



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025
12:00 p.m.
Smith Elementary School

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Jennifer Walsh, Vice Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Jenny Murnane Butcher, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
Kay Satre, Trustee	Janelle Mickelson, Business Director
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Sarah Simpson, Smith Elementary Principal
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent PreK-5
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment & Federal Programs Director
	Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
	Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
	Eric Peterson, Activities Director
	Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
	Abby Kuhl, Warren Elementary Principal
	Nick Radley, Central Elementary Principal
	Several Guests of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and the Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh reviewed the agenda with the Board of Trustees and there were no changes.

The Board of Trustees then proceeded to hear general public comment.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

IV. PRESENTATION

Ms. Sarah Simpson, Principal of Smith Elementary School, provided a comprehensive overview of the school and reviewed the pamphlet included in the agenda.

The pamphlet begins by outlining the vision of Smith Elementary which states: *“To promote academic excellence in a respectful caring community.”*

Principal Simpson reviewed the following information about Smith Elementary with the Board of Trustees.

Enrollment

KinderSprouts (1)

17

Kindergarten (2)

29

First (2)

41

Second (2)

34

Third (2)

35

Fourth (2)

38

Fifth (1)

28

Montessori Programs:

Kindergarten (1)
18

Lower Montessori (2)
35

Upper Montessori (1)
24

Total School Enrollment:299

Free and Reduced Lunch
39%

ESL
17

Kid Packs
57

Students with a 504 Plan
8

McKinney-Vento
24

Individual Education Plans
62

Community Partnerships

Carroll College
READ Dog Program
Lewis and Clark Library Book Mobile
Book Pals
Kids Hope
Gates of the Mountains
Helena Symphony
Holter Museum
Cinemark Movie Theater
Great Divide Ski
Starbase
HART
Helena Food Share
Helena Police Department
Helena Education Foundation

Parent for Smith (PSS)
Helena Public Montessori Parents (HPMP)
Indian Education For All
Exploration Works
Week of the Young Child

Connections

Monthly Whole School Celebration Assemblies
Summer Playground Playdates and Popsicles
Back to School Family Resource Event
Back to School Open House
Cheers and Tears
Carnival Classic
Fabulous Firsts
Smith Tailgate at HHS
Book Fairs
Parent Teacher Conferences
Walk to School Day
Raise Craze
Healthy Choice Spirit Week
Math Night
Christmas Program
Food Drive for Families
Family Movie Night
Missoula Children's Theater
Unified Spirit Week
Pancakes with Parents
May Day Baskets
Family Day at the Ballpark
Field Day
Saber Packs
IEFA Tutor

Principal Simpson concluded her presentation by highlighting the Smith School leadership team, outlining the school's attendance targets and reading and math goals, and responding to questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

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

V. BOARD COMMENTS

Superintendent Rex Weltz concluded by stating that a Special Board of Trustees meeting will be held tomorrow evening to canvass the election results, approve the letters of determination

for alternative project delivery contracts, and receive a presentation on the bond issuance timeline and procedures.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary