



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, April 13, 2026– 12:00 p.m.

Lincoln Conference Room and Microsoft Teams

Members of the public are able to attend remotely by clicking here:

[Join the meeting now](#)

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

III. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:** *This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.*

IV. REVIEW OF 3.9.26 FACILITIES & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Technology Monthly Update
- B. Facilities Monthly Update

VI. BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT



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, March 9, 2026

12:00 p.m.

Lincoln Campus & Teams

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Others:

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

Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Sam Holman, Business Director
Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Kaitlyn Hess, Data & Federal Programs Director
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant

I. **CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 February 9, 2026, 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 - March 2026

State Reporting:

- Early checks for Behavior Reporting
- High School and Middle School scheduling support

Applications:

- Continuing NAEP Setup and Support
- Ticket statistics for February:
 - Tickets Created: 393
 - Tickets Solved: 357
 - One touch: 55.7%
 - Reopened 1.7%
 - 100% satisfaction
- Ongoing assessment support (including ACT)

Safety and Security:

- Spring Break Testing

Network and Systems:

- Installation of 4G's Interactive Displays
- Deployment of iPads and Chromebooks to support HEF Lego Robotics
- E-Rate Update:
 - 5-year budget
 - New Wireless Controller
 - HS buildings

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 - March 2026

Projects Last 30 Days:

- Smith Elementary gym HVAC unit installed and operating
- Central Elementary site improvement project awarded: Helena Sand & Gravel for \$71,000
 - 11% less than engineer's estimate!
- Moving maintenance and custodial equipment and supplies to new warehouse
- Sierra Park improvements to the parking area
- Received notification from Queen City Football Club they will cease operations and vacate 7th Ave Gym by 31 MAR 2026
- Ameresco performance contracting ongoing

Current Projects

- HMS and Jefferson roof projects bid opening 5 MAR 2026. Will have an award recommendation at tomorrow's board meeting
- Central and JD interior painting 50% complete
- Smith Elementary:
 - HVAC project ongoing
 - Solar project in design
- Facilities warehouse removal RFP currently advertised. Proposals due 16 MAR 2026

Staff:

- Hired two new grounds employees

February Work Orders

Completed: 416

Custodial Update

Custodial Projects:

- Working to reduce custodial supply costs (paper towels, TP, hand soap, cleaners)
 - Elementary supplies: \$13,000/month
 - High school supplies: \$6,000/month
 - Replacing/retrofitting paper towel dispensers to accommodate less expensive rolls
- Meeting with Finstad's to plan summer flooring projects

Staff:

- Current number of vacancies: 8
- Hired 2 new employees (start 9 MAR 2026), Central evening and CHS float
- Awaiting background checks on 3

Safety and Security Update

- Coordinated environmental testing at Rossiter (radon results are available)
- Coordinated HAZMAT surveys at Kessler and CHS
- Completed all fire inspections
- Refining FEMA/DES seismic assessment grant
- Working with Capital City Volleyball and Diamond Construction to install new volleyball floor standards at CRA and Rossiter
- Working on HMS fire alarm system upgrade
- Property insurance inspections on-going

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

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Wertz provided brief updates on district property matters, including the Hawthorne RFP process, potential use of 7th Avenue and May Butler properties, and reported that district trees remain in good condition following recent wind events, with hazardous trees already removed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Technology Update

April 2026

State Reporting:

- CTE Reporting Changes
- Ongoing Issues with Accreditation

Applications:

- ACT Administration went well
- Ticket statistics for March:
 - Tickets Created: 349
 - Tickets Solved: 347
 - Reopened 2.6%
 - 100% satisfaction
- Assessment support for MAST and AP testing

Safety and Security:

- Spring Break Testing Results

Network and Systems:

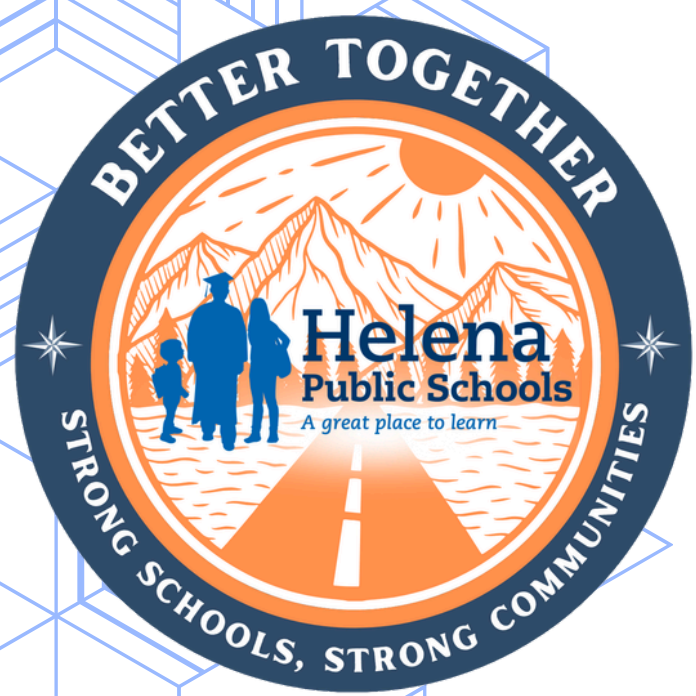
- MS Lab updates (high use labs)

Project Updates:

- Print Center Evolution
- New Website

Levy Information Sharing:

Questions?

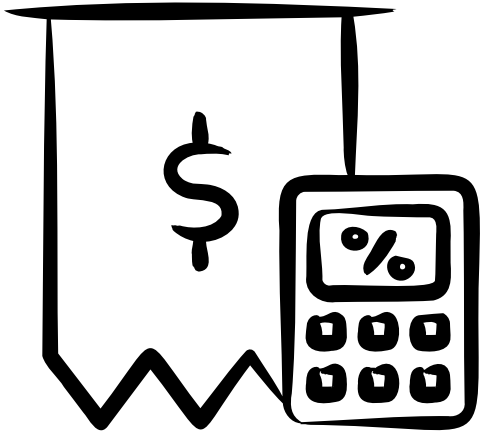


2026 GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS LEVY & TECHNOLOGY LEVY

What You Need to Know

What is a levy?

Local governments and school districts in Montana use mill levies to fund public services, governed by MCA Title 7 and 15. These are authorized by voter ballot questions or governing bodies to raise set amounts of money.



Why levies?

In MT, school funding is a partnership between the state and the local community. While the state provides a "base" level of support, it does not cover the full cost of running a modern school.

Think of the operations or technology levies as the "fuel" for the district's daily engine. Unlike a bond, which funds the bricks and mortar of a building, a **levy is for learning** and for people.

What is HPS Requesting?

Elementary General Fund Operations Levy

The purpose of increasing the operations mill levy is to help close the 20% gap between state funding and the actual cost of running our schools. These funds will be dedicated to student and staffing needs; primarily supporting curriculum programs, classroom supplies, and the retention and recruitment of teachers and staff.

Ultimately, this local investment ensures we can maintain the standard of academic-excellence that we, and the Helena Community expects for its students.

Elementary and High School Technology Levies

The purpose of increasing the technology mill levy for both the elementary and the high school districts is to maintain the district's existing technology infrastructure and secure learning environment. This includes the routine maintenance and scheduled replacement of current devices, renewal of software licenses and cloud-based services used by staff and students, and upkeep of the network and security systems that support daily instruction. The levy is not intended to expand the number of devices in classrooms, but rather to sustain the technology foundation already in place.

Misconceptions

"If my property value goes up, the school district gets a windfall of money."

In Montana, when voters approve a levy, they approve a fixed dollar amount, not a tax rate.

"Levy funds can be used for anything the board wants."

Montana law (and so are we) is very strict about "fund accounting." Money approved for the General Fund (Operations) cannot be moved to other Funds, and vice versa.

Similarly, Technology Levy funds are legally restricted to tech-specific needs.

"A substantially large bond was past just this fall. Can't you use any of that money?"

Remember, "bonds are for buildings and levies are for learning." We cannot move money from one fund to another.

These requests are in a completely different category than the bonds. In all, the proposed voted levies will add roughly \$6 a month onto a \$400,000 house's tax bill.

We encourage all community members to stay informed and reach out to us with your questions as we approach the May election.

For full details on the approved resolutions and ballot language, please contact helenaschools@helenaschools.org.

"The technology levy will just be used for buying new laptops and iPads"

Hardware is only a small fraction of the cost, and in this case, would only include the scheduled replacement of current devices. The levy would primarily fund the "invisible" infrastructure that keeps the district running. This includes the maintenance and continuation of licensing on our technology throughout the district. It also aims to enhance cybersecurity infrastructure as well as our physical building safety and security aspects.

"Technology isn't a basic need for education"

Modern state testing, college applications, and vocational training (like CAD for MT's trades) are now almost exclusively digital. If the district cannot maintain its tech, students lose access to the basic curriculum and the tools required for the workforce.

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
NOTICE OF DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of School District No. 1 (Helena), Lewis and Clark County, Montana, that pursuant to a certain resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board on April 14, 2026, the trustees, in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 20-6-603 and 20-6-604, shall dispose of personal property consisting of document cameras, monitors, stereo equipment, projectors, scanners, video cameras, printers, speakers, and ac adapters because these items are abandoned, obsolete, undesirable or unsuitable for school purposes.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Helena School District No.1, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, shall sell or otherwise dispose of the technology equipment identified below:

Pallet 1		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
4	Box of chargers and cables	
1	Cellular AP	
5	VGA Splitter	
1	Audio Player	
4	Desktop	Elitedesk
1	Document Camera	
38	iPad	
65	Laptop	Chromebook
16	Laptop	Probook
2	Laptop	Surface
14	Monitor	
19	Projector	

Pallet 2		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
74	Desktop	Elitedesk

Pallet 3		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
83	Desktop	Elitedesk

Pallet 4		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
18	Box of cables/wires	

Pallet 5		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
2	DvD Players	
40	Chromebook	
10	Desktop	Elitedesk
22	iPad	
14	Laptop	Probook

Pallet 6		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
62	Monitor	

Pallet 7		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
2	Box of assorted Ram (DDR2)	
1	Box of VGA Splitters	
1	box of ipod accessories	
1	Apple TV	
77	Chromebook	
1	Desktop	Dell
44	Desktop	Elitedesk
1	DVD Reader	
1	Laptop	Gateway
18	iPad	
42	iPod	
4	Laptop	Mac
56	Laptop	Probook
11	Laptop	Surface
2	Receipt Printer	
6	VGA Splitter	

Pallet 8		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
7	Box of Keyboards	
2	APC Smart UPS RT 3000	
1	APC Smart UPS X 1500	
1	Redcat Speaker	
1	Misc Computer Accessories	
1	Analog Clock	

Pallet 10		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
183	Desktop	Elitedesk

Pallet 11		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
13	Monitor	

Pallet 12		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
1	Buss Pass Printer	
2	Fax Machine	
4	Printer	
3	Scanner	

Pallet 13		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
19 boxes	Misc Cables/Chargers/Wires	
1	Box of headphones/cables	

Pallet 14		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
17 boxes	Misc Cables/Chargers/Wires	
1	Box of computer speakers	

Pallet 15		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
8	Document Camera	Epson
4	Document Camera	Ladibug
12	Projector	Epson
1	Redcat Speaker	

Pallet 16		
QTY	Device Type	Model #
10	Printers	
2	FAX Machines	

The items may be viewed at Helena Middle School Warehouse, located at 1010 Idaho Ave, Helena, MT, April 28, 2026, between the hours of 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm. Please call Education Technology Administrator, Gary Myers at (406) 324-2028 for more information. **Purchased by pallets, not individually.** Purchasing parties are responsible for the pickup or shipping of purchased pallets no later than May 7, 2026. Interested parties must submit sealed bids to the Helena School District #1 Business Office, 1525 Poplar St, Helena, MT 59601 by 3:00 pm on April 30, 2026. The exterior of all bid envelopes or packages must clearly state: **Sealed Bid for Surplus Technology Equipment.**

This Resolution shall not become effective for 14 days. Upon expiration of the 14-day period, the Superintendent of the District shall effectuate the sale or disposal of the property. Money realized from the sale of any of the above-identified items shall be credited to the technology funds as deemed appropriate.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2026.

Samantha Kolman
District Clerk
Helena School District No. 1
Lewis and Clark County

Publication Dates: April 18th and April 25th, 2026

Facilities and Maintenance Update

April 2026

Projects Last 30 Days:

- Awarded facilities warehouse removal to R&R Heavy Haul (no cost to the district)
 - Relocated two storage sheds to leased property
 - Removing old warehouses this month
- Completed move to new warehouse
- Cleared Queen City Football Club from 7th Ave Gym
- Ameresco contract signed
- Vigilante Stadium set up for spring sports
- Septic and sump pump maintenance
- HHS upper gym sprinkler head mishap
- CHS electrical fire remediation and testing

Current Projects

- CHS electrical fire insurance claim
 - Replace damaged equipment in mechanical room
- Central and JD interior painting 75% complete
- Smith Elementary solar project out to bid this week

Staff:

- One grounds employee is leaving the district at the end of the month

March Work Orders

Completed: 603

Custodial Update

Custodial Projects:

- Smith Elementary new LVP flooring installed at main entrance, admin offices, and teacher lounge
- Replaced 302 paper towel dispensers across the elementary district
- Coordinating summer flooring projects
 - Gym floors
 - HMS auditorium asbestos tile removal
- Continuing to research cost savings on custodial supplies

Staff:

- Current # vacancies: 8
- Awaiting background checks on 3

Safety and Security Update

- Coordinated environmental testing following CHS fire (all clear)
- Property insurance inspections complete
- Coordinating staff CPR training and recertification

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO., LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
RESOLUTION TO DISPOSE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the trustees of any district have the power and the responsibility to hold in trust all real and personal property of the District for the benefit of the schools and children of the district, and;

WHEREAS, the trustees of any district have the authority to determine that certain personal property of the District is or is about to become abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable for the school purposes of the district pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 20-6-604, and;

WHEREAS, the District owns items of personal property consisting of facilities vehicles to include the following:

Truck, Bucket/Boom, GMC C-7000, 1990, VIN: 1GDP7D1G3LV506552 / Plate 5-45507B
Jeep, CJ-7, 1983, VIN: 1JCCE87E8DT057466 / Plate 5-1313
Jeep, CJ-7, 1983, VIN: 1JCCN87E3DT008742 / Plate 5-1316

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Helena School District No. 1 desires to sell such vehicles because they are abandoned, obsolete, undesirable or unsuitable for school purposes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Helena School District No. 1, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, shall dispose of the vehicles by transfer to the Spring 2026 State of Montana Surplus Property Auction. The items may be viewed and inspected at the Montana state surplus yard, located at 16 West Custer Ave., Helena, MT 59602 on 7 & 8 May between 8:00am and 5:00pm. Please contact Christopher Brown at (406) 324-1720 or at cbrown5@helenaschools.org for more information. Additional information is available at <https://www.pateauction.com/auctions/detail/bw158017>

This Resolution shall not become effective for 14 days. Upon expiration of the 14-day period, the Superintendent of the District shall effectuate the disposal of the above-described property.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2026.

By: _____

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

DISTRICT CLERK CERTIFICATION:

I attest the above-referenced signature of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, and further certify as follows _____ made the motion to approve this RESOLUTION TO DISPOSE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY and _____ seconded the motion; the following Trustees voted in favor of the motion:

the following Trustees voted against _____; and the following Trustees were absent: _____.

By: _____

Samantha Holman, District Clerk

Helena School District No. 1