



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 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

12:00pm

Lincoln Center & TEAMS

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### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

*Trustees:*      *Others:*

Jenny Murnane Butcher, Trustee	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent PreK-5
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs Director
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
	Guests of the Public

#### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher.

#### II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

#### III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The committee reviewed and accepted the minutes from the December 10, 2025, Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

#### **V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

##### **A. Fall Data Report Q&A**

Ms. Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs Director, presented the Fall Data Report to the Teaching and Learning Committee, reviewing i-Ready and Acadience assessment results and explaining how benchmarks vary by time of year and grade level. She highlighted promising early outcomes from Kinder Sprouts and Summer Jumpstart, noting increased enrollment, a more diverse cohort, and plans to continue monitoring student growth throughout the year. Ms. Hess clarified the role of PELI as a preschool screener and discussed how Acadience serves as a predictive measure, while i-Ready aligns more closely with grade-level standards. Committee members asked questions regarding assessment expectations, cohort comparisons, program effectiveness, and the transition from third to fourth grade. Ms. Hess shared that Kinder Sprouts enrollment is nearly full for next year and emphasized ongoing efforts to track academic progress alongside student well-being. Ms. Hess addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee regarding the information presented.

##### **B. Spring Assessment Schedule**

Ms. Hess reviewed the Spring Assessment Schedule, outlining upcoming assessments across grade bands. She shared that winter benchmarking for PreK–8 began immediately following winter break. Additional assessments include DLM opening February 2 as the new alternate assessment for special education, ACCESS for English learners, and ongoing SEL measures through Character Strong and BHI. Ms. Hess noted that spring represents a busy assessment period for students and staff.

##### **C. HPS Climate Survey Results**

Ms. Hess presented the HPS Climate Survey results, noting positive year-over-year trends across family, staff, and student surveys. She shared that the survey was administered over two weeks in December and included staff, student, and family feedback. Family responses reflected increased satisfaction in areas such as student enjoyment of school, learning environment, respect, and valuing diversity, with many families citing quality of education and support for public education as reasons for choosing HPS. Staff results indicated strong collegial relationships, positive work environments, and growing confidence in building leadership. Student feedback, collected from grades 2–8, was also largely positive, with themes including requests for improved playgrounds and recess, engaging instruction, and strong student–teacher relationships. Ms. Hess reported that overall trends show continued improvement and shared plans to convene a stakeholder task force to refine future survey questions for greater specificity and impact.

**VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

There were no further board or superintendent comments.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher.