



Superintendent

Rex Weltz
324-2001

Business Manager

Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting

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

Friday, November 7th, 2025
12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Jennifer McKee, Chair
Jennifer Walsh, Vice Chair
Kay Satre, Trustee
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee
Jenny Murnane Butcher,
Trustee
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Director
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Kaitlyn Hess, Data & Federal Programs
Director
Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent
PreK-5
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Shane Swandal, Hulteng CCM, Inc.
Katrina Chaney, Lewis & Clark County Superintendent of Schools
Becca Leaphart, HEF Executive Director
Randy Parmer, Senior Systems Administrator
Members of the Slate + RTA Architecture Team
Several Candidates for the Vacant Trustee Position
Many guests of the public as well as Helena School District Staff

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Jennifer McKee called the meeting to order at 12:00 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 hear general public comment.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment and the Board of Trustees moved on to hear the Superintendent's Report.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rex Weltz presented his Superintendent's Report to the Board of Trustees, covering a proposed early retirement incentive for teachers, which will be reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee and subsequently by the full Board of Trustees.

That concluded the Superintendent's Report portion of the agenda after which the trustees proceeded to hear an item for action.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Item For Action

1. Approve Committee Recommendation of Slate + RTA as Capital High School Architect

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, presented the action item, *Approve Committee Recommendation of Slate + RTA as Capital High School Architect*, to the Board of Trustees. Facilities Director Todd Verrill recommended the Board of Trustees award the Capital High School addition and renovation project to Slate + RTA. Eight firms submitted qualifications, and a seven-member committee reviewed the submissions, shortlisting three for interviews. After the interviews, Slate + RTA was selected as the committee's recommended firm. Representatives from Slate + RTA were present and responded to questions from the Board of Trustees.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee commented, "At this point I would entertain a motion for the following action item, *Approve Committee Recommendation of Slate + RTA as Capital High School Architect*."

Motion: Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn moved to approve the action item, *Approve Committee Recommendation of Slate + RTA as Capital High School Architect*. Trustee Jennifer Walsh

seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 7-0; motion carries unanimously.

That concluded the approval of the Item for Action. The Board of Trustees moved on to the Item For Information, *Interview of Candidates for Board of Trustees Vacancy*.

B. Item For Information

1. Interview of Candidates for Board of Trustees Vacancy

The Board conducted interviews with four candidates—Mr. Allen Cormany, Mr. Keller Higbee, Ms. Stephi Johnson, and Mr. Keith Meyer—for the vacant Board of Trustees position. During the interviews, the Board also addressed questions posed by the candidates. Applications for the position were accepted through October 31, 2025, with additional interviews conducted on October 24 and October 28.

Following the interviews, the Board engaged in thoughtful deliberation and proceeded to vote on their final selection.

C. Item For Action

1. Appoint a Trustee to Vacant Trustee Position

Board Chair Jennifer McKee commented, “At this point I would entertain a motion for the following action item, “*Appoint a Trustee to Vacant Trustee Position*.”

Motion: Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher moved to appoint Mr. Keith Meyer to the vacant trustee position. Trustee Jennifer Walsh seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-1; motion carries. *(Please note that Trustee Linda Cleatus voted against.)*

Mr. Keith Meyer was officially sworn in as a member of the Helena Public Schools Board of Trustees by Ms. Katrina Chaney, Lewis & Clark County Superintendent of Schools.

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

The Board and Superintendent expressed appreciation for all individuals who applied for positions, recognizing their passion, sincerity, and willingness to contribute. They encouraged continued involvement in district opportunities, noting that many openings exist for community participation. Additionally, discussion included the possibility of district administration developing a long-term

strategic plan. Board members observed that such a plan could help guide district goals and priorities, and they expressed openness to revisiting the concept in the future.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Jennifer McKee adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary

Date