



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
Facilities & Technology Committee Meeting**

Monday, January 12, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Lincoln Campus & Teams

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Trustees: *Others:*

Siobhan Hathhorn, Committee Chair
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Keith Meyer, Trustee

Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Lona Carter, Student Health Services
& Special Education Director
Kaitlyn Hess, Data & Federal
Programs Director
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Gary Myers, Educational Technology Director
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12
Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent
PreK-5
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Sam Holman, Business Director
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Allison Balboni, Professional Development
Specialist & Administrative Assistant,
Valice Stevens, Administrative Assistant
Several Representatives from Ameresco
Guest of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

The committee reviewed the agenda, and no changes were requested.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Facilities and Technology Committee reviewed and accepted the 12/8/25 Facilities and Technology Committee Meeting minutes.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Technology Monthly Update

Mr. Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology, presented a monthly technology update to the Facilities and Technology Committee.

Technology Update January 2026

State Reporting:

- Spring Count Day February 2 (Due February 12)
- Changes to certification system available in mid-January

Applications:

- Student Password Update
 - Resources for Teachers
 - 3-12, 2nd over the Summer
- Ticket statistics for December:
 - Tickets Created: 349
 - Tickets Solved: 473
 - One touch: 60%
 - Less than 1% reopened
 - Chromebook backlog
- Ongoing assessment support
- Safety and Security:
- Camera Server update
- Feature Overview: Jim Daanen
- Training Progress
- Kindersprouts Door Fob progress: Smith, Warren, Kessler

Network and Systems:

- Network Engineer Position Open

Technology and the Bond Process:

- Looking at various teacher projection options

Mr. Myers addressed all questions posed by the Facilities and Technology Committee regarding the information he presented.

B. Facilities Monthly Update

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, presented a monthly facilities update to the Facilities and Technology Committee.

Facilities and Maintenance Update

January 2026

Projects Last 30 Days:

- Ameresco performance contracting update
- Kessler room addition
- Broadwater Elementary ceiling and light fixture replacement (fire damage)
- Bryant interior painting complete
- Support for winter sports and winter performances
- CRA band room instrument shelving replacement
- Wind damage (\$20-\$25K total):
 - Lincoln Center (8 trees removed)
 - Hawthorne, PAL, CHS (1 tree at each campus)
 - CRA roof damage
 - Central siding damage
 - Rossiter and Smith power outages

Current Projects

- Central and JD interior painting
- Smith Elementary:
 - Boiler project is ongoing
 - Solar design complete. Working with SMA for bidding documents
- Central Elementary site improvements

Staff:

- 100% staffed on the maintenance side

December Work Orders

Completed: 355

Custodial Update

Custodial Projects:

- After school activities support (speech and debate, basketball, wrestling, YMCA basketball)
- Steady-state operations
- Cost increases for custodial supplies. We are looking at options moving forward

Staff:

- Current # vacancies: 5
- Hired 3 new

Safety and Security Update

- Fire marshal re-inspections
- MT DOL inspections
- Planning for PARA training

Mr. Verrill concluded with a brief architectural and construction update and addressed all questions posed by the Facilities and Technology Committee regarding the information presented.

C. Energy Savings Performance Contract Update-Ameresco

Representatives from Ameresco provided an update on the Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) work completed to date for the Helena School District. Ameresco shared background on the firm's longstanding presence in Montana and its experience delivering K-12 energy and facility improvement projects statewide, including prior work with the district.

Ameresco summarized the results of recent audits conducted at elementary district facilities, focusing on building performance, energy use, maintenance and operational efficiencies, and long-term cost savings. The ESPC approach, authorized under Montana statute, was described as a method to identify and monetize energy, maintenance, and operational savings over time in order to fund critical facility improvements while accounting for inflationary impacts on future construction costs.

Potential improvement areas discussed included replacement of aging boiler systems, HVAC upgrades to improve efficiency and ventilation, modernization of building controls, conversion to

LED lighting, and consideration of solar photovoltaic systems. Ameresco noted that many existing systems are well beyond their useful life and that the proposed upgrades would bring older facilities closer to the performance standards of newer schools, improving comfort, air quality, and energy efficiency.

Ameresco compared a traditional pay-as-you-go capital funding approach with an ESPC delivery model. The ESPC approach would allow priority projects to be implemented earlier through financing, capturing energy savings sooner and reducing long-term costs associated with construction inflation. Financing options through the INTERCAP loan program were discussed, along with the projected impacts to the district's building reserve fund over the term of the agreement.

Additional opportunities were identified, including grant-funded replacement of domestic water piping at select facilities and ensuring that proposed upgrades align with long-term facility plans. The next step will be for Ameresco to finalize cost estimates, budgets, and contractual terms, and to prepare and present the Investment Grade Audit, which will serve as the basis for both project approval and the construction contract.

D. Opening of May Butler Center RFP Proposals

The district did not receive any proposals in response to the RFP for the May Butler Center.

E. Opening of Hawthorne RFP Proposals

One proposal was received for the Hawthorne Elementary building, submitted by Mr. Bob Schmitt. The proposal outlines a two-year plan to repurpose the existing Hawthorne Elementary School facility into a multi-purpose community center. The proposal will next be evaluated and scored, after which it will be presented to the full Board of Trustees at the February board meeting with a recommendation for consideration.

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no further comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.