



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

Thursday, January 22, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Lincoln Center & Teams

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Jennifer McKee, Chair	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Keith Meyer, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
Kay Satre, Trustee	Sam Holman, Business Director
Jenny Murnane Butcher, Trustee	Matt Carey, PAL Principal
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Linda Cleatus, Trustee	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12
	Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
	Robert Worthy, Sodexo General Manager
	Kaitlyn Hess, Data & Federal Programs Director
	Robert Brewer, Facilities Manager
	Michelle Schweyen, Assistant Accountant
	Alec Pinero, Hulteng
	Brian Kessler, Helena High School Principal
	Several representatives from Slate, RTA, & Langlas
	Several representatives from A&E & SMA, NAC, & Dick Anderson Construction

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Jennifer McKee called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and the Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Board Chair Jennifer McKee 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. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Information

1. Capital High School Architecture & Construction Update-Slate + RTA & Langlas

The Board of Trustees received a Capital High School Architecture and Construction update from representatives from Slate and RTA and Langlas. Representatives from Slate Architecture, RTA Architects, and Langlas and Associates provided an update on the Capital High School addition and renovation project. Slate principals Jacob Augenstein and Scott Cromwell, along with RTA principal Doug Abernethy and members of the Langlas construction team, introduced their project roles and outlined the collaborative approach moving forward.

The design team reviewed the overall project schedule, noting that programming and concept design are nearing completion, with schematic design set to begin. The Design Advisory Group (DAG) process was highlighted, including upcoming meetings focused on space programming, preliminary site plans, and floor plan options. Multiple conceptual layouts were presented as working options to encourage discussion, with the intent of combining the strongest elements from each to develop a preferred design.

The team discussed existing site conditions, including circulation, parking, and building access, and emphasized efforts to improve security by consolidating entry points. Preliminary concepts also addressed departmental organization, upgrades to mechanical, electrical, and data systems, and interior improvements throughout the building.

Langlas shared that construction planning is underway and will become more prominent as design advances. Trustee questions were addressed throughout the presentation, and the presentation concluded with appreciation for the collaborative process and anticipation of future design refinements.

2. Helena High School Architecture & Construction Update-SMA & Dick Anderson

The Board of Trustees received a Helena High School architecture and construction update from representatives of SMA + A&E Architecture and Dick Anderson Construction. The design team shared progress on conceptual development and campus planning, emphasizing a collaborative and interactive process intended to gather Trustee feedback as designs continue to evolve.

The design team reviewed the overall project approach, including use of existing facilities, campus organization, and developing spatial relationships through both two-dimensional layouts and emerging three-dimensional concepts. The team introduced early architectural design vignettes and experiential views, marking a transition from preliminary massing to the development of architectural character, materials, and visual language.

Discussion included exterior elements, entry visibility, circulation, stadium orientation, and campus sightlines, particularly along Montana Avenue. The team highlighted efforts to create clear, welcoming entry points while balancing functionality and aesthetics. Interior planning was also reviewed, including counseling and wellness areas, flexible therapy and support spaces, library breakout rooms, conference areas, and specialized learning spaces such as computer labs and podcast rooms. The design team confirmed accommodations for student health services and flexible support spaces integrated through the main entry for safety and accessibility.

The design team noted ongoing collaboration with the building committee, librarians, and staff to incorporate user input into the evolving design. Upcoming committee meetings will continue to refine exterior concepts, interior layouts, and programming. Trustees asked questions and provided feedback related to campus flow, athletic facilities, wellness spaces, and learning environments.

Trustee questions were addressed throughout the presentation and the presentation concluded with recognition that the project remains in an exploratory phase, with continued opportunities for dialogue as design development progresses.

The Board of Trustees moved on to final board or Superintendent comments.

V. BOARD OR SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no further comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary