Congratulations to Jaxan for earning the title of State Champion in the High Jump. His achievement reflects exceptional skill and commitment.

Travis Ryland-Davis, Trey Peterson, Luke Ruch, and Pacer Lybbert – Boys Track & Field

Congratulations to this dynamic team for becoming State Champions in the 4x100 Meter Relay. Their teamwork and determination brought home an incredible victory.

The Board also extends sincere appreciation to Boys Track Head Coach Manny Garza for his support and coaching excellence.

The district is proud of these athletes and coaches for their achievements and the way they represent our schools with pride, sportsmanship, and excellence.

B. State Champions in Track & Field-Capital High School

The Board of Trustees would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the outstanding student-athletes who achieved state championship titles at the recent track and field state meet.

Brayden Brisko – Boys Track & Field

Congratulations to Brayden on earning the title of State Champion in the Pole Vault. His performance demonstrates outstanding focus, technique, and athletic ability.

Tyler Crum – Boys Track & Field

Congratulations to Tyler for capturing the State Championship in the Javelin. His strength and precision led to a well-deserved victory.

The Board also extends sincere appreciation to Boys Head Track Coach Lon Carter for his support and coaching excellence.

The district is proud of these athletes and coaches for their achievements and the way they represent our schools with pride, sportsmanship, and excellence.

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

VI. 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.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. Warrants
3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
4. Approval of FY 2025-26 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
5. Acknowledge FY 2025-26 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)
6. 5.13.25 Board of Trustees Full Board Meeting Minutes
7. 5.13.25 Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting Open Session Meeting Minutes
8. 5.13.25 Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting Closed Session Meeting Minutes
9. 5.22.25 Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting Minutes

B. Items For Action

1. Approval of Allegiance as Medical TPA
2. Approval of Delta Dental as Dental TPA
3. Approval of Ameritas as Vision TPA
4. Approval of Rightway as Rx/Pharmacy PBM
5. Approval of Plan Design Changes & Premiums for the 2025-2026 Plan Year
6. Resolution Calling for Elementary Bond Election
7. Resolution Calling for High School Bond Election
8. Award Food Service Management Contract to Sodexo
9. Approval of HPS-Craft Council Collective Bargaining Agreement
10. Approval of HPS- HEA Para Educator Negotiated Agreement
11. Approval of District Investment Grade Energy Audit
12. Consideration of Recommendations on the Future of Hawthorne Elementary School

C. **Reports**

1. Student Representatives Report
2. Helena Education Association Report
3. Facilities & Technology Committee Report
4. Budget & Finance Committee Report
5. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
6. Policy Committee Report
7. Health Benefits Committee Report
8. Wellness Committee Report
9. Montana School Boards Association Report
10. Parent Council Visit Report

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

IX. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

X. ADJOURNMENT

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item I.

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

☒ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

☐ Reports

☐ Upcoming Meetings

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: **Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item II.

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☒ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

☐ Reports

☐ Upcoming Meetings

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: Review of Agenda

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item III.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☒ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

☐ Reports

☐ Upcoming Meetings

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: **Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives**
1. Delaney Lynch- Capital High School Student Representative
2. Brock Gardipee- Helena High School Student Representative

2025-2026 HPS STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED

The following students were selected to serve as HPS Student Board Representatives for the 2025-2026 school year.

Delaney Lynch

CHS Student Board Rep for 2025-2026

Delaney is currently a Junior at Capital High School. She has a genuine curiosity about the decision-making process that is the basis for her own educational experiences. She expressed gratitude for the opportunities she has been provided and sees serving as a student board rep as a way to learn about decisions that directly impact every student's education. Delaney is very involved and serves as the secretary of HOSA and the editor of Pen and Ink. She has also been class president her freshman, sophomore and junior years, is a member of the Helena Lions Swim Team, is a member of National Honor Society, and the Helena Health Sciences Advisory Board. One of her goals is to better educate fellow students on educational policies. Delaney has attended almost every Board meeting this year either in person or virtually.

Brock Gardipee

HHS Student Board Rep for 2025-2026

Brock is currently a junior at Helena High School. He wants to be a student representative because he has a passion for his community. Brock also wants to represent his fellow students and advocate for changes in his school. He is actively involved in National Honor Society, Link Leading, and is vice-president of the HHS HOSA. He is a member of the HHS soccer team and coaches multiple youth soccer teams. Brock is very concerned about the condition of Helena High and noted several issues including bug infestations, cracking floors and walls, and other facility concerns. He believes every student deserves the best education in a safe, clean and up-to-date environment.

Both Delaney and Brock believe students have an important role to play if the Board does decide to run a high school bond.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item IV.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☒ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

☐ Reports

☐ Upcoming Meetings

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

- Item Title: **Recognitions**
- A. State Champions in Track & Field-Helena High School
 - B. State Champions in Track & Field-Capital High School

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item V.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

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☐ Adjournment

Item Title: Superintendent's Report

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

To: Board Chair Jennifer McKee and Board of Trustees
FROM: Mr. Wertz, Superintendent
RE: Superintendent Report
DATE: June 10th, 2025

- Recognition
 - Graduations-Seniors/Admin/Staff/Special Guests/Parents/Community
 - PAL-PAL Senior Speeches
 - Mount Ascension
 - Capital High School
 - Helena High School
 - End of Year Celebrations
 - Staff That Make The EOY So Special
 - Thank you to HSD Foster Grandparents!!
 - Thank you to Carroll College work study students!!
 - Congratulations to Helena High Educator Lauren Gustafson who was selected as the Helena Education Association 2025 Educator of the Year!!
 - Congratulations to Helena Middle School Para Educator Shiloh Corcoran who was selected as the Helena Education Association 2025 Para Educator of the Year!!
 - Congratulations 2025 Helena Public Schools Retirees!!
 - Thank you to our generous sponsors of the 2025 Retirement Celebration: Robert Worthy, General Manager of Sodexo, Scott Patton, Store Manager of Helena Walmart, Costco, Safeway, and Forget Me Not Flowers
 - Board of Trustees Work Session at Broadwater Elementary School-
 - Thank You, Principal Boedecker, Staff, & Students
 - Thank you to Carroll College for their generous \$3,000 Rossiter Visit & Apply Grant, offered to graduating seniors who were displaced by flooding in 2018 and temporarily attended classes on Carroll's campus as Rossiter 5th graders. Eligible students will receive the grant if they choose to attend Carroll College, honoring the unique connection formed during that spring.
 - Other

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- New Business
 - New Social Studies Curriculum
 - Master Facilities Planning
 - Pre Bond Work - SMA
 - Helena High School
 - Capital High School
 - Kessler Elementary
 - AA Decennial Study Strategic Planning
 - Ednomics School Funding Conference – MTSBA
 - 2025-26 SY Staffing & Operations
 - End of the Year Activities
 - Other

- Outreach/Meetings
 - Quarterly Meeting with City of Helena
 - Board of Health Meeting
 - HHS/Chamber Meetings
 - AA Superintendents
 - Parent Advisory Committee
 - Board Leadership
 - HSD/HEA Meeting
 - HEF
 - HEF Executive Committee
 - Cabinet & Leadership
 - TV, Print, Radio, Media
 - CMS Meetings
 - Bond Planning Team –
 - Bond Language and Tax Impact Statements
 - Other

- Other

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Item VI.

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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☐ Adjournment

Item Title: General Public Comment

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.A.1. - A.9.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☒ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

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☐ Upcoming Meetings

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

- Item Title:** **Consent Action Items**
- 1. Personnel Actions
 - 2. Warrants
 - 3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
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Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Robison					
Satre					
Murnane Butcher					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

May 28, 2025 – June 10, 2025

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Appointments

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered Salary</u>	<u>Accepted Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
CHS/Science	Ballard, Mikelle	\$48,612.28/yr.	\$48,612.28/yr.	08/25/2025
HMS/Part-time (.50 FTE) Social Studies	Doran, Anna	\$30,611.19/yr.	\$30,611.19/yr.	08/25/2025
Smith/Lower Montessori	Harper, Christina	\$50,289.81/yr.	\$50,289.81/yr.	08/25/2025
HHS/School Counselor	Michaud, Joseph	\$61,222.38/yr.	\$61,222.38/yr.	08/25/2025
Lincoln/Activities Director	Peterson, Eric	\$121,800.00/yr.	\$121,800.00/yr.	07/01/2025
Bryant/Summer Quest Program	Rask, Jennifer	\$30.56/hr.	\$30.56/hr.	06/16/2025
CHS/Mathematics	Reinning, Kaitlyn	\$55,756.10/yr.	\$55,756.10/yr.	08/25/2025
HHS/Business Education	Torgerson, Dylan	\$49,284.57/yr.	\$49,284.57/yr.	08/25/2025

Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Jefferson/Grade 4	Perschon, Nicole	Retirement	06/10/2025
Rossiter/Special Education-Resource	Chavers, Kody	Resignation	06/10/2025

Leaves

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>
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CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Appointments

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered Salary</u>	<u>Accepted Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Bryant/Summer Quest Program	Frederick, Elena	\$17.33/hr.	\$17.33/hr.	06/16/2025
Summer SACC/SACC Para Educator	Key, Kayleona	\$17.53/hr.	\$17.53/hr.	06/11/2025
IT/Tier I Help Desk Technician	Pierson, Emmett	\$22.73/hr.	\$22.73/hr.	06/03/2025
HHS/Evening Custodian	Tatarka, Mitch	\$16.90/hr.	\$16.90/hr.	06/09/2025

Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
IT/Network Engineer	Grau, Christopher	Resignation	06/04/2025
Jefferson/Para Educator	Heigh, Alex	Separation	05/30/2025
CHS/Para Educator	Jensen, Tamara	Separation	05/30/2025
HHS/Evening Custodian	Lindeman, Vicki	Resignation	06/18/2025
Jefferson/Para Educator	Moore, Tauni	Separation	06/10/2025
Rossiter/Para Educator	Salois, Sarah	Resignation	05/23/2025
CRA/General Secretary	Thompson, Heather	Resignation	06/16/2025

SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT

Name	Assignment	Salary	Start Date	End Date
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Helena School District #1

Warrants May 1 to 31, 2025

Direct Deposits: \$3,364,316.53

Payroll Warrants: 70132230-70132255

Payroll Deduction: 69304659-69304683

Non-Check Payroll Deductions: \$ 5,365,738.68

Non-Check Accts Payable Deductions: \$ 1,401,926.74

Non-Check Accts Payable Deductions- HHS Extracurricular: \$0

Claim Warrants: 69304445-69304846

CRA Middle School Student Activity Checks: 17467-17472

HMS Middle School Student Activity Checks: 8798-8802

Capital High Student Activity Checks: 24992-25037

Helena High Student Activity Checks: 36972-37014

Cancelled Warrants: \$5,508.12

We certify that all warrants herein listed were prepared and previously paid for, are just and correct to the best of our knowledge, and that the board of trustees has authorized the issuance of the same.

Chairperson _____

Business Manager _____

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

Fiscal Year 2024-25

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
6	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena Middle School
7	Basin Elementary	Basin, MT 59631	Helena Middle School
9	Jefferson High School	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Capital High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School

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

Running Total of FY2024-25 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements

Grade	Address					Total
	East Helena	Clancy	Montana City	Jefferson City	Basin	
K						0
1						0
2						0
3						0
4						0
5						0
6	2					2
7					1	1
8						0
9	3	41	10			54
10	2					2
11		2	1			3
12	2	7				9
	9	50	11	0	1	71

APPROVAL OF **FY 2025-26** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Fiscal Year 2025-26

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
KSprouts	Trinity Elementary	Helena, MT 59602	Rossiter Elementary
K	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59602	Kessler Elementary
K	Trinity Elementary	Helena, MT 59602	Kessler Elementary
K	Trinity Elementary	Helena, MT 59601	Kessler Elementary
K	Trinity Elementary	Helena, MT 59602	Kessler Elementary
K	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Bryant Elementary
K	Trinity Elementary	Helena, MT 59602	Central Elementary
K	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Central Elementary
K	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59602	Warren Elementary
K	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Rossiter Elementary
1	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Smith Montessori
2	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59602	Kessler Elementary
6	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena Middle School
8	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena Middle School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Jefferson City, MT 59638	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School

APPROVAL OF **FY 2025-26** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Fiscal Year 2025-26

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
9	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Capital High School
9	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Capital High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
10	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
11	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Townsend K-12	Townsend, MT 59644	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
11	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School

APPROVAL OF **FY 2025-26** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Fiscal Year 2025-26

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
11	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
11	Jefferson High School	Boulder, MT 59632	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Montana City, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Boulder, MT 59632	Helena High School
12	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Jefferson City, MT 59638	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Jefferson City, MT 59638	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Jefferson City, MT 59638	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
12	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Jefferson City, MT 59638	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School
12	Jefferson High School	Clancy, MT 59634	Helena High School
12	East Helena K-12	Helena, MT 59601	Helena High School
12	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School

APPROVAL OF **FY 2025-26** OUT-OF-DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS
(NONRESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Fiscal Year 2025-26

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
12	East Helena K-12	East Helena, MT 59635	Helena High School

Running Total of FY2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements

Grade	Address							Total
	East Helena	Clancy	Montana City	Jefferson City	Boulder	Trinity	Townsend	
Ksprouts						1		1
K	5					4		9
1	1							1
2	1							1
3								0
4								0
5								0
6	1							1
7								0
8	1							1
9	7	20	2	1				30
10	1	10						11
11	4	16	1		1		1	23
12	8	23	1	4	1			37
	29	69	4	5	2	5	1	115

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

HELENA STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Fiscal Year 2025-26

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	Address	District of Attendance
1	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
1	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
2	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
2	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
2	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
2	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
3	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
4	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
4	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
4	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
4	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
4	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
5	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59601	Clancy Elementary
6	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
7	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
7	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
7	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
7	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
8	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
8	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary

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

HELENA STUDENTS ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Fiscal Year 2025-26

Discretionary Attendance:

Grade	Address	District of Attendance
8	Helena, MT 59602	Clancy Elementary
9	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Cascade High School
9	Cascade, MT 59421	Cascade High School
11	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Augusta High School
11	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Cascade High School
11	Cascade, MT 59421	Cascade High School
12	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Cascade High School
12	Wolf Creek, MT 59648	Cascade High School

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

Running Total of Acknowledged 2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements
(Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

Grade	Montana						Total
	East Helena K-12	City Elementary	Clancy Elementary	Jefferson High School	Cascade High School	Augusta High School	
Pre-K							0
K							0
1			7				7
2			4				4
3			3				3
4			5				5
5			4				4
6			7				7
7			4				4
8			3				3
9					2		2
10							0
11					2	1	3
12					2		2
			37		6	1	44



Superintendent

Rex Wertz
324-2001

Business Manager

Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

Lincoln Center
1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601
And on TEAMS

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee
Rachel Robison, Trustee
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Charlie Snellman, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Adella Harris, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Director
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Kaitlyn Hess, Data & Federal Programs Director
Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
Lisa Cordingley, HEF Executive Director
Brian Kessler, Helena High School Principal
Nick Radley, Central Elementary School Principal
Many guests of the public as well as Helena School District Staff and Students

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW AGENDA

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda and there were no suggested changes.

The Board of Trustees moved on to the recognitions portion of the agenda.

III. RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Trustees recognized the staff and students listed below.

A. 2025 Montana School Counselor of the Year

Congratulations to Krystal Ferguson, who has been selected as the 2025 Montana School Counselor of the Year! This prestigious award recognizes Krystal's outstanding dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to supporting the academic, social, and emotional growth of her students. We are incredibly proud to celebrate this well-deserved honor with her.

B. National Council of Excellence Award-Helena High School

Congratulations to the Helena High School Student Council for receiving the National Council of Excellence Award!! This award recognizes their outstanding leadership, service, and commitment to creating a positive impact within the school community. A special thank you to their advisor, Samantha Humphrey, for her dedicated guidance and support in helping the Student Council achieve this remarkable honor. We are incredibly proud of their achievement!

C. Recognition of Achievement: Seal of Biliteracy Recipients

Congratulations to the outstanding students from Capital High and Helena High who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy, an honor recognized at both the state and national levels, awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in two or more languages. This achievement reflects the hard work of both English Learners and World Language students who have met rigorous standards through formal testing. Their success highlights the importance of multilingualism and cultural understanding in our schools and community. We commend these students for their dedication and academic excellence.

Congratulations to the following Capital High students: Zaraj Carrucini-Cintron, Evan Colberg, Lyric Lanes, Adeline Walters, Hollis Elliot, Liliana Hanson, Sophie Shanight, and Perla Carrucini.

Congratulations to the following Helena High students: Eva Skibicki, Evelyn Callery, Olivia Cook, Abigale Arnold-Jacques, Gillian Bovingdon, Sofia Cetraro, Madison Demmons, Luke Ruch, Tea Woodland, Ricky Robbins, Dakota Harmon, Anna Sanchez, and Adrienne Taylor.

The Board of Trustees moved on to hear the Superintendent's Report presented by Superintendent Weltz.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Weltz presented his Superintendent Report to the Board of Trustees and discussed topics including but not limited to:

- Recognition
 - HPS Administration and Counseling Staff
 - EHHS Support
 - May 6th Election Day
 - Recognition of Karen Ogden, Communications Specialist
 - Recognition of Trustee Jeff Hindoién
 - Recognition of Charlie Snellman, Capital High Student Board Representative
 - Recognition of Adella Harris, Helena High Student Board Representative
 - Helena Education Foundation-Celebration of Excellence
 - Board of Trustees Work Session at Kessler Elementary School-Thank You, Principal Thatcher, Staff, & Students
 - Congratulations to the following 105.3 KMTX Teacher of the Month Recipients:
 - March-Mrs. Miranda Parisi, Central Elementary School
 - April-Mrs. Dilone' Mouledous, Kessler Elementary School
 - May 1 National School Principal's Day
 - May 2 School Lunch Hero Day
 - May 5-9 National Teacher Appreciation Week
 - May 6 National Teacher Appreciation Day
 - May 7 National School Nurse Day
 - May 9 School Communicators Day
 - May 18 National Speech Pathologist Day
 - Other
- New Business
 - Activities Director Interviews
 - HEA/HPS Consensus Bargaining
 - Graduation Planning
 - Master Facilities Planning
 - Pre Bond Work - SMA
 - Helena High School
 - Capital High School
 - Kessler Elementary
 - Activity Facilities Pre-Planning
 - 2025 Legislative Session-Complete
 - Continuing Work with CMS To Develop a Compensation Manual and Classification Tool – HR

- HPS Self-Funded Health Care RFP
 - May 27th Update
 - AA Decennial Study Strategic Planning
 - 2025-26 SY Budget
 - Staffing & Operations
 - Other
- Outreach/Meetings
 - League of Women Voters Presentation
 - Helena Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
 - HEA/HPS Consensus Bargaining
 - Board of Health Meeting
 - Board of Health Finance Committee
 - CHS Community Meeting
 - Kessler Community Meeting
 - AA Superintendents
 - Parent Advisory Committee
 - Teacher Advisory Committee
 - Board Leadership
 - HSD/HEA Meeting
 - HEF
 - HEF Executive Committee
 - Cabinet & Leadership
 - TV, Print, Radio, Media
 - CMS Meetings
 - SAM 2025 Legislative Advocacy Meetings
 - Bond Committee Meeting – Working Team
 - Mr. Keith Meyer Retirement Celebration
 - Other
- Other

That concluded the Superintendent’s Report portion of the agenda. Superintendent Weltz responded to questions from the Board of Trustees, after which the trustees proceeded to hear general public comment.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wilbur Rehmann gave general public comment. Mr. Rehmann stated he is a resident of Helena, a professional musician, and substitute taught for Helena Public Schools. Mr. Rehmann’s general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to his background as a long-time Helena resident and professional musician, with experience as a substitute music teacher. He expressed concern

about the potential elimination of the elementary music program, highlighting the importance of early music education in students' development. Mr. Rehmann urged the Board to find ways to fund and sustain music programs within the district's budget, stressing the need to maintain these programs at both the elementary and high school levels. He concluded by emphasizing that continuing to lose levies was not a viable solution and encouraged the Board to prioritize music education.

Ms. Beagan Volz gave general public comment. Ms. Volz's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to concerns about the Helena School District's efforts to close Hawthorne School. She raised questions about the accuracy of the data used to justify the closure, particularly regarding bus costs and deferred maintenance, and pointed out the lack of transparency with the district's budget. Additionally, she emphasized that Hawthorne serves a diverse student body, with a significant portion eligible for free or reduced lunch, and urged the Board to reconsider the closure, suggesting the school should remain open for at least another year to allow students time to adjust.

Ms. Sarah Perry gave general public comment. Ms. Perry's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to concerns about the proposed boundary changes, which she acknowledged are necessary but urged be approached thoughtfully to avoid unintended consequences. She highlighted potential demographic and socioeconomic imbalances, drawing on her background as a biostatistician and public health educator. Ms. Perry also raised issues related to sustainability and student safety, particularly the reassignment of students from walkable neighborhoods near C.R. Anderson Middle School to more distant schools requiring unsafe pedestrian routes. She encouraged the Board to consider more balanced and creative solutions.

Ms. Liz Grant gave general public comment. Ms. Grant stated she is a graduate of Helena Public Schools, a parent of two children at Hawthorne Elementary, and a family doctor in the community. Ms. Grant's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to the timing and impact of the proposed closure of Hawthorne Elementary. As a parent, physician, and Helena Public Schools graduate, she shared the emotional toll the uncertainty has had on families and expressed concern over the lack of communication and clear answers from the district. She questioned why the process does not follow the precedent of previous closures, which allowed families a year to transition and included support such as school visits and welcome committees. Ms. Grant also raised concerns about student safety related to crossing busy intersections, the mental health impact on students—particularly those already affected by past disruptions like COVID—and requested clarification on the financial data used to justify the closure, noting previous inaccuracies.

Ms. Eleanor Blitzer gave general public comment. Ms. Blitzer stated she is the parent of two students at Hawthorne Elementary. Ms. Blitzer's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to concerns over the rushed transition plan for the proposed closure of Hawthorne Elementary. As a parent of two students, she expressed disappointment in the lack of meaningful communication, pointing out that the only transition support offered was a brief mention of barbecues and field days, which she found insufficient. She emphasized the challenges for special needs students and urged the Board to extend Hawthorne's operation for one more year to allow for a better transition. Additionally, Ms. Blitzer criticized the lack of community engagement, citing the absence of listening sessions, surveys, or Q&A opportunities.

Ms. Lisa Richidt gave general public comment. Ms. Richidt stated she is the parent of three students at Hawthorne Elementary. Ms. Richidt's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to the stress caused by the proposed Hawthorne closure, emphasizing the rushed timeline that leaves families and staff in uncertainty. As a parent of three children at the school, she expressed concern

over the lack of preparation time for students, particularly special education children who require a longer transition. She criticized the absence of clear answers regarding school assignments and sibling placements. Ms. Richidt urged the board to delay the closure by one year to allow for a more thoughtful, inclusive transition and to avoid long-term damage to the community's trust in the school district.

Ms. Kristie Klein gave general public comment. Ms. Klein is a Hawthorne parent and employee at Hawthorne. Ms. Klein's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to her frustration with the lack of transparency around the proposed Hawthorne closure, expressing anger at the district's failure to provide clear evidence that closing the school is the best solution for addressing the budget shortfall. She emphasized the emotional toll the uncertainty is having on staff, students, and families, and criticized the lack of foresight in the decision, particularly the potential for overcrowding at Westside schools. Ms. Klein also pointed out the contradiction of closing a school only to potentially ask taxpayers to fund the building of another. She urged the board to consider all options before making a decision and warned that the closure would be a lasting and detrimental legacy.

Ms. Hanna Warhank gave general public comment. Ms. Warhank stated she is the parent of a Hawthorne student. Ms. Warhank's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to questioning the closure of Hawthorne due to the district's financial situation. She pointed out that after attending a Budget Committee meeting, it seemed the financial deficit was less severe than previously stated. She highlighted that there were surplus funds, including the potential to pay back the borrowed money from the Interlocal fund, and additional funding for charter schools. Ms. Warhank asked if this new financial outlook meant the school closure could be reconsidered or if there were other reasons behind the decision unrelated to the budget.

Mr. Ed Beall gave general public comment. Mr. Beall stated he is a parent, grandparent, business owner, community member, and voter. Mr. Beall's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to the importance of boards recognizing when a decision may not be in the best interest of the community and taking the time to reconsider. He expressed concerns about potential instability and division on the west side of Helena and urged the board to carefully consider the long-term effects of their actions. Mr. Beall also emphasized the need for clear, deliberate communication, especially regarding the upcoming levies, and encouraged the board to listen to and address community concerns. He concluded by acknowledging the board's efforts and urging continued thoughtful decision-making.

Ms. Erin Sullivan gave general public comment. Ms. Sullivan's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to concerns about the inaccurate and inadequate information being provided regarding the potential school closure. She expressed frustration with the lack of communication and transparency, stating that the community has more questions than answers and that they feel unsupported. Ms. Sullivan urged the board to require more from the Superintendent and district in the final days leading up to the decision, emphasizing that this is about the well-being of children, who have been largely overlooked in the discussions. She concluded by calling on the Board to do better and to seek out more information to ensure that decisions are made responsibly.

Ms. Moffie Funk gave general public comment. Ms. Funk stated that she is the parent of two Helena High School graduates and the grandparent of a kindergartner in the Helena School District. Ms. Funk's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to her gratitude for those who ran for trustee positions and her appreciation for the community's effort in supporting the passing of a levy despite the financial challenges faced by many. Ms. Funk also emphasized the need for continued advocacy for

public schools, particularly during the legislative interim, and called for a redirection of funding priorities. She encouraged the community to show up and advocate for appropriate funding, as the current system has not been working for years.

Ms. Traci Swingley gave general public comment. Ms. Swingley stated that she is a Hawthorne alumna, Hawthorne grandparent, and a community member. Ms. Swingley's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to advocating for keeping Hawthorne Elementary open or delaying its closure by a year. She raised concerns about district boundaries, student safety, and walkability, and questioned the viability of offering Kessler as an option given uncertainty around bond and levy funding. Ms. Swingley acknowledged the Board's efforts, called for improved communication, and urged the community to move forward together with unity and collaboration.

Ms. Sarah Dramstad emailed the Board of Trustees general public comment for tonight's meeting. Ms. Dramstad is a music educator in the district and has a daughter at Four Georgians Elementary. Ms. Dramstad's general public comment addressed several key topics, including but not limited to concerns about proposed cuts to music and physical education, emphasizing that reducing these programs to accreditation minimums would effectively eliminate them and require a shorter school day to maintain teacher prep time. She advocated for alternative, non-student-facing budget reductions, specifically suggesting the consolidation of elementary librarian positions and principalships where current staffing exceeds accreditation standards. She noted workload inequities among librarians at different schools and urged the board to consider equity and efficiency in all staffing decisions. Ms. Dramstad expressed concern about selectively applying accreditation standards and encouraged the board to pursue more balanced, equitable approaches to budget planning.

That concluded general public comment, and the Board of Trustees moved on to review the Consent Action Items.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. Personnel Actions
2. Warrants
3. Approval of FY 2024-25 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Nonresident Students Attending Helena School District)
4. 4.8.25 Board of Trustees Full Board Meeting Minutes
5. 4.9.25 Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting Minutes-Public Hearing on Potential Closure of Hawthorne Elementary School

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Action Items as presented."

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

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 8-0 motion carries unanimously.

That concluded the approval of the Consent Action Items. The Board of Trustees moved on to hear the Items for Action.

B. Items For Action

1. Approval of Energy Performance Contracting Board Resolution

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director for Helena Public Schools, presented the action item, *Approval of Energy Performance Contracting Board Resolution*, to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Verrill explained that the resolution affirms the district's intent to follow Montana Code Annotated Titles 20, Chapter 9 (education) and Title 90, Chapter 4 (energy performance contracting). If approved, the district will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to three DEQ-approved energy service providers to conduct an investment-grade energy audit of all district facilities. The audit will assess the financial viability of entering into a future energy performance contract, with a focus on potential cost savings through improvements in HVAC, lighting, windows, insulation, and other energy-efficiency measures. Mr. Verrill addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the action item.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, "At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item *Approval of Energy Performance Contracting Board Resolution*."

Motion: Trustee Jennifer Walsh moved to approve the action item *Approval of Energy Performance Contracting Board Resolution* as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 8-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Approval of HMS Exterior Painting Bid

Mr. Todd Verrill presented the action item, *Approval of HMS Exterior Painting Bid*, to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Verrill is respectfully requesting the Board of Trustees award the Helena Middle School Exterior Restoration project to Witham Companies, LLC (Witham). Work for this project includes:

- Patch and repair damaged wall surfaces
- Prepare existing wall surfaces and apply new paint
- Paint metal railings and exterior doors
- Replace two small roofs
- Repair and/or replace concrete foundation, stairs, and curbs

The facilities office received two sealed bids and conducted a public opening on 9 May 2025. Witham submitted the lowest bid with a proposal of \$348,207.00. This proposal is well within the architect's opinion of probable cost for the project. Witham is a small company out of Townsend,

and Mr. Verrill is confident they will complete the project in a timely and professional manner.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item *Approval of HMS Exterior Painting Bid.*”

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoien moved to award the contract for the Helena Middle School Exterior Restoration project to Witham Companies, LLC in the amount of \$348,207. Trustee Jennifer McKee seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 8-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2026 Elections

Ms. Janelle Mickelson, Business Director for Helena Public Schools, presented the action item, *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2026 Election*, to the Board of Trustees.

Background:

Pursuant to 20-20-417, MCA, the trustees of a district may request the county election administrator to conduct certain school elections during the ensuing school fiscal year. The request must be made by a resolution of the board of trustees. Whenever the county election administrator agrees to conduct a school election, the administrator shall perform the duties imposed on the trustees and the clerk of the district for school elections and deliver to the trustees, for the purpose of canvassing the vote, the certified tally sheets and other election items needed for canvassing the vote.

Considerations:

The county election administrator has agreed to run elections scheduled for the regular election day, May 5, 2026. If a special election is requested, the county election administrator would want to find an agreeable date for the election and may refuse to run elections on a date that does not work for election office. The District must provide copies of all candidate filing forms and any ballot issue language by the candidate filing deadline. The county election office will run the election by district, not by precinct. Requests to run the election by precinct will not be accommodated.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve the attached resolution requesting the county to conduct 2026 elections for Helena School District No. 1.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion to approve the action item *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2026 Election.*”

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the action item *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2026 Election* as presented. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 8-0 motion carries unanimously

C. Items For Information

1. Policy 5055: Leaves of Absence

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff for Helena Public Schools, presented for information *Policy 5055: Leaves of Absence* to the Board of Trustees. The policy was revised to clarify language related to sick leave and bereavement leaves that aren't covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Also, noted was a change from nonrefundable sick leave donations to refundable sick leave donations for any unused donation. Ms. Ridgway noted on line 26 it should state *refundable sick leave fund*. Ms. Ridgway addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the policy.

2. Policy 5085: Substitutes and Student Teachers/Interns

Ms. Ridgway presented for information *Policy 5085: Substitutes and Student Teachers/Interns* to the Board of Trustees. This policy has been revised to clarify how classified staff will be compensated when called upon to substitute for a teacher. Ms. Ridgway noted that the language in lines 16 through 19 was previously presented as a single paragraph and has now been separated into two sentences for improved clarity. Ms. Ridgway addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the policy.

3. Policy 5051: Insurance Benefits for Employees

Ms. Ridgway presented for information *Policy 5051: Insurance Benefits for Employees* to the Board of Trustees. Changes to the policy include the requirement that employees may only obtain insurance coverage outside the enrollment period due to a qualifying event, and that medical examinations are no longer permitted for enrollment. Ms. Ridgway addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the policy.

4. Boundary Recommendations Update

Mr. Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Helena Public Schools, presented for information a *Boundary Recommendations Update* to the Board of Trustees. The Assistant Superintendent provided an informational presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding proposed East/West boundary adjustments within the Helena Public Schools. The purpose of the adjustment is to more equitably balance enrollment between the district's middle and high schools, ensuring consistent educational opportunities for students across both sides of the district.

The presentation addressed four key areas: the Why, How, What, and When of the proposed changes. The Assistant Superintendent emphasized that without adjustments to the boundary line, students in certain areas would have access to more diverse course offerings than others. Additionally, staffing inefficiencies arise when specialized program staff are required to travel between sites, reducing instructional time with students. Budget constraints and limited human resources necessitate a more efficient and equitable allocation of district resources.

The proposed shift would adjust the East/West boundary line westward to better balance enrollment at both the middle and high school levels. This transition would be implemented gradually, beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

Key transition provisions include:

Student Choice: Current students may remain in their existing schools, though transportation routes will be adjusted beginning in 2026–2027.

Sibling Rule: Families may choose to have younger siblings follow older siblings to the same school; however, families must provide transportation or use designated courtesy routes.

Transportation: In-district courtesy routes will be available to students remaining at their current school. These regional-style stops will allow resident students to access existing routes.

Boundary Exceptions: The district's long-standing in-district boundary exception process will remain in place.

Additionally, demographic projections from the Montana Department of Commerce indicate that the school-age population in Lewis and Clark County is expected to remain stable over the next 20 years. Given this, the district recommends conducting regular boundary reviews every 7 to 10 years, or more frequently as needed. Assistant Superintendent McKay addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the *Boundary Recommendations Update*.

D. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Report

Mr. Charlie Snellman, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, presented his Student Representative Report. Mr. Snellman commented, “Good evening, Trustees, With the blooming of lilacs and the final days of the school year in sight, May at Capital High has been a whirlwind of celebrations, milestones, and academic rigor. Springtime has brought us our annual pep assembly, the Vigilante Parade, prom, AP testing, sports, and plenty of senior excitement as we count down the days to graduation.

On Friday, May 9th, CHS held its 2025 Prom with the theme “Starry, Starry Night” at the Helena Civic Center—and what a night it was. Nearly 500 students attended, dressed to the nines and dancing well into the evening. It was a joyful and celebratory night for our upperclassmen.

The Pen & Ink Party was hosted the evening before, on Thursday, May 8th, honoring the publication of Helena’s beloved student writing and art journal. A huge thank you to Kim Cook and Kevin Ward, our faculty sponsors, and to the Helena Education Foundation for continuing to support this student-led tradition. Editors Delaney Lynch and Trevin Kockler, along with their outstanding selection committee, curated a beautiful edition filled with student voices and creativity.

Capital students also represented Montana at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference last week in Orlando, Florida. We’re proud to share that

Brooklynn Haab placed third in the nation in her competitive event, called Virtual Interview and Digital Portfolio Design! Several others placed top 10 in the nation, including: Mckenzy Heppner, Sam Flynn, Ryan Fuller, Kayle Andriolo. Congratulations to all our top 10 finalists, participants in the state, regional, and national levels of BPA, and our star advisor Ms. Toivonen, on these outstanding achievements.

Our Spring Drama Production, Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, wrapped up its run after six evening performances and two Saturday matinees. This classic play challenged both cast and audience with its timely themes and emotional depth, and our drama department once again delivered an incredible theatrical experience.

May also marks the dreaded AP Exam Season, and our testing center has been buzzing. A massive thank you to our counseling staff—especially Bethany Lindner—for coordinating the administration of a record of 670+ AP exams this spring. For context, Capital administered just 170 exams twelve years ago. This growth speaks volumes about the academic ambition and preparation of our students and staff at CHS.

On May 2, The Vigilante Parade brought music, school spirit, and tradition to downtown Helena. With over 60 CHS floats registered, student participation was at an all-time high. This year, CHS also implemented a new "barrier check" staff assignment along the walking mall portion of the route to help monitor crowd safety and emergency access. These improvements were well received by both school leaders and city officials.

CHS Track & Field athletes competed in a fun and positively competitive Crosstown Meet on May 8th, with strong performances across the board. We are excited to cheer on several Bruins heading to Divisionals in Butte on May 16–17, and those who qualify for State Track in Kalispell from May 22–24.

On Wednesday, May 21st, CHS will welcome a powerful presentation from Supaman, a Native American hip-hop artist and motivational speaker. Thanks to a grant through the Lewis and Clark County Health Department, Supaman will visit several schools in our district to deliver a message of hope, resilience, and cultural pride.

Finally, in the spirit of gratitude, CHS Student Council treated our teachers and staff to a delicious Teacher Appreciation Luncheon last week, catered by Panda Express. Special thanks to Kathy Kidder, who also secured Broadwater Hot Springs passes as prize giveaways for our staff. Speaking of gratitude, I would also like to echo CHS students' broad appreciation for HEF and specifically, Lisa Cordingley, the woman behind it all. Her leadership and commitment to public education is incredibly inspiring to me. Though I only had the pleasure of getting to know Lisa personally this year, as I reflect on my twelve years in Helena Public Schools, I could point to something that positively impacted my education for every single year of the twelve. Her programs, institutes, and events from Fabulous Firsts to the Celebration of Excellence last night are a testament to her absolute conviction to uphold the most beautiful aspect of our society: education.

Anyway, as we head into our final weeks, the excitement is palpable. Between final projects, award ceremonies, senior skip days, and of course—graduation coming soon!—there's a lot to celebrate as we close the curtain on another exceptional year at Capital High."

Ms. Adella Harris, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, presented her Student Representative Report. Ms. Adella Harris commented, “The atmosphere is bittersweet at Helena High. AP students finish up their final exams and teachers begin to wrap up final units. Seniors hold a buzz of nervous but excited energy as the big day approaches. All of us scrambling to plan last minute senior pranks (and have Mr. Kessler approve them) and staying on the lookout during an intense battle of non-school related senior assassin.

This past month, a follow-up meeting was held with the group of students who participated in the State of Mind event workshop on March 3. The group reviewed the Care Commitments that were created and plan to share them with staff again this school year. The group's desire is to use these commitments to build student engagement and eventually share them with the whole community as we work together on bringing further awareness to mental health support and needs for our students. The student group has many other ideas on how we approach mental health education, resources, and approaches in the district that they will continue to think through. The students hope to eventually approach district administration and the board on what next steps may look like.

One of our best traditions will continue later this month. On May 28, we will hold our annual Grad Walk, having our students walk through HMS and their respective Elementary Schools, being cheered on by students and former teachers. New this year, in collaboration with Bryant Elementary, we will walk the entire graduating class of 2025 around their campus before heading off to the other locations. This new piece of the grad walk will help Bryant’s goal of imparting the importance of graduation on their students.

We will hold our Spring Pep Assembly tomorrow, Wednesday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. We would like to invite the Trustees to attend the assembly and help celebrate all of the amazing students at HHS! This is also the time where we transition from our outgoing student body leadership to the new. We will highlight our spring sports teams, recognize those that earned their Seal of Biliteracy, and engage in a few exciting games!

Thank you to all of our students and the support of the community to put on another successful Vigilante Parade! It was exciting to see a large contingency of Bengals taking part in the parade again this year. We want to give a special shout out to our band and all of their hard work – there were many comments on how great they sounded again this year!!

Thanks to our Green Group and local community members for coming to campus during Earth Week and taking the first stab at cleaning up overgrowth and working to make our campus a beautiful place to be. While always a work in progress, this support truly helps and shows how important our schools are for our community. We will also have students helping in a few weeks to clear out space for our new Hoop House, donated by the Helena Indian Alliance, where we will help grow native grasses and resources that can be utilized by many classes in the school.

We were honored to celebrate the academic accomplishments of the Class of 2025 Valedictorians and Salutatorians a few weeks ago. Maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout at least 7 semesters in high school, or having just one B, may seem easy, but it takes an incredible amount

of grit and determination to reach those goals. We are honored to have such a strong group of individuals who achieved these accomplishments this year with 19 Valedictorians and 7 Salutatorians.

One of the best scholarships a student can earn when attending a school in the Montana University System is the MUS Honors and STEM Scholarships. This highly competitive scholarship helps cover tuition costs for students in the Montana University System. HHS had 8 students awarded the MUS Honors Scholarship which will give roughly \$20,000 over a 4-year time period to each student. On the STEM Scholarship side, 19 Bengals will receive \$6,000 over 4 years to help cover their collegiate needs.

Our two National Merit Finalists have been notified that they have earned the National Merit Scholarship to their respective colleges! We are incredibly proud of all the work Eva and Evelyn put in during their time at HHS and wish them luck on their next steps.

A couple of weeks ago, our graduating members of the National Honor Society received their NHS tassels and were recognized for the amazing achievements they have accomplished over the past year. With roughly 20,000 hours of community service provided by this graduating group, we can confirm that they truly gave back to the Helena community and help to make Helena a better place to be. We also want to congratulate the new inductees to our National Honor Society and wish them luck as they work to maintain the high level of expectation of giving back.

Helena High student Michael Leyva has been awarded the prestigious Horatio Alger Scholarship. This highly competitive scholarship is awarded to typically one Montana student each year. Michael's story of perseverance and dedication to fulfilling his lifelong dreams made him the perfect candidate for this award. Michael will get to travel to Washington, DC next year to accept the award and participate in the awards ceremony alongside the other top scholars from around the nation.

Congratulations to our Bengal Softball team – earning the first conference championship since 1990! This team has done incredible things, and we look forward to what comes next for them.

If you have a chance, stop by and see the amazing things happening in our shops! Whether it be our welding students creating awards, gifts, or fixing trailers for community and family members. Watching students learn how to use the new state-of-the-art alignment machine in our auto bays, to the sheds being built for community members or businesses like Food Share. The hands-on learning and job skill creation happening in these courses is truly amazing.

Ms. Koch continues to find ways to not only teach students about the joys and science behind cooking, but to make the reality of a career in this field a true possibility. Recently, Ms. Koch took her upper-level students on a tour of two colleges, introducing students to the pathways available to them. A few students mentioned that they had never considered a collegiate path before, but after seeing the two campuses (UM and Flathead Valley Community College), they now think it is a real possibility. Additionally, Ms. Koch has made tremendous connections with businesses in the community, giving our students an opportunity to learn how The Union prepares its food, what farm to table really means, and find potential career paths for many in her courses.

Recognizing the need for our students to have multiple certifications or aspects to put on their resumes that will help them along the way, our World Language teachers took on the hard task of providing the testing for students to demonstrate proficiency in multiple languages. As you heard earlier tonight, this is a great task and a great honor for students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy – thank you to our World Language teachers for their work on this.

Last week was Teacher/Staff appreciation week. We are so fortunate to have an amazing staff at HHS that works hard each day, preparing kids for the future. Thank you to all of our teachers for what they do each day, providing a safe place for students to learn and grow!

Tennis will be competing in their divisional tournament Thursday and Friday this week in Bozeman. Our track teams – who both have had success throughout the year – sweeping the Crosstown meets – will compete in their Divisional meet in Butte Friday and Saturday this weekend. We already have a large number of student-athletes who have auto-qualified for the meet and look forward to seeing how our teams do at the State Meet next week in Kalispell. Softball has earned an automatic bid to the State Tournament in Great Falls next week, taking the number one seed from the west into the tournament! Go Bengals!

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2025 on Saturday, June 7 at 11:00 a.m. as they walk the graduation stage.

As always Helena High never fails to produce not only high achieving, highly awarded students, but incredible people. Our staff works more than just to help teach a math formula or Shakespeare, but work to instill faith, belief, and confidence in their students. Congratulations to the Class of 2025, their families, and their teachers. We cannot wait to see what you all do to serve your community now and in the future. Go Bengal's!"

2. **Helena Education Association Report**

Ms. Jane Shawn, HEA President, presented the Helena Education Association Report. Ms. Shawn reported that teacher bargaining sessions were productive, with progress made on final language items and adjustments to the salary matrix to align with STARS compliance. A ratification vote by membership is scheduled for the following Thursday and Friday, with the board set to review the agreement pending approval. Nominations for Educator and Paraeducator of the Year are currently open and will close tomorrow. Award recipients will direct a \$500 donation to their school of choice. Paraeducator bargaining is also underway, with most language agreed upon and ongoing discussion around salary increases. Ms. Shawn also highlighted the recent Celebration of Excellence event, noting it was a meaningful opportunity to honor outstanding students and educators. She expressed appreciation for the event and shared that MFPE sponsored a table this year. Ms. Shawn addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding her report.

3. **Facilities & Technology Committee Report**

Trustee Jeff Hindoien presented the Facilities & Technology Committee Report. Trustee Hindoien shared that a new Network Engineer will begin on June 2, filling a long-standing vacancy. The district is now addressing the need for expanded video storage capacity, as earlier

security infrastructure implemented with the safety levy is aging. Preparations are also underway for summer Chromebook maintenance, which includes software resets and organizing hardware. The district recently solicited proposals for a new copier system, with a recommendation expected at the May 22 board meeting. Additionally, a surplus technology resolution is anticipated in the fall to dispose of outdated equipment. Trustee Hindoien noted that the district will phase out support for the Google Chrome browser to streamline operations and improve cybersecurity by supporting only Brave, Edge, and Safari browsers. The IT department continues to work through challenges related to the charter schools. During the meeting Mr. Myers commented on the recent technology levy vote, acknowledging its narrow margin and emphasizing that the technology needs remain, despite the levy's failure.

On the facilities side, Trustee Hindoien highlighted ongoing projects, —specifically, the Helena Middle School exterior improvements and the resolution related to Energy Performance Contracting. Mr. Verrill praised the facilities team for their efforts during the Vigilante Parade and reported that grounds crews have started seasonal irrigation and mowing, although the department is still struggling to fill summer temporary positions. Custodial staff are preparing for extensive flooring projects district-wide. A single-day custodial training and team-building event will be held at Jefferson. However, custodial staffing has declined again with 5 current vacancies and several retirements anticipated. Finally, Trustee Hindoien mentioned that the district is participating in a geohazards and seismic safety workshop. Trustee Hindoien addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding his report.

4. **Budget and Finance Committee Report**

Trustee Janet Armstrong presented the Budget and Finance Committee Report. Trustee Armstrong outlined that the district is in its third year of addressing ongoing budget deficits and has relied on interlocal funds to manage shortfalls while awaiting outcomes from the recent legislative session. Although the session provided some financial clarity, the current use of interlocal funds is unsustainable and has led to underfunding in key departments. Federal funding is expected to decline due to reduced student enrollment, and charter school funding challenges were highlighted. Additionally, rising property liability insurance costs pose a significant burden. Trustee Armstrong addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding her report.

5. **Teaching & Learning Committee Report**

Trustee Kay Satre presented the Teaching and Learning Committee Report. The meeting focused on district-wide writing initiatives and updates to high school instruction. At the elementary level, a pilot program is underway to increase daily writing time, integrate writing across subjects, and build a consistent, evidence-based curriculum aligned with new Montana standards. Teachers emphasized the need for improved instruction in handwriting, keyboarding, and writing progression across grades. The task force will continue work over the summer and monitor student growth in the coming year. At the high school level, writing assessment has been revised to include interdisciplinary scoring, AI-supported efficiency, and meaningful feedback for students. The committee also reviewed a major revision of the high school social studies curriculum, which has shifted from content delivery to an inquiry-based model. Teachers reported strong student engagement and positive spillover into other subjects, with ongoing collaboration and refinement continuing into the next school year. Trustee Satre

addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding her report.

6. **Policy Committee Report**

Trustee Jennifer Walsh presented the Policy Committee Report. The Policy committee has completed its review of all scheduled policies, with attention now turning to upcoming legislative policy updates. The committee reviewed several specific policies, including 5055, 5085, and 5051, with a notable discussion on Policy 5085 related to substitute compensation, which was revised to ensure equity and alignment with related roles. Policy 2165 "Early Scholastic Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs" was reviewed and discussed. A key improvement to the policy states that the Board may opt to enroll on-target students into the classroom or jumpstart targeted intervention program and may admit one on-target child for every five eligible children enrollment in the targeted intervention program. Trustee Walsh noted the committee is in a good position heading into the fall policy work. Trustee Walsh addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding her report.

7. **Health Benefits Committee Report**

Trustee Kay Satre presented the Health Benefits Committee meeting report. Trustee Satre highlighted the recent RFP process and selection of new vendors. Allegiance was chosen as the medical third-party administrator for its cost effectiveness, Delta Dental for its strong in-state network, and Ameritas for vision, offering access to both EYEMED and VSP networks. The committee is also evaluating the introduction of two plan options—one similar to the current plan and another resembling a marketplace silver plan—which could save members \$70–\$90 per month. Other discussions include adopting a more modern structure by eliminating deductibles in favor of co-insurance to reduce upfront costs, although this may not be put in place this upcoming Plan Year. Preliminary premium increase projections are underway and will be finalized after results from the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) RFP process. Express Scripts will no longer be the PBM, and finalist interviews are ongoing to select a new vendor. Final financial proposals, including premium adjustments, will be presented to the Board by the end of the month. Trustee Satre addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding her report.

8. **Wellness Committee Report**

Ms. Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff, presented the Wellness Committee Report. Key initiatives include Chloe Lundquist's collaboration with Broadwater teachers to expand their school garden and Robert Worthy's efforts to supply nutritious items in vending machines at both high schools—currently very popular, particularly with parfaits. Helena's summer food program, led by Robert Worthy, aims to once again lead the state in meals served. Committee member Kim Dale from Helena Food Share is retiring and will be replaced by a new representative. Other updates included Kim Lloyd's work with the Charlie Cart to teach cooking with local ingredients, and Lisa Lee's push to address the high consumption of energy drinks among students. PAL students are growing produce for Food Share and participating in cooking classes. Future committee goals include addressing student energy drink consumption, improving C.R. Anderson's overcrowded lunch period structure, adding a student member from PAL, and conducting a student wellness survey. There's also interest in recruiting a family and consumer sciences teacher from Helena High to join the committee. Ms. Ridgway addressed all

questions from the Board of Trustees regarding her report.

9. **Montana School Boards Association Report**

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn presented the Montana School Boards Association Report. Chair Hathhorn reported that while the Montana School Boards Association has not met formally, an important convening of educational leaders is scheduled for June 3–4. The event aims to foster collaboration between public and non-public school systems. Additionally, a board training session for trustees is scheduled for June 5, and more information will be shared soon.

10. **Parent Council Visit Reports**

There were no Parent Council Visit Reports this evening.

That concluded the Reports portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees moved on to review upcoming meetings.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn reviewed upcoming meetings with the Board of Trustees.

- Thursday, May 22nd, Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Lincoln Center
- Tuesday, May 27th, Board of Trustees Work Session, Broadwater Elementary, 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 10th, Board of Trustees Full Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Lincoln Center

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

VIII. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no further board or superintendent comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary

Date



**Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting**

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025
Lincoln Center
1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT, 59601
5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Brian Kessler, Helena High School Principal
Rachel Robison, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Board Reporter
Linda Cleatus, Trustee	Current Student & Parents
Jeff Hindoién, Trustee	
Kay Satre, Trustee	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda, and no changes were made.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

1. Consideration of Age Waiver for Current Student

(This portion of the meeting will be closed because the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. (MCA 2-3-203) Any related action will be taken in open session.)

The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 5:00 p.m. for the consideration of age waiver for current student.

The Board of Trustees reentered open session at 5:10 p.m.

B. ITEM FOR ACTION

1. Board Decision Regarding the Consideration of Age Waiver for Current Student

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for the approval of age waiver for current student as presented."

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the age waiver for current student as presented. Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

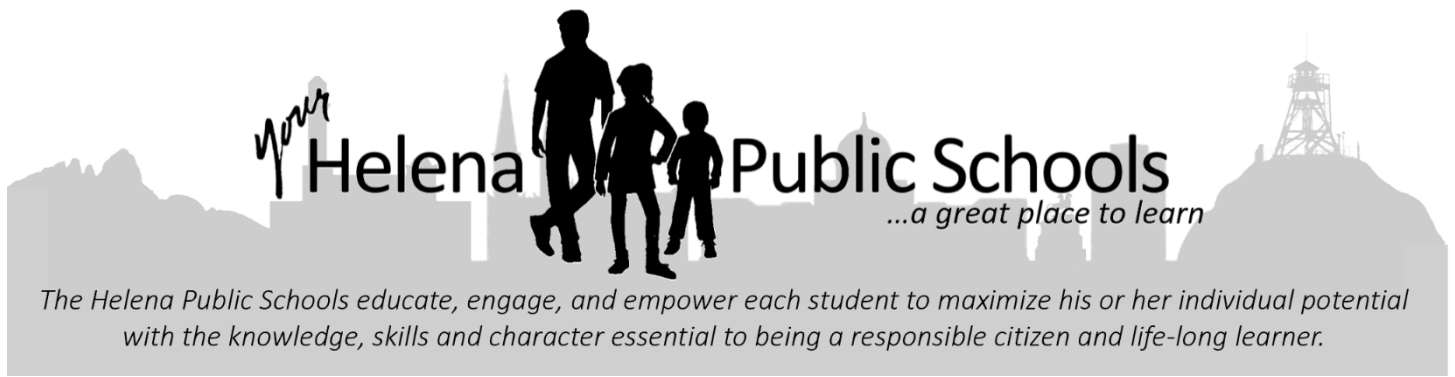
Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

V. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no final board comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.



Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting

Thursday, May 22nd, 2025
Lincoln Center
1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT, 59601
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Jennifer McKee, Vice Chair	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Board Reporter
Linda Cleatus, Trustee	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Jenny Murnane Butcher, Trustee	Justine Alberts, Curriculum Director
Kay Satre, Trustee	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Janelle Mickelson, Business Director
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education
	Katrina Chaney, Lewis & Clark County Superintendent of Schools
	Several Guests of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda, and no changes were made.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kurt Kubicka gave general public comment. Mr. Kubicka stated he a parent of three daughters who attended Hawthorne Elementary School and is a voter and a taxpayer in Helena. Mr. Kubicka's general public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to concerns regarding the recently failed mill levies and the potential closure of Hawthorne Elementary School, along with other neighborhood schools. Mr. Kubicka emphasized that his opposition to this year's levies stemmed from a lack of clear assurances that funds would be used to preserve neighborhood schools. He noted the significant amount requested—nearly \$29 million across three levies—and contrasted it with the minimal funding approved. Mr. Kubicka urged the Board to consider how priorities, particularly the preservation of local schools, may influence voter support in future decisions.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items For Action

1. Canvass of Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election

a. Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (Elementary)

b. Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (High School)

Ms. Janelle Mickelson, Business Director for Helena Public Schools, presented the action items a. *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (Elementary)* and b. *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (High School)* to the Board of Trustees.

Background:

The annual regular school election was held on Tuesday May 6, 2025. Pursuant to 20-20-415, MCA, at the first regular or special meeting after receiving the certified tally sheets and no later than 25 days after the election, trustees must canvass the election results. After the canvass of the total votes cast, trustees must issue a certificate of election. In the case of a trustee election, the certificate must be issued to the elected trustee and the county superintendent, designating the term of the trustee position. In the case of an election on a proposition, the trustees must issue a certificate specifying the outcome of the election.

Considerations:

- The County Election Office provided a canvass report on May 16, 2025.
 - Highlights:
 - Total registered voters in the elementary school were 36,165. Total ballots issued were 36,165. Total ballots tabulated were 15,339 with a total voter turnout of 42.41%.
 - Total registered voters in the high school were 38,233. Total ballots issued were 38,233. Total ballots tabulated were 16,197 with a total voter turnout of 42.36%.
- The election results were also provided by the county elections office on May 16, 2025.
 - Highlights:
 - Kay Satre, Siobhan Hathhorn, and Jenny Murnane Butcher received the most votes for the three vacant K-12 seats with Kay Satre receiving 7,789 votes (24.04%), Siobhan Hathhorn receiving 6,808 votes (21.01%) and Jenny Murnane Butcher receiving 6,682 votes (20.62%).
 - The elementary general fund levy proposition passed by a margin of 53.77% (8,132 FOR, 6,993 AGAINST).
 - The elementary technology levy proposition failed by a margin of 51.41% (7,385 FOR, 7,815 AGAINST).
 - The high school technology levy proposition failed by a margin of 50.40% (7,955 FOR, 8,084 AGAINST).
- Katrina Chaney, County Superintendent of Schools will administer the oath of office to elected trustees.

Superintendent recommendation:

Canvass the election results, issue the certificates of election, and administer the oath of office to elected trustees.

Ms. Mickelson addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the action items presented.

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. "I would entertain a motion for the action item *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (Elementary)*."

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the action item *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (Elementary)* as presented. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 motion carries unanimously. *(Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh abstained from voting as she is a trustee strictly for the High School District and this action item only pertains to the Elementary District.)*

Board Chair Siobhan Hathhorn commented. “I would entertain a motion for the action item *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (High School)*.”

Motion: Trustee Jennifer McKee moved to approve the action item *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (High School)* as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0 motion carries unanimously.

B. Oath of Office for 2025-2028 Elected Trustees

Ms. Siobhan Hathhorn, Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, and Ms. Kay Satre recited the Oath of Office and were officially sworn in as Trustees by Ms. Katrina Chaney, Lewis & Clark County Superintendent of Schools.

C. Items For Action

1. Organization of the Board of Trustees, Election of Officers and Appointment of Clerk

- a. Appointment of Board Chair**
- b. Appointment of Board Vice Chair**
- c. Appointment of District Clerk**

1a. Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to appoint Trustee Jennifer McKee as Board Chair. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

1b. Motion: Trustee Janet Armstrong moved to appoint Trustee Jennifer Walsh as Board Vice Chair. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

1c. Motion: Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn moved to appoint Ms. Janelle Mickelson as District Clerk. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

2. Award Copier Lease Contract

Mr. Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology, presented the action item *Award Copier Lease Contract* to the Board of Trustees.

Background:

The District's copier lease agreement with the current provider, Information Technology Core/Pinion Technology Core (ITC/PTC) expires on June 30, 2025. A request for proposals (RFP) was issued on April 1, 2025, with a submittal deadline of April 30, 2025. Proposals were received from ITC/PTC and Selby's. The evaluation committee reviewed and rated the two proposals based on the following criteria:

- Company qualifications
- Pricing
- Working relationship
- Quality of equipment
- Equipment configurations
- Equipment specifications

Considerations:

- Both vendors presented as highly qualified and competent.
- The quality of the equipment from both vendors is acceptable. Configurations and specifications were compatible with our technology.
- The District has no previous experience with the Selby's in this arena, but the committee felt the company presented well and were confident that a good working relationship could be established.
- The working relationship with ITC/PTC has been strained at times. However, ITC/PTC is proposing a new customer service model that should address those strains.
- Selby's annual pricing for the minimum number of copies was approximately 15% higher than ITC/PTC and per copy price after the minimum number of copies is twice as much as ITC/PTC price per copy.

- Less training would be needed with the ITC/PTC proposal because district staff are familiar with the HP copier brand.
- As our current provider, the transition process with ITC/PTC would be smoother.

Ultimately, the committee's decision came down to the pricing difference, as well as the smoother transition and streamlined training needs. The committee recommends that the Board of Trustees award the copier lease contract to ITC/PTC for a 5-year term.

Superintendent recommendation: Accept the evaluation committee's recommendation and award the copier lease contract to ITC/PTC for a 5-year term.

Mr. Myers addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the action item.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee commented. "I would entertain a motion for the action item *Award Copier Lease Contract*.

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to award the copier lease contract to ITC/PTC for a 5-year term. Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

3. Award Workers' Compensation Contract

Mr. Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent, presented the action item *Award Workers' Compensation Contract* to the Board of Trustees.

Background:

The District's contract with its current workers' compensation carrier, Montana State Fund, expires on June 30, 2025. A request for proposals (RFP) was issued on February 3, 2025, with a submittal deadline of April 11, 2025. Proposals were received from Montana Schools Group Interlocal Authority (MSGIA) and MarshMcLennan Agency/Montana State Fund. The evaluation committee reviewed and rated the two proposals based on the following criteria:

- Net cost of coverage
- Experience, qualifications, and references
- Loss control services
- Subjective fit

Considerations:

- Premium proposals for fiscal year 2025-26 were: MSGIA - \$350,486 and MarshMcLennan Agency/Montana State Fund - \$413,911.
- Both proposals offered dividend programs. MSGIA's program is based on loss performance and could be up to \$25,000. Whereas the MarshMcLennan Agency/State Fund dividend program is provided to all members regardless of loss performance. In the past three years, the District has received dividends from Montana State Fund as follows: \$66,218.58, \$94,116.70 and \$99,398.55. When factoring in dividends the net cost of the proposals is similar.
- MSGIA custodial rate \$5.85. MarshMcLennan Agency/State Fund custodial rate \$3.50. Note: custodial claims are our highest cost claims.
- Both proposals were evaluated on several factors, including risk, stability of rates across the network and flexibility. Both vendors demonstrated a strong net position and stability of rates across their network.
- Both proposals demonstrated great loss control programs.
- MSGIA is completely school focused.
- MarshMcLennan Agency/State Fund has expertise in industry standards.
- No transition period with MarshMcLennan Agency/State Fund.

Ultimately, the committee felt both vendors were competent, with no clear "winner". After careful consideration, the evaluation committee decided to continue the relationship with MarshMcLennan Agency/State Fund and is recommending the workers' compensation contract be awarded to MarshMcLennan/State Fund.

Superintendent recommendation: Accept the evaluation committee's recommendation and award the workers' compensation contract to MarshMcLennan/Montana State Fund.

Mr. McKay addressed all questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the action item.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee commented. "I would entertain a motion for the action item *Award Workers' Compensation Contract*."

Motion: Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn moved to award the workers' compensation contract to MarshMcLennan/Montana State Fund as presented. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Mr. Shawn Bubb gave public comment. Mr. Bubb stated that he is employed by MSGIA. Mr. Bubb's public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to the work and recommendations of the workers' compensation selection

committee, the comparative financial strength of the two carriers considered, and the cost analysis between remaining with the State Fund versus returning to MSGIA. He emphasized that MSGIA's proposal offered a \$64,000 cost advantage and additional savings opportunities through services such as asbestos reinspection. Mr. Bubb clarified that the District could still receive the State Fund dividend even if transitioning to MSGIA, potentially resulting in total savings exceeding \$125,000 over two years. He noted the District's prior favorable experience with MSGIA, the potential for improved loss ratios, and the lack of downside financial risk in a two-year return to MSGIA. Mr. Bubb concluded by strongly encouraging the Board to consider moving back to MSGIA to maximize financial and service-related benefits.

Mr. Rody Holman gave public comment. Mr. Holman stated that he serves as the Program Manager for the Montana Schools Property & Liability Insurance Plan as well as the liaison between the Helena School District and the Montana State Fund with respect to its work comp policy. Mr. Holman's public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to emphasizing the District's long-standing relationship with the State Fund, which has issued dividends for 26 consecutive years—\$260,000 of which went to Helena Public Schools in the past three years. Mr. Holman explained the shift from a loss-sensitive to an all-policyholder dividend model, ensuring more equitable benefits for schools practicing strong risk management. Mr. Holman also noted the District's recognition with the Governor's Large Public Entity Safety Award, crediting collaboration between the District, Marsh McLennan, and the State Fund. Mr. Holman concluded by urging the Board to follow the committee's and superintendent's recommendation to continue with the Montana State Fund, highlighting its value beyond cost, including reliable service, safety support, and consistent financial returns.

Mr. Bubb gave additional public comment. Mr. Bubb's public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to providing further clarification regarding the Montana Schools Group Insurance Authority (MSGIA) dividend structure. He explained that MSGIA offers two types of dividends: a loss-sensitive Safety Rewards Program, through which districts with a 20% loss ratio or better can earn up to 5% back—estimated at approximately \$25,000 for Helena—and a core underwriting dividend. The core dividend is not loss-sensitive and is determined annually by MSGIA's Board of Directors, comprised of Montana education leaders. If MSGIA's capital position exceeds set thresholds, funds are returned to school districts based on premium volume. Mr. Bubb emphasized that this core dividend underlies the \$63,000 savings cited in MSGIA's proposal and is awarded toward the next year's premium, independent of the district's claims experience.

Mr. Holman gave additional public comment. Mr. Holman's public comment addressed several key topics including but not limited to providing further clarification regarding dividend opportunities and program structure through the Montana State Fund. He noted

that in addition to the all-policyholder dividend the district currently receives, membership in the Safe Schools Program creates eligibility for a second potential dividend, contingent on the performance of that group, of which Helena is a part. He also emphasized that the Montana State Fund operates on a guaranteed cost basis, meaning the quoted premium is fixed and not subject to later assessments. In contrast, he stated the competing program includes an assessable component, posing financial risk if additional contributions are required in the future. Mr. Holman concluded by encouraging the board to approve continued participation with the Montana State Fund.

Mr. Bubbs, Mr. Holman, Mr. McKay, and Ms. Mickelson responded to questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the action item, after which the Board proceeded to a final vote.

Vote: 7-0 motion carries unanimously.

V. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Rex Weltz thanked Ms. Katrina Chaney for attending the meeting and expressed appreciation to Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn for her service as Board Chair. Other trustees also shared their gratitude and recognized Trustee Hathhorn's leadership and contributions during her time in the role. Trustee Hathhorn offered a few words reflecting on her experience as Board Chair and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Jennifer McKee adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.



Recommendations from the Health Benefit Committee to the Board of Trustees for plan year 2025-26

June 10, 2025

The following are recommendations by the Health Benefit Committee for the plan year 2025-26:

- 1.) For the Medical plans, there were slight increases to the deductibles and max out of pockets to meet more modern standards and to allow for lower premiums for the employees.

Medical Option 1				
	Current	AV	PY 25-26 Recommendation	AV
Deductible Single	\$750.00	90%	\$1,500	87%
Deductible Family	\$1,500.00		\$3,000	
Single Max OOP	\$3,000.00		\$4,000	
Family Max OOP	\$6,000.00		\$8,000	
Medical Option 2				
	Current	AV	PY 25-26 Recommendation	AV
Deductible Single	\$2,000	85%	\$3,000	79%
Deductible Family	\$4,000		\$6,000	
Single Max OOP	\$6,000		\$7,000	
Family Max OOP	\$12,000		\$14,000	

- 2.) Premium Rates for the 2025-26 Plan year. There was a decrease in Premiums by 1.6% for Option 1 and 3.8% for Option 2. How the Health Benefits committee arrived at the recommendation is written below:
 - Every year the Committee gets Trend Percentage numbers that come from our Benefits Consultant, Milliman and Segal which are actuarial firms. These numbers give the Committee a projection of what our costs will be. The trend percentages for medical and pharmacy were 6% and 8%, the dental trend percentage is 2% and the vision was 1%.

In completing the 2025-26 Premium analysis with Alliant we calculated the estimated claims and expenses versus our income. We would need about \$1,233 per employee per month to offset the costs of our expenses. The good news is we would be able to manage that and save our employees a little money. With a slight reduction in deductibles and max out of pockets, we saw a 1.6% Premium rate decrease in Option 1 and 3.8% decrease in Option 2. The Dental and Vision we were able to break even with, there was no need to increase for the next year as well. Here is what the Premiums for next year's plans look like:

2024-2025				2025-2026 With 3.6% Increase in District Contribution and 3.8% Decrease in Premium				
Option 2	Premium Amount	District Contribution	EE Out-of-Pocket	Option 2	Premium Amount	District Contribution	EE Out-of-Pocket	Diff
Employee Only	\$905.56	\$1,031.90	\$126.34	Employee Only	\$880.24	\$1,069.40	\$189.16	(\$62.82)
Employee Plus Spouse	\$1,729.63	\$1,031.90	(\$697.73)	Employee Plus Spouse	\$1,681.28	\$1,069.40	(\$611.88)	(\$85.85)
Employee Plus Child	\$1,131.96	\$1,031.90	(\$100.06)	Employee Plus Child	\$1,100.31	\$1,069.40	(\$30.91)	(\$69.15)
Employee Plus Children	\$1,222.51	\$1,031.90	(\$190.61)	Employee Plus Children	\$1,188.34	\$1,069.40	(\$118.94)	(\$71.67)
Employee Plus Family (1 Child)	\$1,956.02	\$1,031.90	(\$924.12)	Employee Plus Family (1 Child)	\$1,901.34	\$1,069.40	(\$831.94)	(\$92.18)
Employee Plus Family (Children)	\$2,046.58	\$1,031.90	(\$1,014.68)	Employee Plus Family (Children)	\$1,989.37	\$1,069.40	(\$919.97)	(\$94.71)
2024-2025				2025-2026 With 3.6% Increase in District Contribution and 1.6% Decrease in Premium				
Option 1	Premium Amount	District Contribution	EE Out-of-Pocket	Option 1	Premium Amount	District Contribution	EE Out-of-Pocket	Diff
Employee Only	\$1,086.68	\$1,031.90	(\$54.78)	Employee Only	\$1,069.40	\$1,069.40	\$0.00	(\$54.78)
Employee Plus Spouse	\$2,075.55	\$1,031.90	(\$1,043.65)	Employee Plus Spouse	\$2,042.55	\$1,069.40	(\$973.15)	(\$70.50)
Employee Plus Child	\$1,358.35	\$1,031.90	(\$326.45)	Employee Plus Child	\$1,336.76	\$1,069.40	(\$267.36)	(\$59.09)
Employee Plus Children	\$1,467.01	\$1,031.90	(\$435.11)	Employee Plus Children	\$1,443.68	\$1,069.40	(\$374.28)	(\$60.83)
Employee Plus Family (1 Child)	\$2,347.22	\$1,031.90	(\$1,315.32)	Employee Plus Family (1 Child)	\$2,309.90	\$1,069.40	(\$1,240.50)	(\$74.82)
Employee Plus Family (Children)	\$2,455.89	\$1,031.90	(\$1,423.99)	Employee Plus Family (Children)	\$2,416.85	\$1,069.40	(\$1,347.45)	(\$76.54)

3.) RFP for Medical, Dental, Vision and Pharmacy/Rx

- Medical: Allegiance was voted as our Medical TPA due to their low administrative costs and large networks and discounts. They will continue to help manage our medical health plan as it is evolving.
- Dental: Delta Dental was voted as our Dental TPA due to their competitive administrative costs and ability to adapt and implement as we need.
- Vision: Ameritas was voted as our Vision TPA. Their network is among the best and they have flexible capabilities to help us navigate through any changes and benefit enhancements.
- Pharmacy/Rx: Rightway won the Pharmacy bid. They had the best pricing guarantees and administrative costs along with their team's ability to navigate through any implementations and changes as we need going forward.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.1

☐	Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
☐	Review of Agenda
☐	Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives
☐	Recognitions
☐	Superintendent's Report
☐	General Public Comment
☐	Consent Action Items
☒	Items For Action
☐	Reports
☐	Upcoming Meetings
☐	Board/Superintendent Comments
☐	Adjournment

Item Title: Item For Action
1. Approval of Allegiance as Medical TPA

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

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.2

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

Item Title: Item For Action
2. Approval of Delta Dental as Dental TPA

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

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.3

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

Item Title: Item For Action
3. Approval of Ameritas as Vision TPA

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

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.4

☐	Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
☐	Review of Agenda
☐	Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives
☐	Recognitions
☐	Superintendent's Report
☐	General Public Comment
☐	Consent Action Items
☒	Items For Action
☐	Reports
☐	Upcoming Meetings
☐	Board/Superintendent Comments
☐	Adjournment

Item Title: Item For Action
4. Approval of Rightway as Rx/Pharmacy PBM

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

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.5

- ☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- ☐ Review of Agenda
- ☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives
- ☐ Recognitions
- ☐ Superintendent's Report
- ☐ General Public Comment
- ☐ Consent Action Items
- ☒ Items For Action
- ☐ Reports
- ☐ Upcoming Meetings
- ☐ Board/Superintendent Comments
- ☐ Adjournment

Item Title: Item For Action
5. Approval of Plan Design Changes & Premiums for the 2025-2026 Plan Year

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

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.6

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

Item Title: Item For Action
6. Resolution Calling for Elementary Bond Election

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

Helena Schools

SAMPLE MILL LEVY IMPACT ANALYSIS

Proposed General Obligation Bonds

The following tax impact information is based on estimates and the final tax impacts will differ based on the Districts' final certified taxable values to be released in early August and changes in other variables as described below.

	ELEMENTARY DISTRICT	HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
	\$43,000,000 20-Year Bond	\$240,000,000 30-Year Bond
	<i>(first levy on tax rolls in 2026/27)</i>	<i>(first levy on tax rolls in 2026/27)</i>
	<i>*levying fewer mills until prior bonds are paid in 2037 & 2039</i>	
Estimated Mill Levy Computation:		
Par Amount of the Bonds:	<u>\$43,000,000</u>	<u>\$240,000,000</u>
Total Estimated Interest Over Life of Bonds (1):	\$34,940,355	\$246,812,762
Estimated Annual Bond Payment/Tax Levy on Tax Rolls (1):	\$2,556,325	\$16,226,938
Less: Estimated State Aid for Debt Service Figure (for Example Purposes):	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$615,000</u>
EQUALS: "NET" Debt Service Levy Amount (After State Aid):	\$2,556,325	\$15,611,938
Divided By: District's Estimated 2025/26 Mill Value (2):	<u>\$147,716,789</u>	<u>\$161,535,976</u>
Equals: Estimated Number of Mills Required:	17.31	96.65

Estimated Tax Increase for 'HOMESTEAD QUALIFIED' RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES (Primary Residence/Long-Term Rental) :

2025/26 Tax Year "MARKET VALUE" of Residential Property (3)(4)	2025/26 Tax Year "TAXABLE VALUE" of Residential Property (5)(6)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (5)(6)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (5)(6)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (5)(6)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (5)(6)
\$100,000	\$760	\$13.15	\$1.10	\$73.45	\$6.12
\$200,000	\$1,520	\$26.30	\$2.19	\$146.90	\$12.24
\$300,000	\$2,280	\$39.46	\$3.29	\$220.35	\$18.36
\$400,000	\$3,040	\$52.61	\$4.38	\$293.81	\$24.48
\$500,000	\$4,140	\$71.65	\$5.97	\$400.12	\$33.34
\$600,000	\$5,240	\$90.68	\$7.56	\$506.43	\$42.20

NOTE: All property owners (including farming and ranching operations, commercial businesses, home owners etc...) should use the following formula to calculate the estimated tax impact of the Bond issue. Look up the Property's 'Taxable Value' from the Property Tax Statement/Bill for 2025/26 or the following State website (<http://svc.mt.gov/dor/property/prc>) and use the following formula:
"Taxable Value" X Mills/1,000 = Estimated Annual Tax Impact of the Bonds

- (1) Based on an estimated true interest cost (TIC) rates of 4.75% over 20 years for the Elementary District and 4.95% over 30-years for the HS District.
- (2) Certified taxable values for each taxing jurisdiction are released not later than the first Monday in August. Tax rate changes adopted at the 2025 Legislative Session will change the formulas for certain properties and the residential specific changes are described below. The 2025/26 estimated 'Taxable Value' for the District as shown above assumes a reduction in value by 6.18% over the 2024/25 'Taxable Value', which is based on the change in value estimated by the DOR to Lewis and Clark County and is subject to change based on the certified taxable values released the first Monday in August.
- (3) A residential property's 'Market Value' for tax purposes is based on the DOR's 2025 reappraisal that is effective for 2025/26 and 2026/27 and will be different than the valuation of such property for resale purposes.
- (4) Tax impact estimates are based on property tax changes adopted at the 2025 Legislative Session and will factor in the DOR's 2025 reappraisal effective for 2025/26 and 2026/27. Tax impact information varies every year depending on such factors as the District's Mill Value, method of calculating 'Taxable Value' and the actual debt service payment due in a such year. To best calculate the estimated tax impact of the Bond issue, property owners can look up their exact 'Taxable Value' as shown on their personal Property Tax Statement/Bill for 2025/26 and use the formula shown above in grey.
- (5) Prior to the 2025 Legislative Session, the residential tax rate to calculate 'Taxable Value' was 1.35% for properties with a 'Market Value' up to \$1.5 million and then for any portion of a property over \$1.5 million the tax rate was 1.89%. Commencing in 2025/26, properties will be taxed at the following rates based on the following 'Market Value' breakpoints. The tax rates for 2025/26 are used to calculate the sample 'Taxable Values' shown above.
 - (i) \$0-\$400,000 will have a tax rate of 0.76%;
 - (ii) \$400,001-\$1,500,000 will have a tax rate of 1.10%; and
 - (iii) Over \$1,500,000 will have a tax rate of 2.20%.
- (6) Not factored into the above 'Taxable Values' but of note, commencing in 2026/27 (the first fiscal year of the Bond levies) properties that qualify for the 'Homestead Reduced Rate' will be taxed at the following rates based on 'Market Value' breakpoints, which will lower the tax rate for many 'Homestead Qualified' residential properties over the rate changes in the transition year of 2025/26 but with potential increases in mills projected by the DOR (due to decreases in 'Taxable Value'), the tax impacts should be roughly the same:
 - (i) value up to the 'Median Residential Value' (MRV) (estimated currently at \$360,000) will have a tax rate of 0.76%;
 - (ii) value greater than the MRV but less than 2X the MRV (\$720,000) will have a tax rate of 0.90%;
 - (iii) value greater than 2X the MRV (\$720,000) and less than 4X the MRV (\$1,440,000) will have a tax rate of 1.10%;
 - (iv) value over 4X the MRV (\$1,440,000) will have a tax rate of 1.90%.

Residential property not qualifying as 'Homestead Qualified' will have different tax rates as follows: residential property with qualified agricultural land will have a tax rate of 1.35% and all other residential property (out of State property owners and second homes) will have a tax rate of 1.90%.

CERTIFICATE AS TO RESOLUTION AND ADOPTING VOTE

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting recording officer of Elementary School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the "Elementary School District"), hereby certify that the attached resolution is a true copy of a Resolution entitled: "A RESOLUTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 (HELENA), LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO FORTY-THREE MILLION AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$43,000,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPPING A NEW KESSLER SCHOOL BUILDING IN REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING KESSLER SCHOOL BUILDING; RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS; AND PAYING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS" (the "Resolution"), on file in the original records of the Elementary School District in my legal custody; that the Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Elementary School District at a meeting on June 10, 2025, and that the meeting was duly held by the Board of Trustees and was attended throughout by a quorum, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law; and that the Resolution has not as of the date hereof been amended or repealed.

I further certify that, upon vote being taken on the Resolution at said meeting, the following Trustees voted in favor thereof: _____
_____; voted against the same: _____
_____; abstained from voting thereon: _____
_____; or were absent: _____
_____.

WITNESS my hand and seal officially this _____ day of June, 2025.

District Clerk

A RESOLUTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 (HELENA), LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO FORTY-THREE MILLION AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$43,000,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPPING A NEW KESSLER SCHOOL BUILDING IN REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING KESSLER SCHOOL BUILDING; RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS; AND PAYING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the board of trustees of a school district may issue bonds on the credit of the school district for the purpose of school building projects, upon approval of the electorate of the district; and

WHEREAS, a board of trustees is authorized pursuant to Section 20-9-421, M.C.A., to call a bond election by adopting a resolution to that effect; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Elementary School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the "Elementary School District"), has determined that there should be submitted to the electors of the Elementary School District qualified to vote at bond elections the question of whether the Board shall be authorized to sell and issue bonds of the Elementary School District in the aggregate principal amount of Forty-Three Million and No/100 (\$43,000,000.00) for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of demolishing the existing Kessler School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Kessler School building in replacement thereof sized to accommodate student enrollment and making associated site and other improvements; related improvements and costs, including, but not limited to, transition costs; and paying costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13-19-104, M.C.A., a school district bond election can be conducted by a mail ballot election; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that a mail ballot election conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, Chapter 19, Parts 1-3, M.C.A. (the "Mail Ballot Act") is in the best interests of the Elementary School District and the electors thereof, and notified the County Election Administrator of Lewis and Clark County of its intent to conduct a mail ballot election, which notification was not less than seventy days prior to the date of the proposed election; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator will prepare a mail ballot election plan in accordance with the provisions of Section 13-19-205, M.C.A. (the "Mail Ballot Plan") and submit it to the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board that up to Forty-Three Million and No/100 dollars (\$43,000,000.00) in principal amount of bonds will be necessary to carry out the entire purpose set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the indebtedness to be evidenced by the proposed bonds and all other indebtedness of the Elementary School District does not exceed the limitation as set forth in Section 20-9-406, M.C.A.; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment and determination of the Board that issued pursuant to the bond election called for below will be payable semiannually during a term of not more than twenty (20) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Elementary School District as follows:

1. Calling Election. The Board of the Elementary School District hereby calls and directs an election to be held on the question of issuing bonds of the Elementary School District on September 9, 2025, which date is not less than 70 days after the date of passage of this resolution, such election to be conducted by mail ballot pursuant to the provisions of the Mail Ballot Act, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of demolishing the existing Kessler School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Kessler School building in replacement thereof sized to accommodate student enrollment and making associated site and other improvements; related improvements and costs, including, but not limited to, transition costs; and paying costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds. The bonds shall be payable semiannually during a term of not more than twenty (20) years, subject to redemption as required by law, and shall bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined at the time of the sale.

2. State Debt Service Assistance. The Elementary School District may receive debt service assistance under Sections 20-9-367 and 20-9-371, M.C.A., for debt service payments on the bonds. The availability and amount of debt service assistance is difficult to calculate because of the variability in and conditions to funding the debt service assistance program.

3. Conduct of Election. All qualified electors of the Elementary School District shall be entitled to vote at the bond election. Pursuant to Section 20-20-201, M.C.A., the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the call and details of this election and to provide this resolution to the Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator no later than three (3) days after this resolution is passed. The District Clerk is directed to instruct the Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator to close registration and thereafter prepare printed lists of the electors in the Elementary School District entitled to vote in the election in the Elementary School District in the form and manner prescribed by law and consistent with the Mail Ballot Plan. The County Election Administrator shall prepare the ballot and arrange for the printing of the ballot and conduct the election in accordance with all legal requirements.

4. Notice of Election. The County Election Administrator is hereby authorized and requested to cause notice of the call and holding of the election to be given at least three times no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election, in the *Helena Independent*

Record, a newspaper of general circulation in the Elementary School District, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the notice to be posted at three public places in the Elementary School District and, if the Elementary School District has a website, is directed to post notice on the Elementary School District's website for 10 days prior to the election. The notice of election as published and posted shall read substantially as follows with such completions and additions or revisions as may be required by the Mail Ballot Plan or as are otherwise appropriate:

FORM OF NOTICE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Elementary School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the “Elementary School District”), that pursuant to a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board on June 10, 2025, an election of the registered voters of the Elementary School District will be held by mail ballot election on September 9, 2025 for the purpose of voting on the question of whether the Board may sell and issue general obligation school building bonds of the Elementary School District in the aggregate principal amount of up to Forty-Three Million and No/100 Dollars (\$43,000,000.00), for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of demolishing the existing Kessler School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Kessler School building in replacement thereof sized to accommodate student enrollment and making associated site and other improvements; related improvements and costs, including, but not limited to, transition costs; and paying costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds. The term of each series of the bond would not exceed twenty (20) years.

If the bond election passes, based on information available to the Elementary School District prior to certification of taxable values, the Elementary School District estimates property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by approximately \$13.15 in the first year, of \$300,000 would increase by approximately \$39.46 in the first year, and of \$600,000 would increase by approximately \$90.68 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

The election will be conducted by the County Election Administrator solely by mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible registered voters in the Elementary School District on August 22, 2025, and must be returned by each voter, by mail or in person to the County Election Administrator’s office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, MT 59623, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday (exclusive of holidays), August 25, 2025 through September 8, 2025.

On Election Day, September 9, 2025, the only place for deposit of voted ballots will be the County Election Administrator’s office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, Montana, by 8:00 p.m. in order to be counted. All ballots will be counted on September 9, 2025, in accordance with Montana law with the results, if known, expected to be released after 8:00 p.m. on that day.

A qualified voter who will be absent from the Elementary School District during the time the election is being conducted may:

- (a) vote in person in the office of the County Election Administrator as soon as the ballots are available and until 8:00 p.m. Election Day; or
- (b) make a written request prior to noon on September 8, 2025, signed by the applicant and addressed to the office of the County Election Administrator requesting the ballot be mailed to an address other than that which appears on the registration records.

An elector may obtain a replacement ballot if his or her ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the elector by filling out and mailing, emailing, or faxing back a completed

replacement ballot request form or by the elector personally appearing at the County Election Administrator's office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, Montana, Montana.

Ballots may be returned in person at the place of deposit listed above, or returned by mail. If returning by mail, please use the then-prevailing first-class-postage price or one Forever Stamp. Postmark date does not apply; ballots returned by mail must be received at the County Election Administrator's Office by the 8:00 p.m. Election Day deadline to be counted.

Please note, all electors, as defined in Section 20-20-301, M.C.A., are those who reside within the Elementary School District and are registered to vote by the close of registration on August 11, 2025.

For electors who miss the close of registration deadline, such electors may register late and vote in the election by appearing in person at the County Election Administrator's office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, Montana, Montana and providing to the County Election Administrator the electors' voter registration information in verifiable form prior to 8 p.m. on September 9, 2025.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator

Publication Dates: August 7, 2025, August 14, 2025, and August 21, 2025

5. Form of Ballot. The ballot shall be printed in substantially the following form with such completions and additions or revisions as may be required or desired:

FORM OF OFFICIAL BALLOT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 (HELENA),
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION
TO BE CONDUCTED BY MAIL BALLOT
ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words “BONDS—YES” if you wish to vote for the bond issue; if you are opposed to the bond issue, completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words “BONDS—NO.”

Shall the Board of Trustees of Elementary School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the “Elementary School District”) be authorized to sell and issue general obligation school building bonds of the Elementary School District in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount of up to Forty-Three Million and No/100 Dollars (\$43,000,000.00), bearing interest at rates to be determined at the time of sale, payable semiannually, over a term not exceeding twenty (20) years as to each series of bonds for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of demolishing the existing Kessler School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Kessler School building in replacement thereof sized to accommodate student enrollment and making associated site and other improvements; related improvements and costs, including, but not limited to, transition costs; and paying costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds?

If the bond election passes, based on information available to the Elementary School District prior to certification of taxable values, the Elementary School District estimates property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by approximately \$13.15 in the first year, of \$300,000 would increase by approximately \$39.46 in the first year, and of \$600,000 would increase by approximately \$90.68 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

☐ BONDS – YES

☐ BONDS – NO

6. Reimbursement Expenditures.

(a) The United States Department of Treasury has promulgated final regulations governing the use of proceeds of tax-exempt bonds, all or a portion of which are to be used to reimburse the Elementary School District for project expenditures paid by the Elementary School District prior to the date of issuance of such bonds. Those regulations (Treasury Regulations, Section 1.150-2) (the “Regulations”) require that the Elementary School District adopt a statement of official intent to reimburse an original expenditure not later than 60 days after payment of the original expenditure. The Regulations also generally require that the bonds be issued and the reimbursement allocation made from the proceeds of the bonds within 18 months (or three years, if the reimbursement bond issue qualifies for the “small issuer” exception from the arbitrage rebate requirement) after the later of (i) the date the expenditure is paid or (ii) the date the project is placed in service or abandoned, but (unless the issue qualifies for the “small issuer” exception from the arbitrage rebate requirement) in no event more than three years after the date the expenditure is paid. The Regulations generally permit reimbursement of capital expenditures and costs of issuance of the bonds.

(b) Other than (i) expenditures to be paid or reimbursed from sources other than the bonds, (ii) expenditures permitted to be reimbursed under the transitional provision contained in Section 1.150-2(j)(2) of the Regulations, (iii) expenditures constituting preliminary expenditures within the meaning of Section 1.150-2(f)(2) of the Regulations, or (iv) expenditures in a “de minimus” amount (as defined in Section 1.150-2(f)(1) of the Regulations), no expenditures for a project within the scope of this resolution have been paid by the Elementary School District before the date 60 days before the date of adoption of this resolution.

(c) The Elementary School District reasonably expects to reimburse the expenditures made for costs of such a project out of the proceeds of bonds in an estimated maximum aggregate principal amount of up to \$43,000,000 after the date of payment of all or a portion of the costs of such a project. All reimbursed expenditures shall be capital expenditures, a cost of issuance of the bonds or other expenditures eligible for reimbursement under Section 1.150-2(d)(3) of the Regulations.

(d) As of the date hereof, there are no Elementary School District funds reserved, allocated on a long-term basis or otherwise set aside (or reasonably expected to be reserved, allocated on a long-term basis or otherwise set aside) to provide permanent financing for the expenditures related to such a project, other than pursuant to the issuance of the bonds. The statement of intent contained in this resolution, therefore, is determined to be consistent with the Elementary School District’s budgetary and financial circumstances as they exist or are reasonably foreseeable on the date hereof.

(e) The District Clerk shall be responsible for making the “reimbursement allocations” described in the Regulations, being generally the transfer of the appropriate amount of proceeds of the bonds to reimburse the source of temporary financing used by the Elementary School District to make prior payment of the costs of the project. Each allocation shall be evidenced by an entry on the official books and records of the Elementary School District maintained for the bonds or the project and shall specifically identify the actual original expenditure being reimbursed.

Passed and approved this 10th day of June, 2025.

Chair, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

District Clerk
Elementary School District No. 1 (Helena),
Lewis and Clark County

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.7

☐	Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
☐	Review of Agenda
☐	Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives
☐	Recognitions
☐	Superintendent's Report
☐	General Public Comment
☐	Consent Action Items
☒	Items For Action
☐	Reports
☐	Upcoming Meetings
☐	Board/Superintendent Comments
☐	Adjournment

Item Title: Item For Action
7. Resolution Calling for High School Bond Election

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

CERTIFICATE AS TO RESOLUTION AND ADOPTING VOTE

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting recording officer of High School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the "High School District"), hereby certify that the attached resolution is a true copy of a Resolution entitled: "A RESOLUTION OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 (HELENA), LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO TWO HUNDRED FORTY MILLION AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$240,000,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPPING (I) A NEW HELENA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING IN REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING HELENA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED IMPROVEMENTS; AND (II) IMPROVEMENTS TO PORTIONS OF THE CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING AND CAMPUS; RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS; AND PAYING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS" (the "Resolution"), on file in the original records of the High School District in my legal custody; that the Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the High School District at a meeting on June 10, 2025, and that the meeting was duly held by the Board of Trustees and was attended throughout by a quorum, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law; and that the Resolution has not as of the date hereof been amended or repealed.

I further certify that, upon vote being taken on the Resolution at said meeting, the following Trustees voted in favor thereof: _____
_____; voted against the same: _____
_____; abstained from voting thereon: _____
_____; or were absent: _____
_____.

WITNESS my hand and seal officially this _____ day of June, 2025.

High School District Clerk

A RESOLUTION OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 (HELENA), LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO TWO HUNDRED FORTY MILLION AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$240,000,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPPING (I) A NEW HELENA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING IN REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING HELENA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED IMPROVEMENTS; AND (II) IMPROVEMENTS TO PORTIONS OF THE CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING AND CAMPUS; RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS; AND PAYING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the board of trustees of a school district may issue bonds on the credit of the school district for the purpose of school building projects, upon approval of the electorate of the district; and

WHEREAS, a board of trustees is authorized pursuant to Section 20-9-421, M.C.A., to call a bond election by adopting a resolution to that effect; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of High School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the "High School District"), has determined that there should be submitted to the electors of the High School District qualified to vote at bond elections the question of whether the Board shall be authorized to sell and issue bonds of the High School District in the aggregate principal amount of Two Hundred Forty Million and No/100 (\$240,000,000.00) for the purpose of paying the costs of addressing student safety, deficient facilities, and developing contemporary, appropriate, and safe high school learning environments, to include (i) demolishing the existing Helena High School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Helena High School building in replacement thereof, along with associated improvements; and (ii) demolishing portions of the existing Capital High School building and designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing improvements to portions of the Capital High School building and campus; and related improvements and costs; and paying the costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13-19-104, M.C.A., a school district bond election can be conducted by a mail ballot election; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that a mail ballot election conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, Chapter 19, Parts 1-3, M.C.A. (the "Mail Ballot Act") is in the best interests of the High School District and the electors thereof, and notified the County Election Administrator of Lewis and Clark County of its intent to conduct a mail ballot

election, which notification was not less than seventy days prior to the date of the proposed election; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator will prepare a mail ballot election plan in accordance with the provisions of Section 13-19-205, M.C.A. (the “Mail Ballot Plan”) and submit it to the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board that up to Two Hundred Forty Million and No/100 dollars (\$240,000,000.00) in principal amount of bonds will be necessary to carry out the entire purpose set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the indebtedness to be evidenced by the proposed bonds and all other indebtedness of the High School District does not exceed the limitation as set forth in Section 20-9-406, M.C.A.; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment and determination of the Board that issued pursuant to the bond election called for below will be payable semiannually during a term of not more than thirty (30) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the High School District as follows:

1. Calling Election. The Board of the High School District hereby calls and directs an election to be held on the question of issuing bonds of the High School District on September 9, 2025, which date is not less than 70 days after the date of passage of this resolution, such election to be conducted by mail ballot pursuant to the provisions of the Mail Ballot Act, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of addressing student safety, deficient facilities, and developing contemporary, appropriate, and safe high school learning and athletic environments, to include (i) demolishing the existing Helena High School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Helena High School building in replacement thereof, along with associated improvements, including constructing new student job training Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructional spaces configured to enhance student/staff safety and security by being attached to the main building; incorporating various features into the new Helena High School building, including a secure and visible main entrance for students and the community, an auxiliary gymnasium, performing arts space, a central kitchen, and instructional space for the Project for Alternative Learning (PAL); making site improvements, including an instructional and playing field complex (football/track and field) and parking and traffic flow enhancements; and related improvements and costs, including, but not limited to, transition costs; and (ii) demolishing portions of the existing Capital High School building and designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing improvements to portions of the Capital High School building and campus, including constructing new student job training Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructional spaces configured to enhance student/staff safety and security by being attached to the main building; constructing improvements to the Capital High School building, including secure main student entrances, an auxiliary gymnasium, expanded student commons and cafeteria spaces, improvements to general academic areas, and updated performing arts space; making site improvements, including reconfiguring parking spaces and points of access and reconfiguring and updating athletic and instructional playing fields (football/track and field); and

related improvements and costs; and paying the costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds. The bonds shall be payable semiannually during a term of not more than thirty (30) years, subject to redemption as required by law, and shall bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined at the time of the sale.

2. State Debt Service Assistance. The High School District may receive debt service assistance under Sections 20-9-367 and 20-9-371, M.C.A., for debt service payments on the bonds. The availability and amount of debt service assistance is difficult to calculate because of the variability in and conditions to funding the debt service assistance program.

3. Conduct of Election. All qualified electors of the High School District shall be entitled to vote at the bond election. Pursuant to Section 20-20-201, M.C.A., the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the call and details of this election and to provide this resolution to the Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator no later than three (3) days after this resolution is passed. The District Clerk is directed to instruct the Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator to close registration and thereafter prepare printed lists of the electors in the High School District entitled to vote in the election in the High School District in the form and manner prescribed by law and consistent with the Mail Ballot Plan. The County Election Administrator shall prepare the ballot and arrange for the printing of the ballot and conduct the election in accordance with all legal requirements.

4. Notice of Election. The County Election Administrator is hereby authorized and requested to cause notice of the call and holding of the election to be given at least three times no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election, in the *Helena Independent Record*, a newspaper of general circulation in the High School District, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the notice to be posted at three public places in the High School District and, if the High School District has a website, is directed to post notice on the High School District's website for 10 days prior to the election. The notice of election as published and posted shall read substantially as follows with such completions and additions or revisions as may be required by the Mail Ballot Plan or as are otherwise appropriate:

FORM OF NOTICE OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of High School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the “High School District”), that pursuant to a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board on June 10, 2025, an election of the registered voters of the High School District will be held by mail ballot election on September 9, 2025 for the purpose of voting on the question of whether the Board may sell and issue general obligation school building bonds of the High School District in the aggregate principal amount of up to Two Hundred Forty Million and No/100 Dollars (\$240,000,000.00), for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of addressing student safety, deficient facilities, and developing contemporary, appropriate, and safe high school learning and athletic environments, to include (i) demolishing the existing Helena High School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Helena High School building in replacement thereof, along with associated improvements, including constructing new student job training Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructional spaces configured to enhance student/staff safety and security by being attached to the main building; incorporating various features into the new Helena High School building, including a secure and visible main entrance for students and the community, an auxiliary gymnasium, performing arts space, a central kitchen, and instructional space for the Project for Alternative Learning (PAL); making site improvements, including an instructional and playing field complex (football/track and field) and parking and traffic flow enhancements; and related improvements and costs, including, but not limited to, transition costs; and (ii) demolishing portions of the existing Capital High School building and designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing improvements to portions of the Capital High School building and campus, including constructing new student job training Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructional spaces configured to enhance student/staff safety and security by being attached to the main building; constructing improvements to the Capital High School building, including secure main student entrances, an auxiliary gymnasium, expanded student commons and cafeteria spaces, improvements to general academic areas, and updated performing arts space; making site improvements, including reconfiguring parking spaces and points of access and reconfiguring and updating athletic and instructional playing fields (football/track and field); and related improvements and costs; and paying the costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds. The term of each series of bonds would not exceed thirty (30) years.

If the bond election passes, based on information available to the High School District prior to the certification of taxable values, the High School District estimates property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by approximately \$73.45 in the first year, of \$300,000 would increase by approximately \$220.35 in the first year, and of \$600,000 would increase by approximately \$506.43 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

The election will be conducted by the County Election Administrator solely by mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible registered voters in the High School District on August 22, 2025, and must be returned by each voter, by mail or in person to the County Election Administrator’s office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, MT 59623, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday (exclusive of holidays), August 25, 2025 through September 8, 2025.

On Election Day, September 9, 2025, the only place for deposit of voted ballots will be the County Election Administrator's office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, Montana, by 8:00 p.m. in order to be counted. All ballots will be counted on September 9, 2025, in accordance with Montana law with the results, if known, expected to be released after 8:00 p.m. on that day.

A qualified voter who will be absent from the High School District during the time the election is being conducted may:

(a) vote in person in the office of the County Election Administrator as soon as the ballots are available and until 8:00 p.m. Election Day; or

(b) make a written request prior to noon on September 8, 2025, signed by the applicant and addressed to the office of the County Election Administrator requesting the ballot be mailed to an address other than that which appears on the registration records.

An elector may obtain a replacement ballot if his or her ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the elector by filling out and mailing, emailing, or faxing back a completed replacement ballot request form or by the elector personally appearing at the County Election Administrator's office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, Montana, Montana.

Ballots may be returned in person at the place of deposit listed above, or returned by mail. If returning by mail, please use the then-prevailing first-class-postage price or one Forever Stamp. Postmark date does not apply; ballots returned by mail must be received at the County Election Administrator's Office by the 8:00 p.m. Election Day deadline to be counted.

Please note, all electors, as defined in Section 20-20-301, M.C.A., are those who reside within the High School District and are registered to vote by the close of registration on August 11, 2025.

For electors who miss the close of registration deadline, such electors may register late and vote in the election by appearing in person at the County Election Administrator's office, Lewis and Clark County, 316 North Park Ave., Room 168, Helena, Montana, Montana and providing to the County Election Administrator the electors' voter registration information in verifiable form prior to 8 p.m. on September 9, 2025.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Lewis and Clark County Election Administrator

Publication Dates: August 7, 2025, August 14, 2025, and August 21, 2025

5. Form of Ballot. The ballot shall be printed in substantially the following form with such completions and additions or revisions as may be required or desired:

FORM OF OFFICIAL BALLOT

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 (HELENA),
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION
TO BE CONDUCTED BY MAIL BALLOT
ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words “BONDS—YES” if you wish to vote for the bond issue; if you are opposed to the bond issue, completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words “BONDS—NO.”

Shall the Board of Trustees of High School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana (the “High School District”) be authorized to sell and issue general obligation school building bonds of the High School District in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount of up to Two Hundred Forty Million and No/100 Dollars (\$240,000,000.00), bearing interest at rates to be determined at the time of sale, payable semiannually, over a term not exceeding thirty (30) years as to each series of bonds for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of addressing student safety, deficient facilities, and developing contemporary, appropriate, and safe high school learning and athletic environments, to include (i) demolishing the existing Helena High School building and designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Helena High School building in replacement thereof, along with associated improvements, including constructing new student job training Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructional spaces configured to enhance student/staff safety and security by being attached to the main building; incorporating various features into the new Helena High School building, including a secure and visible main entrance for students and the community, an auxiliary gymnasium, performing arts space, a central kitchen, and instructional space for the Project for Alternative Learning (PAL); making site improvements, including an instructional and playing field complex (football/track and field) and parking and traffic flow enhancements; and related improvements and costs, including, but not limited to, transition costs; and (ii) demolishing portions of the existing Capital High School building and designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing improvements to portions of the Capital High School building and campus, including constructing new student job training Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructional spaces configured to enhance student/staff safety and security by being attached to the main building; constructing improvements to the Capital High School building, including secure main student entrances, an auxiliary gymnasium, expanded student commons and cafeteria spaces, improvements to general academic areas, and updated performing arts space; making site improvements, including reconfiguring parking spaces and points of access and reconfiguring and updating athletic and instructional playing fields (football/track and field); and related improvements and costs; and paying the costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds?

If the bond election passes, based on information available to the High School District prior to the certification of taxable values, the High School District estimates property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by approximately \$73.45 in the first year, of \$300,000 would increase by approximately \$220.35 in the first year, and of \$600,000 would increase by approximately \$506.43 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

☐ BONDS – YES

☐ BONDS – NO

6. Reimbursement Expenditures.

(a) The United States Department of Treasury has promulgated final regulations governing the use of proceeds of tax-exempt bonds, all or a portion of which are to be used to reimburse the High School District for project expenditures paid by the High School District prior to the date of issuance of such bonds. Those regulations (Treasury Regulations, Section 1.150-2) (the “Regulations”) require that the High School District adopt a statement of official intent to reimburse an original expenditure not later than 60 days after payment of the original expenditure. The Regulations also generally require that the bonds be issued and the reimbursement allocation made from the proceeds of the bonds within 18 months (or three years, if the reimbursement bond issue qualifies for the “small issuer” exception from the arbitrage rebate requirement) after the later of (i) the date the expenditure is paid or (ii) the date the project is placed in service or abandoned, but (unless the issue qualifies for the “small issuer” exception from the arbitrage rebate requirement) in no event more than three years after the date the expenditure is paid. The Regulations generally permit reimbursement of capital expenditures and costs of issuance of the bonds.

(b) Other than (i) expenditures to be paid or reimbursed from sources other than the bonds, (ii) expenditures permitted to be reimbursed under the transitional provision contained in Section 1.150-2(j)(2) of the Regulations, (iii) expenditures constituting preliminary expenditures within the meaning of Section 1.150-2(f)(2) of the Regulations, or (iv) expenditures in a “de minimus” amount (as defined in Section 1.150-2(f)(1) of the Regulations), no expenditures for a project within the scope of this resolution have been paid by the High School District before the date 60 days before the date of adoption of this resolution.

(c) The High School District reasonably expects to reimburse the expenditures made for costs of such a project out of the proceeds of bonds in an estimated maximum aggregate principal amount of up to \$240,000,000 after the date of payment of all or a portion of the costs of such a project. All reimbursed expenditures shall be capital expenditures, a cost of issuance of the bonds or other expenditures eligible for reimbursement under Section 1.150-2(d)(3) of the Regulations.

(d) As of the date hereof, there are no High School District funds reserved, allocated on a long-term basis or otherwise set aside (or reasonably expected to be reserved, allocated on a long-term basis or otherwise set aside) to provide permanent financing for the expenditures related to such a project, other than pursuant to the issuance of the bonds. The statement of intent contained in this resolution, therefore, is determined to be consistent with the High School District’s budgetary and financial circumstances as they exist or are reasonably foreseeable on the date hereof.

(e) The District Clerk shall be responsible for making the “reimbursement allocations” described in the Regulations, being generally the transfer of the appropriate amount of proceeds of the bonds to reimburse the source of temporary financing used by the High School District to make prior payment of the costs of the project. Each allocation shall be evidenced by an entry on the official books and records of the High School District maintained for the bonds or the project and shall specifically identify the actual original expenditure being reimbursed.

Passed and approved this 10th day of June, 2025.

Chair, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

High School District Clerk
High School District No. 1 (Helena),
Lewis and Clark County

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.8

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

Item Title: Item For Action
8. Award Food Service Management Contract to Sodexo

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

Board of Trustees Meeting

Award Food Service Management Contract to Sodexo



VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Item for Action

8. Award Food Service Management Contract to Sodexo

Background:

The District's current food service management contract expires June 30, 2025. A Request For Proposals (RFP) was issued on March 22, 2025, and advertised the RFP for 60 days. A selection committee consisting of the assistant superintendent, the business service administrator, and an elementary principal representing the District Wellness Committee was created. Each committee member submitted their completed scoring sheet to the business service administrator, who then compiled the scores. The selection committee met on May 21, 2025, to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Board. A representative from the Office of Public Instruction was present at that meeting.

Considerations:

- Sodexo, who is our current contractor, was the only vendor to submit a proposal. The proposal can be viewed at the following link: [Sodexo Response to RFP](#)
- Sodexo was evaluated on the following criteria:
 - Service Capability Plan (Identifies proposed food service team such as Food Service Director and demonstrates FSMC's ability to provide services as stated in the RFP/Contract)
 - Quality of Food Service Doing business with like school systems and familiarity with regulations pertaining to such operations/References
 - Financial Condition/Stability, Business Practices
 - Accounting and Reporting Systems
 - Personnel Management including training and professional development for employees
 - Innovation/Plan to increase participation
 - Promotion of the School Food Service Program
 - Involvement of Students, Staff, and Other Stakeholders
 - Cost/Fees and Performance Bond
 - Use of Geographical Preference
 - Incorporation of Local Foods
 - Nutrition Education Plan
 - Purchasing and purchasing power
- Sodexo received an average score of 91 points out of a total of 100 points.
- The contract term is for a one-year period with up to four one-year renewals, beginning July 1, 2025.
- The proposal provides for an increase in costs of approximately 3.79%.
- The committee valued the following: Sodexo's focus on Montana Made items, nutritional apps for students & parents, student engagement, data analytics, community oriented, use of geographic preference, and point of sale system.
- Noted programs provided by Sodexo are as follows: Farm to School, Tasting Tuesdays, and Future Chefs
- The committee unanimously recommends that the Food Service Management Contract be awarded to Sodexo.

Superintendent recommendation:

Accept the selection committee's recommendation and award the Food Service Management Contract to Sodexo.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.9

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

Item Title: Item For Action
9. Approval of HPS-Craft Council Collective Bargaining Agreement

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

Board of Trustees

Approval of HPS – Craft Council Collective Bargaining Agreement



VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Item for Action

9. Approval and Ratification of the HPS-Craft Council Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2025-2026
-

Background:

Pursuant to MCA 39-31-306, an agreement reached by the public employer and the exclusive representative must be reduced to writing and must be executed by both parties.

The Helena School District and the Craft Council (Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local Union #41 and International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers Local #88) reached a tentative agreement on May 15, 2025. We were notified on June 2, 2025 that the agreement was ratified by the members.

The one (1) year agreement was open for wages and language for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. A summary of the conditions of the contract are noted below. Upon the Board's approval, a final copy will be made available electronically.

- A two percent (2%) increase to base wages for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. For the plumbers, this would be an increase of \$.76 per hour to the base wage from \$38.00 to \$38.76 per hour. For the mechanic, this would be an increase of \$0.66 per hour to the base wage from \$32.90 to \$33.56 per hour for 2025-2026.
- Increase the longevity schedule as follows:
 - Employed 5+ to 10 years \$.60 per hour additional
 - Employed 10+ to 15 years \$0.85 per hour additional
 - Employed 15+ to 20 years \$1.10 per hour additional
 - Employed 20+ years \$1.60 per hour additional
- The District shall contribute to the employee cafeteria plan an amount of \$1,069.40 per month/\$12,832.80 for the 2025-2026 benefit year.
- The total estimated salary cost of this settlement is \$4,906.40 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Considerations:

- HPS and the Craft Council have a collaborative relationship and productive negotiations history.
- This agreement continues to bring parity to the bargaining units within HSD that work together on facilities projects.
- This agreement supports the directive of the Board to support our staff members and address issues relative to the district budget.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve and ratify the collective bargaining agreement as agreed upon between HPS and the Craft Council.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.10

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

Item Title: Item For Action
10. Approval of HPS-HEA Para Educator Negotiated Agreement

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

Board of Trustees

Approval of HPS – HEA Para Educator Negotiated Agreement

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Item for Action

10. Approval of the HPS-HEA Para Educator Negotiated Agreement (pending ratification)

Background:

Pursuant to MCA 39-31-306, an agreement reached by the public employer and the exclusive representative must be reduced to writing and must be executed by both parties.

The Helena School District and the Helena Education Association (HEA) Para Educators reached a tentative agreement on June 3, 2025.

The two (2) year agreement was open for language and wages for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Highlights of significant language changes:

- Designation of the para educator work year (183 work days) and non-contract days in which paid leave may be used.
- Broader definition of family as it applies to use of sick and bereavement leave. Bereavement leave is limited to five paid days total in a school year.
- Clarifying language that a para educator may be required to substitute for a certified teacher; in such an event, the para educator will be paid for the half day or one full day at the guest teacher rate if higher than the para educator's regular rate.
- New language to provide for two paid sabbaticals (salary and benefits) per year for para educators who have been continuously employed for four years to complete their student teaching in the District.

Compensation summary:

- The District shall increase the contribution to the employee cafeteria plan by \$37.50 per month (a total contribution of \$1,069.40 per month) for the 2025 - 2027 fiscal years.
- Longevity pay to para educators who have cumulative years working in the District, payable upon the successful completion of the school year each June:
 - 15 – 19 years = \$200 stipend
 - 20 - 24 years = \$300 stipend
 - 25 or more years = \$500 stipend
- A \$0.40 increase to each cell in the salary matrix for 2025-2026 and a \$0.60 increase to each cell in the matrix for 2026-2027 fiscal years.
- The estimated salary cost is approximately \$273,173 for the 2025-2027 fiscal years.

Considerations:

- HPS and HEA have a collaborative relationship and productive negotiations history.
- This agreement supports the directive of the Board to support our staff members and address issues relative to the district budget.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve the negotiated agreement as agreed upon between HPS and Para Educators.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.11

☐	Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
☐	Review of Agenda
☐	Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives
☐	Recognitions
☐	Superintendent's Report
☐	General Public Comment
☐	Consent Action Items
☒	Items For Action
☐	Reports
☐	Upcoming Meetings
☐	Board/Superintendent Comments
☐	Adjournment

Item Title: Item For Action
11. Approval of District Investment Grade Energy Audit

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

Todd J. Verrill

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Helena School District Board of Trustees

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boardoftrustees@helenaschools.org

10 June 2025

Dear Helena School District Board of Trustees,

I respectfully request the board of trustees award the district Investment Grade Energy Audit contract to Ameresco, Inc. In accordance with Montana Code Annotated, Title 90, Chapter 4, Part 11, and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Energy Performance Contracting program guidelines, the facilities department solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) from three DEQ-qualified Energy Service Providers to conduct an energy audit of the district facilities. In general, the audit will investigate the following cost-saving measures to identify where the district may gain energy efficiency:

- LED Lights
- Occupancy sensors
- Boiler replacements
- HVAC Improvements
- New pumps, fans & drives
- Equipment controls
- Building envelope changes
- Water efficiency equipment
- Renewable energy installations
- Street, traffic & other outdoor lighting

The facilities office received one bid from Ameresco, and we evaluated their submission in accordance with Table 2 from the RFP (see attached scoring results). While the RFP did not require a firm or fixed fee for the audit, the total cost will not exceed \$80,000. Ameresco is a reputable corporation with a local office in Helena, and I am confident they will complete the project in a timely and professional manner.

Sincerely,



Todd J. Verrill

Attachment: Table 2 (Energy Service Provider Selection Criteria)

Criteria (from written submittal)	Score as poor, fair, good, excellent (1-4)	Notes from RFP Submission
Project Management and Coordination		
Experience of company overall in managing energy performance contracts.	4	One of world's largest energy performance contractors. \$11B in projects since 2011. Recognized as leaders in the field by Guidehouse Insights and Atlas Energy Intelligence
Experience of team assigned to project in managing energy performance contracts.	4	Montana office located in Helena. Team worked with HPS on recent EPA Grant submission. 100 years of total experience. Examples of similar projects in Montana (see below)
Appropriate Market Sector Expertise		
Knowledge and experience of team assigned to project regarding building and energy codes and construction requirements in Montana.	4	Primary team in Helena, but also professions in Bozeman, Kalispell, Livingston. Nine team members (including 4 professional engineers [PE]).
Knowledge and experience of team assigned to project in doing projects of similar size and scope.	4	Extensive experience with audits, ESPC, design-build projects in MT and the region (see individual resumes)
Experience of team assigned to the project in training building facilities personnel to properly operate equipment, maintain comfort, and maintain energy savings.	3	Experience listed for Phase III projects, but not many details. Interview: part of M&V protocol (classroom training, vendor training)
Experience of team assigned to the project in providing post-construction support.	3	Experience listed for Phase III projects, but not many details. Interview: Local and Bozeman personnel manage customer care
Track record of ESP in achieving the results projected for projects. Provide the number of projects for which ESP needed to provide shortfall payment(s) for over the past 5 years, and the percentage of ESP's total projects in that period represented by that number.	4	Charlo(\$3.6M): HVAC electrification, Havre(\$4M): investment grade energy audit, full mech/elec. design, Polson(\$5.7M): water conservation, envelope, and lighting, Livingston(\$2.1M): HVAC, controls, solar array, Kalispell(\$7.5M): lighting, boiler, water efficiency, envelope, HVAC
Project Personnel		
Experience of team assigned to the project in: Conducting investment grade energy audits, including modeling of energy use and potential savings	4	Multiple examples of energy audits at schools/districts across MT. RFP lists detailed steps in the audit process
Project design	4	Multiple PEs on staff have experience on design-build projects and Phase I (Audit & Design) in MT
Overseeing project to ensure quality of construction	4	Staff has experience in Phase II (Implementation) project management for projects across MT
Monitoring and verifying energy savings	4	Multiple examples of Phase III (Performance) projects in MT
Commissioning projects and making adjustments to achieve comfort needs and energy savings	3	Commissioning engineer and PEs on staff with examples of projects in MT. Interview: Commissioning engineer is located in Helena office (Cert. M&V engineer)
Additional experience of project team or additional company resources available to the team.	3	Experts available from other MT offices in Bozeman, Kalispell, and Livingston
Experience of subcontractor(s) in managing and implementing project if subcontractor(s) is to be used.	N/A	Interview: May bring in specialty sub-contractor with audit, but most is in-house
Additional Qualifications and Experience	4	Wide-ranging expertise in energy projects and performance contracting. Staff is very experienced and highly education in multiple engineering and other technical fields of study. Interview: Usually complete multiple projects for clients after an audit
Total Points Assigned (out of 56)	52	

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.B.12

- ☐
- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

Item Title: Item For Action
12. Consideration of Recommendations on the Future of Hawthorne Elementary School

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

Board of Trustees Meeting

Consideration of Recommendations on the Future of Hawthorne Elementary School

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Item for Action

12. Consideration of Recommendations on the Future of Hawthorne Elementary School

Recommendations to consider options:

1. Close 2025-2026 school year
2. Close 2026-2027 school year
3. Status Quo – Remain Open

Superintendent recommendation:

Option 1: Close for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VII.C.1. - C.10.

- ☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- ☐ Review of Agenda
- ☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives
- ☐ Recognitions
- ☐ Superintendent's Report
- ☐ General Public Comment
- ☐ Consent Action Items
- ☐ Items For Action
- ☒ Reports
- ☐ Upcoming Meetings
- ☐ Board/Superintendent Comments
- ☐ Adjournment

- Item Title: Reports
- 1. Student Representatives Report
 - 2. Helena Education Association Report
 - 3. Facilities & Technology Committee Report
 - 4. Budget & Finance Committee Report
 - 5. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
 - 6. Policy Committee Report
 - 7. Health Benefits Committee Report
 - 8. Wellness Committee Report
 - 9. Montana School Boards Association Report
 - 10. Parent Council Visit Report

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item VIII.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

☐ Reports

☒ Upcoming Meetings

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: **Upcoming Meetings**

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item IX.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

☐ Reports

☐ Upcoming Meetings

☒ Board/Superintendent Comments

☐ Adjournment

Item Title: **Board/Superintendent Comments**

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Date: 6/10/2025

Item X.

☐ Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

☐ Review of Agenda

☐ Oath of Office For 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Student Representatives

☐ Recognitions

☐ Superintendent's Report

☐ General Public Comment

☐ Consent Action Items

☐ Items For Action

☐ Reports

☐ Upcoming Meetings

☐ Board/Superintendent Comments

☒ Adjournment

Item Title: **Adjournment**