



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 Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Lincoln Center & Teams

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Others</i>
Keith Meyer, Trustee	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Kay Satre, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
	Sam Holman, Business Director
	Matt Carey, PAL Principal
	Robert Worthy, Sodexo General Manager
	Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent PreK-5
	Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
	Shane Swandal, Hulteng
	Brian Kessler, Helena High School Principal
	Eric Peterson, Activities Director
	Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
	Riley Thatcher, Kessler Elementary Principal
	Several representatives from Mosaic and Golden Eagle/Swank
	Several representatives from Slate, RTA, & Langlas
	Several representatives from A&E & SMA, NAC, & Dick Anderson Construction
	Guest of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Kay Satre called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and the attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Trustee Kay Satre reviewed the agenda and there were no changes.

The trustees present 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. Kessler Elementary School Architecture & Construction Update - Mosaic and Golden Eagle/Swank

The attendees received a Kessler Elementary School Architecture & Construction update from Mosaic and Golden Eagle/Swank. The design team reported that the design is currently in the schematic design phase, with completion anticipated in mid-April. This phase will include updated floor plans, visual renderings, program spaces, and engineering narratives related to building systems. The team noted that the design continues to build on prior community engagement and ongoing refinement of project details. Upcoming summer work includes early site preparation such as utility relocations, including storm drain and electrical line adjustments, as well as grading and installation of temporary construction fencing. Coordination is also underway with the City of Helena regarding improvements to adjacent infrastructure, including 9th Street curb, gutter, and drainage improvements to support site readiness. The team also discussed plans to maintain student safety and minimize disruption during construction, including fencing and traffic flow adjustments. Portions of the site, including playground areas, will be restricted as construction progresses, with communication planned to support families and staff. Overall, the project is progressing toward construction readiness, with early site work expected to begin this summer. Questions from attendees were addressed during the presentation. Following the presentation, the group recessed for a short break before continuing the meeting.

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

Representatives from SMA, A&E Architecture, and Dick Anderson Construction provided the group with an update on the Helena High School project including progress on district kitchen planning, campus site design, and interior building development for both Helena High School and associated campus spaces. The project team reported that work continues to advance through the construction document phase, with upcoming milestones including submission for permitting and bidding in the near term. A detailed project schedule was reviewed, outlining phased

construction sequencing, with early enabling work anticipated prior to full construction mobilization. The team also provided updates on site coordination efforts, including ongoing communication with the City of Helena regarding permitting, infrastructure improvements, and campus access considerations. Site planning discussions included utility coordination and early construction activities intended to prepare the campus for major construction work. A portion of the update focused on potential reuse and salvage of materials from existing structures during future demolition. The team emphasized a balanced approach that considers cost, schedule, and feasibility, while identifying select meaningful elements that could be preserved or repurposed. It was noted that large-scale deconstruction efforts could impact timelines and costs, and therefore reuse opportunities would be limited to key, viable items rather than broad material recovery. Additional discussion included continued refinement of building interiors and exterior campus design, with emphasis on how spaces are beginning to reflect the intended final design direction. The team shared that design development is progressing for instructional areas, common spaces, and the performing arts center, and that additional updates will be brought forward following review with the building committee. Engagement with stakeholders, including students and staff, was noted as ongoing to support feedback on design elements. Overall, the project is progressing through design and pre-construction phases, with early site work and permitting activities expected to advance in the coming months as the team moves toward construction. Questions from attendees were addressed during the presentation.

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

The attendees received a Capital High School Architecture and Construction update from representatives from Slate and RTA and Langlas. The project team reported that the schematic design package is nearing completion, with final submission scheduled for the following day. The update included progress on site planning, building massing, circulation, and interior and exterior design elements, including improvements to entries, common spaces, and athletic and support areas. The team discussed ongoing refinements to building flow and accessibility, including stair and circulation adjustments, improved connectivity between levels, and efforts to enhance natural light and visibility throughout the building. Site planning updates included layout considerations for parking, bus and parent drop-off areas, courtyard development, and athletic facilities, with continued refinement of traffic flow and safety. The project team noted that the schematic design submittal is a substantial package due to the size and complexity of the facility, and that work is ongoing with consultants to finalize drawings and narratives. Upcoming activities include continued design development sessions, coordination meetings, and engagement with student representatives and stakeholders as the project advances toward the next phase. Questions from attendees were addressed during the presentation.

V. BOARD OR SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no further Board or Superintendent comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary