



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 Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

12:00 p.m.

Lincoln Center

1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601

And via

TEAMS

MINUTES

Attendees

Trustees:

Jennifer Walsh, Committee Chair
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Keith Meyer, Trustee

Other Attendees:

Bea Kaleva, District Legal Counsel
Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Kaitlyn Hess, Data & Federal Programs Director
Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Sam Holman, Business Director
Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent
Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Policy Committee Chair, Trustee Jennifer Walsh. Following the call-to-order, members of the Policy Committee and other attendees introduced themselves.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

IV. REVIEW OF THE 2.3.2026 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Policy Committee reviewed and accepted the minutes from the February 3, 2026, Policy Committee meeting.

V. POLICIES FOR SECOND READING-HAVE GONE TO FULL BOARD FOR 1ST READING

A. Policy 2020: Student and Family Privacy Rights

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 2020: Student and Family Privacy Rights. This policy is updated to reflect changes from House Bill 599 regarding parental rights law. Parents may opt their child out of any personal analysis, evaluation, survey or data collection that does not require personally identifiable information. Parents must opt in to any personal analysis, evaluation, survey or data collection that requires personally identifiable information, unless that information is essential for establishing a student’s education record or for a demographic survey to validate an achievement test used to gain admission to a postsecondary institution.

During discussion when this policy was presented to the full Board for information, a question was raised regarding whether it conflicts with Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations. It was clarified that the two policies do not conflict. Policy 2020 addresses procedures related to third parties or individuals requesting to conduct surveys or access district data, which are subject to specific requirements. Policy 3410, by contrast, pertains to student physical and mental health screenings that occur as part of routine student support or as required by law during a student’s enrollment. These activities are separate from survey administration or external data collection. It was noted that the policies are governed by different federal laws and therefore do not conflict. The District may continue conducting student screenings as appropriate. The updates to Policy 2020 reflect recent changes in Montana law regarding opt-in and opt-out requirements under certain circumstances.

The Policy Committee determined that Policy 2020: Student and Family Privacy Rights would be brought before the full Board of Trustees for action.

B. Policy 3010: Entrance, Placement and Transfer

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 3010: Entrance, Placement and Transfer. This policy is updated to reflect House Bill 168, which permits districts to receive ANB funding for special education preschool students based upon aggregate hours of instruction. Additionally, students with disabilities may be eligible to continue enrollment until they reach twenty-two years of age, unless they have received a regular high school diploma. This policy was presented to the full Board of Trustees for information. The only revision involved reformatting the language in lines 16 through 28 to enhance clarity. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 3010: Entrance, Placement and Transfer would be brought before the full Board of Trustees for action.

C. Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Enrollment

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Enrollment. House Bill 250 changes the out-of-district attendance laws that went into effect July 1, 2025, and applies to attendance agreements. The Board of Trustees may deny enrollment of an out-of-district student if accepting the student(s) would negatively impact the quality of education for resident students because the maximum student contract hours for a teacher of the class or maximum class sizes under accreditation standards would be exceeded. Additionally, the Board of Trustees may deny enrollment of a nondisabled student who has been suspended in or out of school in any school the student previously enrolled in within the previous three years. No revisions were suggested when the policy was presented to the full Board for information. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Enrollment would be brought before the full Board of Trustees for action.

D. Policy 7057: Use of Automated External Defibrillation

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 7057: Use of Automated External Defibrillation. This policy is updated to reflect the components of the district's AED program and to reflect changes to maintaining AEDs in accordance with Senate Bill 86. Specifically, SB 86 changes the requirement for maintaining a written plan for AEDs to only a written notice of the location of the AED to the 911 service covering the area. No revisions were suggested when the policy was presented to the full Board for information. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 7057: Use of Automated External Defibrillation would be brought before the full Board of Trustees for action.

E. Policy 8100: Transportation

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 8100: Transportation. This policy has been updated to reflect legal references and be in compliance with House Bill 250 regarding transportation requirements for students with disabilities. No revisions were suggested when the policy was presented to the full Board for information. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 8100: Transportation would be brought before the full Board of Trustees for action.

VI. POLICIES FOR FURTHER READING – HAVE GONE TO FULL BOARD FOR READING

A. Policy 3097: Use of Video Monitoring Cameras

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 3097: Use of Video Monitoring Cameras. This policy has been updated to align with parental rights under House Bill 32, allowing video monitoring during events open to the public. At the last Policy Committee meeting, clarifying language was added to specify that no staff member or volunteer may make an audio or video recording of a student without parental permission unless at a public event. This policy was presented to the full Board of Trustees for information. The only revision involved reformatting the language in lines 26 through 41 to enhance clarity. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 3097: Use of Video Monitoring Cameras would go before the full Board of Trustees for action.

B. Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations. House Bill 599 requires that a district provide parents with notice of the right to opt out of physical or mental health screenings or surveys and to be notified of the results of any such screenings. The policy has been updated to align with this requirement. No revisions were suggested when the policy was presented to the full Board for information. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations would go before the full Board of Trustees for action.

VII. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIRST READING

A. Policy 2010: Instructional Program

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 2010: Instructional Program. This policy was presented for periodic review with no substantive changes recommended. It outlines that the School District provides instructional programs for grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and that the grouping and housing of instructional levels within school facilities are determined by plans developed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. The policy also states that students are assigned to classrooms or instructional groups based on factors such as class size, peer relationships, student–teacher relationships, instructional style, and other considerations intended to best support the needs of individual students while balancing the needs of others. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 2010: Instructional Program would be brought before the full Board of Trustees for information.

B. Policy 2070: Network Information and Communication Systems

The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy 2070: Network Information and Communication Systems. This policy governs student and staff use of District computer systems, networks, and Internet access for educational purposes. It emphasizes responsible and lawful use, with supervision by staff and accountability for misuse. Network access is a privilege and may be suspended or withdrawn for violations of the District’s Acceptable Use Procedures, which require parental and student acknowledgment for minors. An update to the policy was made to include language on the responsible and appropriate use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) tools, aligning with the HPS Student Handbook. The policy clarifies that communications over District networks are not private, outlines security and indemnification responsibilities, and directs the Superintendent to provide training and procedures to ensure

broad, lawful, and effective access to District technology resources. The Policy Committee determined that Policy 2070: Network Information and Communication Systems would be brought before the full Board of Trustees for information.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Jennifer Walsh adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.