



Board of Trustees Meeting

Lincoln Center | 1325 Poplar St. | Helena, MT 59601

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Conference Room and via
TEAMS

[Join the meeting now](#)

AGENDA

I. **CALL TO ORDER /PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

III. **PRESENTATION: 2025 District Audit: Tony Gerharz, Manager, Wipfli LLP**

<https://helenaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2025-District-Audit.pdf>

IV. **RECOGNITIONS**

A. **C.R. Anderson Science Olympiad State Tournament Results**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to the following students from C.R. Anderson Middle School for earning gold medals at the Science Olympiad State Tournament. Their achievements reflect exceptional dedication, teamwork, and excellence in science and academic competition.

Eileen McLane - Gold Medal in Botany and Entomology

Cassie Naipo - Gold Medal in Botany

Connar Gant - Gold Medal in Codebusters

Quinn Cestnik - Gold Medal in Codebusters

Caleb Harmon - Gold Medal in Codebusters and Code Craze

Serena Light - Gold Medal in Code Craze and Entomology

The Board of Trustees commends these students for their outstanding achievements and for representing C.R. Anderson Middle School and Helena Public Schools with distinction. Special thanks to Coach Megan Lane and Leslie Hagenruber for their guidance and leadership, which were instrumental in the students' success.

B. Helena Middle School Science Olympiad State Tournament Results

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to the following students from Helena Middle School for earning gold medals at the Science Olympiad State Tournament. Their achievements reflect exceptional dedication, teamwork, and excellence in science and academic competition.

Kasen Hicks - Gold Medal in Anatomy and Physiology

Jade Tran - Gold Medal in Anatomy and Physiology

Special thanks to coaches Sara Grotbo, Andrea Towery, and Audrey Howard for their guidance and leadership, which were instrumental in the students' success.

C. Capital High School Science Olympiad State Tournament Results

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to the following students from Capital High School for earning gold medals at the Science Olympiad State Tournament. Their achievements reflect exceptional dedication, teamwork, and excellence in science and academic competition.

Rowan Humbert – Gold Medal in Codebusters

Sydney Harman – Gold Medal in Codebusters

Elliot Ganno – Gold Medal in Codebusters

Special thanks to Coach DeLacey Humbert for her guidance and leadership, which were instrumental in the students' success.

D. National Youth Orchestra Selection

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Helena High School student Elliot Cleary, who has been selected for the National Youth Orchestra. This prestigious program recognizes outstanding young musicians from across the United States, with approximately 80 students selected through a highly competitive national audition process. Participants will travel to the East Coast this summer for an intensive rehearsal and performance residency before touring internationally with the ensemble. Elliot's selection is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects his exceptional musical talent, dedication, and hard work. The Board of Trustees proudly recognizes Elliot for this outstanding achievement. The Board also extends special thanks to Orchestra Teacher Kevin Cleary for his dedication, mentorship, and support in fostering Elliot's musical growth and success.

E. NSDA Montana West Coach of the Year

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Nick Taffs, Head Speech and Debate Coach at Capital High School, on being named the NSDA Montana West Coach of the Year. This prestigious award honors coaches who exemplify leadership, mentorship, and dedication to speech and debate. Coach Taffs has demonstrated exceptional leadership by fostering team spirit, sustaining student participation, advocating for the program, and highlighting student

achievements within the school and community. This recognition reflects not only competitive success, but also his lasting commitment to the growth and vitality of speech and debate at Capital High School.

F. **2026 MFEA AA Speech Coach of the Year**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Jen Hermanson, Head Speech and Debate Coach at Helena High School, on being named the 2026 MFEA AA Speech Coach of the Year. This distinguished award, voted on by fellow coaches across the state, recognizes outstanding leadership, service, and dedication to speech and debate. Coach Hermanson has demonstrated exceptional mentorship, fostered student growth, promoted collaboration, and inspired excellence, making a lasting impact on her students, the Helena High program, and the Helena Public Schools community.

G. **NSDA Montana West Student of the Year**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Fiona Kuntz from Capital High School, who has been named the NSDA Montana West Student of the Year. This prestigious honor recognizes a graduating senior who exemplifies the tenets of the NSDA Code of Honor, including humility, integrity, leadership, and service. Fiona has demonstrated exceptional dedication, serving as a role model, fostering collaboration, and promoting excellence within the Capital High Speech and Debate program, making a lasting impact on her peers and the Helena Public Schools community.

H. **Speech and Debate National Qualifiers**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to the following Helena High School and Capital High School students who have been selected as Speech and Debate National Qualifiers. This distinguished honor reflects excellence in critical thinking, public speaking, research, and performance. Students earning national qualification have demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and perseverance through a highly competitive process, representing their schools and the Helena community with distinction.

Elliot Ganno (CHS) - Informative Speaking

Reese LaFond (CHS) - Original Oratory

River Muery (CHS) - Congressional Debate

June Forsythe-Vincello (CHS) - Big Questions Debate

Claudia Cook (CHS) - Big Questions Debate

Jack Tobin (CHS) - World Schools Debate

Kale Covey (CHS) - Expository Speaking, Impromptu Speaking

Sydney Harman (CHS) - Storytelling, Prose Interpretation

Price Lester (HHS) - World Schools Debate

Maverick Franklin (HHS) - Expository Speaking, Impromptu Speaking

Justice Kitts (HHS) - Expository Speaking, Storytelling

The Board of Trustees commends these students for their outstanding accomplishments and for

representing Helena Public Schools at the national level. The Board also extends special thanks to Coach Nick Taffs and Coach Jen Hermanson for their leadership, dedication, and mentorship in guiding students to this level of achievement. Their commitment to excellence in speech and debate is deeply appreciated.

I. **National Merit Finalists**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Helena High School students Grey Gildroy and Brady Lay, who have been named National Merit Finalists for the Class of 2026. This distinguished honor recognizes their exceptional academic achievement, outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, and dedication to excellence in scholarship. Being named a National Merit Finalist places Grey and Brady among the top students in the nation, highlighting their remarkable intellect, perseverance, and commitment to learning. The Board proudly commends these students for representing Helena High School and Helena Public Schools with distinction and excellence.

J. **Helena Education Foundation’s Harrison Writing Award and Going to the Sun Art Award Winners**

The Board of Trustees is proud to recognize the exceptional talent of Helena Public Schools students who have received the Harrison Writing Awards and the Going to the Sun Awards, presented by the Helena Education Foundation.

The Harrison Writing Awards honor excellence in expository and creative writing. Their winning prose and poetry will be featured in the annual Pen & Ink magazine, and they will be celebrated at the community launch event on May 6 at the Holter Museum. The 2026 recipients are:

Reese LaFond from CHS for “Whose Flesh”

Eleanor Kakuk from CHS for “What Should Have Been a 2 Hour Trip”

The Going to the Sun Awards recognize outstanding talent in the visual arts, with winning artwork showcased in Pen & Ink and at the community launch event on May 6 at the Holter Museum. The 2026 recipients are:

Finn Morrison from HHS for "Roadside Mongolian Blessing"

June Forsythe-Vincello from CHS for "The Story Studio"

Megan Abelin from CHS for "Shadow's Teeth"

Reese LaFond from HHS for "The Land Does Not Wait"

The Board commends all award recipients for their creativity, dedication, and exceptional accomplishments, and congratulates them for representing Helena Public Schools with distinction.

V. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

VI. **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.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Items For Information- Facilities Bond Projects Updates**

1. Kessler Elementary Update
2. Capital High School Update
3. Helena High Campus Update
 - a. Helena High School
 - b. Project For Alternative Learning (PAL)
 - c. District Kitchen
 - d. Competition Stadium

B. **Items For Information**

1. Policy 2085: Graduation Requirements
2. Policy 4000: Public Relations
3. Policy 7050: Food Services

C. **Consent Action Items**

1. Personnel Actions
2. Warrants
3. Approval of FY 2025-26 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
4. Acknowledge FY 2025-26 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)
5. 3/10/26 Board of Trustees Full Board Meeting Minutes
6. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property - Outdated and Obsolete Technology Equipment
7. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Outdated and Obsolete Facilities Vehicles

D. **Items For Action**

1. Approval of the Helena Public Schools Girls Flag Football Program
2. Policy 2010: Instructional Program

3. Policy 2070: Network Information and Communication Systems

E. **Reports**

1. Student Representatives Report
2. Helena Education Association Report
3. Facilities & Technology Committee Report
4. Budget & Finance Committee Report
5. Teaching & Learning Committee Report
6. Policy Committee Report
7. Health Benefits Committee Report
8. Wellness Committee Report
9. Montana School Boards Association Report
10. Parent Council Visit Report

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

IX. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

X. ADJOURNMENT

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item I.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Agenda

Presentation

Recognitions

Superintendent's Report

General Public Comment

Items for Information-Facilities Bond Projects Updates

Items for Information

Consent Action Items

Items for Action

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Upcoming Meetings

Board/Superintendent Comments

Adjournment

Item Title: Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item II.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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Item Title: Review of Agenda

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item III.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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Adjournment

Item Title: **Presentation**
2025 District Audit: Tony Gerharz, Manager, Wipfli LLP
<https://helenaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2025-District-Audit.pdf>

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Item IV.

- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- Review of Agenda
- Presentation
- Recognitions
- Superintendent's Report
- General Public Comment
- Items for Information-Facilities Bond Projects Updates
- Items for Information
- Consent Action Items
- Items for Action
- Reports
- Upcoming Meetings
- Board/Superintendent Comments
- Adjournment

- Item Title: Recognitions**
- A. C.R. Anderson Science Olympiad State Tournament Results**
 - B. Helena Middle School Science Olympiad State Tournament Results**
 - C. Capital High School Science Olympiad State Tournament Results**
 - D. National Youth Orchestra Selection**
 - E. NSDA Montana West Coach of the Year**
 - F. 2026 MFEA AA Speech Coach of the Year**
 - G. NSDA Montana West Student of the Year**
 - H. Speech and Debate National Qualifiers**
 - I. National Merit Finalists**
 - J. Helena Education Foundation's Harrison Writing Award and Going to the Sun Art Award Winners**

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item V.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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General Public Comment

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Adjournment

Item Title: Superintendent's Report

TO: *Board Chair Jennifer McKee and Board of Trustees*
FROM: *Mr. Wertz, Superintendent*
RE: *Superintendent Report*
DATE: *April 14, 2026*

❖ **Recognitions**

- Retirement
- CRA Leadership and Staff
- April 1 National Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
- April 4 National School Librarian Day
- April 6-10 National Assistant Principals Week
- April 19-25 Public School Volunteer Week/National Volunteer Recognition Week
- April 22 Administrative Professionals Day
- April 28 School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- Thank you to Callie Aschim & the Chamber of Commerce for hosting Community Outreach: Brews & Blueprints. The next event will be on April 15 at 5:30 p.m. at Brothers Tapworks
- Congratulations to the following 105.3 KMTX Teacher of the Month recipient:
 - Jamie O'Malley, Helena High School– February
- Congratulations to our students from Helena Middle School and C.R. Anderson Middle School who qualified for the Helena Regional Civics Bee (of the National Civics Bee), hosted by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
- Congratulations to Mrs. Ramirez from Smith Elementary School and her students. All entries that Mrs. Ramirez submitted to Young Writers USA for publication in Monster Mini Tales: Fictional Worlds were accepted!
- Other

❖ **New Business**

- 2026 SYNC Conference
- Applications are now being accepted for the 2026–2027 Student Board Representatives. Packets must be submitted to the district office by Wednesday, April 22 at 4:00 p.m. Interviews will be conducted on May 4
- April 13–17, 2026: Celebrating the Week of the Young Child at Our Elementary Schools
- Facilities Bond Projects –
 - HHS/PAL
 - CHS
 - KESS
 - Bond/Construction/Facility Meetings
 - HHS Project-HHS, PAL, District Kitchen, Stadium
 - ◆ Naming and Sponsorship Investigation
 - CHS Project
 - KESS Project
- Hawthorne Community Center – Update

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

- New Podcast Series – From the Ground Up
 - Warren Elementary – Kinder Sprouts
- CMS Ongoing Work -
 - Activity/Athletic Coaching Compensation Market Analysis
 - Administrative Salary Matrix
- District Academic Focus Work – 2026-2027
 - Academic Performance Indicators and Targets
 - Data Dashboard
- Board of Public Education Meeting
 - Funding Commission
 - MAST
- Dr. Plucker Gifted & Talented Program Review
- Ameresco
 - Contract Finalization
- Budget Staffing and Budget Planning and Preparation for the 2026–2027 School Year
 - Administrative & Director
 - Teacher
 - Support Services
- Spring Levies
 - Elementary General Fund Operations Levy
 - Elementary Operations, Infrastructure, and Licensing Technology Fund Levy
 - High School Operations, Infrastructure, and Licensing Technology Fund Levy
- JROTC Program
- Community Leadership Meeting - Planning and Preparation
- Planning for the 2026 Summer Conference is underway, with AA Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Business Managers in attendance
- May 1 Vigilante Day – No School Grades 9-12/11:00 a.m. Dismissal K-8
- Mentoring Program – Update
- Other

❖ Outreach/Meetings

- 2026 SYNC Conference
- AA Superintendents Weekly Meeting
- Bond/Construction/Facility Meetings
 - Owner’s Rep
 - HHS Project - Architect Team & Construction Team
 - CHS Project - Architect Team & Construction Team
 - KESS Project - Architect Team & Construction Team
 - KESS Community Meeting
- Helena Housing Authority
- City of Helena
- Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Community Outreach – Brews and Blueprints

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

- Board Leadership
- Legal Counsel
- HEA
- HEF
- HEF Executive Committee
- Parent Advisory Committee
- Teacher Advisory Committee
- Helena Food Share Board of Directors
- Helena Food Share Finance Committee
- Cabinet & Leadership
- TV, Print, Radio, and Media
 - KTVH
 - Montana Public Radio
- Other

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item VI.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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Item Title: General Public Comment

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item VII.A.1 - A.3.d.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

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Adjournment

- Item Title:** **A. Items For Information- Facilities Bond Projects Updates**
- 1. Kessler Elementary Update**
 - 2. Capital High School Update**
 - 3. Helena High Campus Update**
 - a. Helena High School**
 - b. Project For Alternative Learning (PAL)**
 - c. District Kitchen**
 - d. Competition Stadium**

Policy Background
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14, 2026

The following policies are being presented for Information:

2085 Graduation Requirements

This policy is updated to reflect graduation requirements in alignment with state standards as well as revised language on waiver of requirements. New language has been added on the ability to achieve credit toward graduation requirements for participation in identified alternative programs.

4000 Public Relations

This policy is up for a periodic review; no substantive changes.

7050 Food Services

This policy is up for periodic review and changes made to reflect the appropriate governing authority(s) and guidelines.

The following policies are being presented for Action:

2010 Instructional Program

This policy is up for a periodic review; no substantive changes.

2070 Network Information and Communication Systems

An update to include language on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) to match the HPS student handbook.

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item VII.B.1.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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Adjournment

**Item Title: Items for Information
 1. Policy 2085: Graduation Requirements**

2
3 STUDENT INSTRUCTION

4
5 Graduation Requirements

- 6
- 7 1. Four (4) units of English **language arts**,
- 8 2. One (1) unit of American History,
- 9 3. One (1) unit of American Government,
- 10 4. One (1) unit of social **studies** science,
- 11 5. Two (2) units of science,
- 12 6. Three (3) units of mathematics,
- 13 7. Two (2) units of health enhancement which must include one and one-half (1.5) units
- 14 of physical education and one-half (.5) of health education,
- 15 8. One (1) unit of ~~fine~~ arts,
- 16 9. One (1) unit of career and technical education (~~Voced~~),
- 17 **10. One-half (1/2) unit of economics or financial literacy, which can be fulfilled**
- 18 **within the required units of social studies, mathematics, or career and technical**
- 19 **education.**
- 20 ~~10~~ **11.** Seven (7) electives

21
22 A total of 23 credits will meet the requirement for graduation.

23
24 **Graduation requirements generally will not be waived under any circumstances.**

25 Students may directly petition the **Superintendent Board** to waive Helena Public Schools'
26 course requirements that exceed the minimum state requirements for graduation, as outlined in
27 Rule 10.55.905 of the Montana School Accreditation Standards.

28
29 The **Superintendent Board** may grant waivers based on individual student needs, hardships,
30 aspirations, and performance levels. **Waiver requests shall also be considered with respect to**
31 **age, maturity, interest and aspirations of the students and shall be in consultation with the**
32 **parent(s)/guardian(s).**

33
34
35 **Alternative Programs**

36
37 **A student may be given credit for a course satisfactory completed in a period of time**
38 **shorter or longer than normally required and, provided that the course meets the District's**
39 **curriculum and assessment requirements, which are aligned with the content standards in**
40 **the education program. Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for**
41 **planned learning experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university**
42 **courses, correspondence courses, extension and distance learning courses, adult education,**
43 **work study, work-based learning partnerships, employment or volunteer work with a**
44 **congregate-care facility/child-care facility/school-age program, and other experiential**
45 **learning opportunities, custom-designed courses, and challenges to current courses. The**
46 **District shall accept units of credit taken with the approval of the District and which**

47 **appear on the student's official school transcript. Credit for work experience may be**
48 **offered when the work program is a part of and supervised by the school. All classes**
49 **attempted at a District high school and all acceptable transfer credits shall be recorded on**
50 **the transcript. All grades earned, including failures and retakes, shall be recorded as such**
51 **and utilized in the calculation of Grade Point Average and class rank. Credit shall be**
52 **awarded only once regardless of repetition of the course.**

53
54
55 *Educational Disruption*
56

57 If a student who has experienced an educational disruption meets the minimum high school
58 credit requirement for graduation as established by administrative rules of the Board of Public
59 Education but will not meet a higher credit requirement established by Board of Trustees, the
60 District shall award the student a diploma. The District may distinguish the diploma in a
61 reasonable manner from standard diplomas issued under this policy.
62

63 For the purposes of this policy, "educational disruption" means a disruption experienced during
64 grades nine through twelve caused by homelessness, involvement in the child welfare system or
65 juvenile justice system, a medical or mental health crisis, or another event considered a
66 qualifying educational disruption by the District.
67

68	Legal References:	10.55.906, ARM	High School Credit
69		10.55.905, ARM	Graduation Requirements
70		<u>10.55.904, ARM</u>	<u>Basic Education Program Offerings: High</u>
71			<u>School</u>
72		§ 10-1-1402, MCA	Montana Youth Challenge
73		§ 20-1-101, MCA	Definitions <i>(Revised by House Bill 246)</i>
74		§ 20-3-324, MCA	Powers and duties <i>(Revised by House Bill 246)</i>
75		§ 20-4-101, MCA	System and definitions of teacher and specialist certification --student teacher exception <i>(Revised by</i>
76			<i>House Bill 246)</i>
77			
78		<u>§ 20-5-201, MCA</u>	<u>Duties and sanctions</u>
79		<u>§ 20-7-1601, MCA</u>	<u>Forms of personalized learning –legislative</u>
80			<u>intent</u>
81		§ 20-7-118, MCA	Offsite provision of educational services by school district <i>(Revised by House Bill 246)</i>
82			
83		House Bill 246	Revise education laws to enhance local control and opportunities for pupils
84			
85		<u>House Bill 381</u>	
86			

87
88 Cross References:

89
90 Policy History:

91 Adopted On:

92 Revised On: 2.12.1991, 3.9.1993, 3.10.1998, 12.8.1998, 9.10.2002, 2.9.2016, 2.8.2022
93 Reviewed On:

1 **Helena Public Schools**

2
3 **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

4000

4
5 Public Relations

6
7 The District will maintain an interchange of information with the public to enable the Board **of Trustees**
8 **(Board)** and staff to assess the needs of the schools and the community. The District will provide a means
9 for members of the public to obtain information about District activities and to provide the public with a
10 reasonable opportunity to participate in the decisions of the Board.

11
12 The Superintendent will establish and maintain a communication program within the ~~school~~ **District** and
13 with the public. This program will include, but not be limited to, providing for news releases at
14 appropriate times, inviting/requesting media coverage of District programs and events, maintaining
15 regular direct communications between schools and the citizens they serve, assisting staff and the Board
16 in improving their skills and understanding in communicating with the public.

17
18 The Board will enhance the value of public awareness of, and participation in, education issues by
19 participating in training and informational meetings in regards to the public’s right to know and right of
20 participation. The District may solicit community opinion through parent organizations, parent-teacher
21 conferences, open houses, and other events or activities which may bring staff and citizens together.

22
23 To assist in the public’s involvement, the District will solicit community opinion to ensure that **their**
24 ideas, interests and concerns are considered in the decision-making processes. Community opinions may
25 come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to: (a) parent organizations, parent-teacher
26 conferences, open houses; (b) advocacy, non-profit, parent or community-based organizations; (c)
27 business, civic and non-governmental organizations; (d) other educational organizations, (e) any
28 established school related communication committees, and (f) other events or activities which may bring
29 the members of the Board or staff and the public together.

30
31
32 Legal Reference: Art. II, Sec. 8, Montana Constitution - Right of participation
33 Art. II, Sec. 9, Montana Constitution - Right to know

34
35 Policy History:
36 Adopted on: 6.10.2014
37 Revised on:

2
3 OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4
5 Food Services

6
7 ~~The District will provide school meals which meet or exceed nutritional standards required~~
8 ~~by state and federal school lunch programs. The Superintendent will establish rules for the~~
9 ~~sale of foods during the school day. The District will not permit the sale of food of minimal~~
10 ~~nutritional value during breakfast and lunch periods. The principal may authorize any~~
11 ~~food sales of an occasional nature.~~

12
13 **The District supports the philosophy of the National School Lunch Program and will**
14 **provide wholesome, appetizing, and nutritious meals for children in District schools.**

15
16 The Board may authorize a portion of federal funds received in lieu of taxes to be used to
17 provide free meals for pupils receiving federal assistance. Because of the potential liability of
18 the District, the food services program will not accept donations of food without approval of the
19 Board. Should the Board approve a food donation; the Superintendent **or designee** will establish
20 inspection and handling procedures for the food and determine that provisions of all state and
21 local laws have been met before selling the food as part of school meals.

22
23 **Commodities**

24
25 **The District will use food commodities made available under the Federal Food Commodity**
26 **Program for school meals.**

27
28 *Free and Reduced Meal Prices*

29
30 The District will provide free and reduced-price meals to students, according to the terms of the
31 National School Lunch Program and the laws, rules, and regulations of the state. The District
32 will inform parents of the eligibility standards for free or reduced-price meals. Identity of
33 students receiving free or reduced-price meals will be confidential, **in accordance with National**
34 **School Lunch Program guidelines.** ~~The Superintendent shall be responsible for~~
35 ~~determining eligibility. Students in the foster care system and other students as provided~~
36 ~~by the Child Nutrition Act shall be categorically eligible for free meals.~~ A parent has the
37 right to appeal to a designated hearing official any decision with respect to ~~his or her~~ **their**
38 application for free or reduced-price food services.

39
40 **The Board may establish programs whereby meals may be provided in the District in**
41 **accordance with National School Lunch Program guidelines.**

42
43 **The amount charged for such meals shall be sufficient to cover all costs of the meals,**
44 **including preparation labor and food, handling, utility, and equipment depreciation costs.**

47	Legal References:	Public Law 108-265	Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization
48			Act of 2004
49		§ 20-10-204, MCA	Duties of Trustees
50		§ 20-10-205, MCA	Allocation of Federal Funds to School Food
51			Services Fund for Federally Connected, Indigent
52			Pupils
53		§ 20-10-207, MCA	School food services fund
54			
55	Cross Reference:		
56			
57			
58	Policy History:		
59	Adopted on:		1.14.2014
60	Revised on:		
61			
62			

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Item VII.C.1. - C.7.

- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- Review of Agenda
- Presentation
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- Superintendent's Report
- General Public Comment
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- Adjournment

Item Title: Consent Action Items

- 1. Personnel Actions**
- 2. Warrants**
- 3. Approval of FY 2025-26 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)**
- 4. Acknowledge FY 2025-26 Out-Of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)**
- 5. 3/10/26 Board of Trustees Full Board Meeting Minutes**
- 6. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property - Outdated and Obsolete Technology Equipment**
- 7. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Outdated and Obsolete Facilities Vehicles**

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Satre					
Murnane Butcher					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					
Meyer					

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

March 25, 2026 – April 14, 2026

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Appointments

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered Salary</u>	<u>Accepted Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
TBD/School Psychologist	Brashi, Lela	\$61,632.35/year	\$61,632.35/year	08/24/2026
CHS/Principal	Boyle, Cal	\$131,402.50/year	\$131,402.50/year	07/01/2026
4-G's/Special Education-Resource	Evertz, Jenna	\$53,776.76/year	\$53,776.76/year	08/24/2026
SSC/Speech-Language Pathologist	Harrington, Megan	\$70,833.49/year	\$70,833.49/year	08/24/2026
Jim Darcy/Special Education-Resource	Kiy, Jennalei	\$59,018.01/year	\$59,018.01/year	08/24/2026
SSC/Speech Language-Pathologist	Pribyl, Lesa	\$70,833.49/year	\$70,833.49/year	08/24/2026
CHS/English	Titus, Kacey	\$62,752.94/year	\$62,752.94/year	08/24/2026
SSC/Occupational Therapist	Zielinski, Karen	\$70,833.49/year	\$70,833.49/year	08/24/2026

Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
CHS/Photography	Anderson, Genevieve	Retirement	06/10/2027
Warren/Title I Instructional	Anderson, Jena	Retirement	06/09/2027
HHS/Spanish	Baranek, Leah	Resignation	06/10/2026
CHS/English	Baranek, Susan	Resignation	06/10/2026
Rossiter/Speech-Language Pathologist	Belliveau, Juliann	Retirement	06/09/2026
HHS/Librarian	Belliveau, Timothy	Retirement	06/10/2026
PAL/Mathematics	Bryden, Sage	Non-Renewal	06/10/2026
Jim Darcy/Grade 1	Bubb, Lynn	Retirement	06/09/2026
CHS/Health & Physical Education	Burk, Michael	Retirement	06/10/2026
SSC/Student Health Svcs. & Spec. Ed.	Carter, Lona	Retirement	06/30/2026
CRA/Health & Physical Education	Christensen, Reid	Retirement	06/09/2026
CHS/English	Claeys, Marley	Contract-Fulfilled	06/10/2026
CRA/English	Cohn, Kimberly	Retirement	06/09/2027
HHS/Librarian	Didriksen, Joanne	Retirement	06/10/2026

HMS/Mathematics	Ehli, Shelly	Retirement	06/09/2026
CHS/Special Education-Resource	Foreman, Heidi	Retirement	06/10/2026
CRA/Social Studies	Graham, Susan	Retirement	06/09/2027
CHS/Health & Physical Education	Hageman, Reginald	Retirement	06/10/2026
Jefferson/Grade 4	Haller, Sherri	Contract-Fulfilled	05/22/2026
CHS/English	Hanson, Ryan	Retirement	06/10/2026
SSC/Adapted Physical Education	Holland, Leslie	Contract-Fulfilled	06/09/2026
Smith/Grade Three	Jacobs, Amy	Retirement	06/09/2026
Four Georgians/Grade Two	Johnston, Sheri	Retirement	06/09/2026
CHS/Social Studies	Kivisto, Jayden	Contract-Fulfilled	06/10/2026
Central/Special Education-Resource	Loveridge, Brooke	Contract-Fulfilled	06/09/2026
CHS/Spanish	Lyng, Matthew	Retirement	06/10/2026
SSC/Speech Language-Pathologist	Maharg, Marla	Retirement	06/10/2026
HHS/Special Education-Resource	Maharg, Sean	Retirement	06/10/2026
CRA/Special Education-Resource	McLean, Patricia	Non-Renewal	06/09/2026
CRA/Mathematics	McMahon, Richard	Retirement	06/09/2026
HMS/English	McNeil, Heather	Retirement	06/09/2027
Kessler/KinderSprouts	Merritt, Valerie	Non-Renewal	06/09/2026
CHS/Physical Education	Munsinger, Kylie	Contract-Fulfilled	06/10/2026
Central/Grade 2	Novak, Jolene	Retirement	06/09/2027
CHS/History	Partridge, Jay	Retirement	06/10/2027
CHS/Chemistry-Physics	Phillips, Paul	Retirement	06/10/2027
CHS/English	Plona, Amanda	Contract-Fulfilled	06/10/2026
CHS/Mathematics	Reinning, Kaitlin	Resignation	06/10/2026
HHS/Science	Sampson, Missy	Retirement	06/10/2027
CRA/History	Sheridan, James	Retirement	06/09/2027
HHS/Health Enhancement	Straub, Carl	Retirement	06/10/2027
HMS/School Nurse	Vitousek, Howard	Non-Renewal	06/09/2026
CRA/Mathematics	Wischmeier, Jessica	Non-Renewal	06/09/2026
CHS/High School Principal	Zanto, Brett	Retirement	06/30/2026

Leaves

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>
CRA/Special Education-Resource	Hale, Lindy	2026-2027 SY	LOAWOP
CHS/Music	Harris, Zachary	2026-2027 SY	LOAWOP
Central/Music	Nyhof, Abigail	2026-2027 SY	LOAWOP
SSC/Adaptive PE	Solomon, Lisa	2026-2027 SY	LOAWOP

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Appointments

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered Salary</u>	<u>Accepted Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
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Terminations/Retirements

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Facilities/Centralized Maintenance	Hayes, Patrick	Resignation	05/01/2026
Kessler/SACC Site Manager	Kroenke, Angelika	Retirement	06/09/2026
Rossiter/SACC Site Manager	Linn, Tina	Retirement	08/14/2026
Broadwater/Para Educator	Ludwig, Martin	Resignation	06/09/2026
Jim Darcy/Para Educator	Wright, Jeri	Resignation	04/15/2026

Leaves

<u>Location/Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>
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SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
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Helena School District #1

Warrants March 1 to 31, 2026

Direct Deposits: \$3,528,086.57

Payroll Warrants: 70132507-70132536

Payroll Deduction: 69308241-69308265

Non-Check Payroll Deductions: 5,565,000.06

Non-Check Accts Payable Deductions: \$ 506,967.89 **Allegiance Payment Not Included

Non-Check Accts Payable Deductions- HHS Extracurricular: \$0

Claim Warrants: 69307991-69308375

HMS Middle School Student Activity Checks: 8827-8828

CRA Middle School Student Activity Checks: 17507-17512

Capital High Student Activity Checks: 25276-25310

Helena High Student Activity Checks: 37286-37334

Cancelled Warrants: \$7,307.28

We certify that all warrants herein listed were prepared and previously paid for, are just and correct to the best of our knowledge, and that the board of trustees has authorized the issuance of the same.

Chairperson _____

Business Manager _____

Running Total of FY 2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements
 (Out-of-District Students Attending Helena School District)

Grade	Residence																				Total									
	East Helena	Helena	Clancy	Montana City	Jefferson City	Basin	Wolf Creek	Boulder	Elliston	Trinity	Wolf Point	Dillon	Billings	Chester-Joplin	Inverness	Milesoula	Great Falls	Butte	Townsend	Superior		Winston	Ronan	Whitehall	Canyon Creek	Glenlivet	Lame Deer	Stevensville	Belgrade	
Ksprouts	6	1	1							8																				16
K	8	1	1							9																				19
1	6					1				17																				24
2	9		1							11																				21
3	6		1							12																				20
4	3			1						14																				20
5	7		1							11	1		1			1	2								1					25
6	5	1		3						14		1						1						1		1				28
7	3	2	1	1						4	1						1		1	1				1		1				16
8	4	1	3	1		1				7										2									1	20
9	8		23	2	4									1						1										39
10	3		23	1	1					1		1					1													31
11	10	1	18	1						2										2										34
12	13		24	1	5					1																				44
	91	5	97	13	10	1	1	4	3	107	2	2	1	1	1	4	1	6	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	357	

Last Updated: 4/8/2026 11:58

FY 2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements
(Out-of-District Students Attending Helena School District)

April 14, 2026

Discretionary Attendance Approvals:

Grade	District of Residence	Address	School of Attendance
7	Great Falls School District	Great Falls, MT 59404	HMS

Running Total of Acknowledged 2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements
(Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

Grade	District of Attendance													Total	
	East Helena K-12	Montana City Elementary	Clancy Elementary	Jefferson High School	Townsend K-12	Cascade High School	Trinity Elementary	Huntley Project K-12	Fairfield High School	Augusta High School	Anaconda High School	Great Falls High School	Missoula High School		
Pre-K	7	18	3												28
K	10	22	3			2									37
1	11	10	7												28
2	7	6	4			1									18
3	11	3	5												19
4	14	14	8												36
5	9	4	5			2									20
6	16	5	7												28
7	13	15	6												34
8	9	1	3												13
9	21			3	1	2				1	1				29
10	15			4						1			1		21
11	27			5		2		1	1	1					37
12	21			4		2									27
	191	98	51	16	1	6	5	0	1	1	3	1	1		375

Last Updated: 4/8/2026 11:57

FY 2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements
(Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)

April 14, 2026

Discretionary Attendance Acknowledgements:

Grade	Address	District of Attendance
11	Helena, MT 59601	Jeffereson High School



Superintendent

Rex Wertz
324-2001

Business Director

Sam Holman
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

Lincoln Center
1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601
and via TEAMS

Tuesday, March 10, 2026
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted:

Jennifer McKee, Chair
Jennifer Walsh, Vice Chair
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Jenny Murnane Butcher,
Trustee
Delaney Lynch, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Rex Wertz, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Sam Holman, Business Director
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Gary Myers, Director of Educational
Technology
Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent
Lona Carter, Student Health Services and Special Education Director
Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Representatives from SMA/A&E and Dick Anderson Construction
Representatives from Slate/RTA Architecture and Langlas
Representatives from Mosaic Architecture/Cushing Terrell and Golden Eagle/Swank Enterprises
Shane Swandal, Owner's Construction Representative
Alec Pinero, Owner's Construction Representative
Many guests of the public, as well as Helena School District staff and students

I. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Jennifer McKee called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., and the Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW AGENDA

The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda, and there were no proposed changes.

The Board of Trustees then moved on to hear recognitions.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. Special Olympics Coach of the Year Award & Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament Awards

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to C.R. Anderson Middle School Paraeducator Chris Findley, who has been honored as the Special Olympics Coach of the Year. This distinguished recognition reflects her outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to empowering student-athletes through inclusive athletics and meaningful opportunities for success.

The Board is also honored to recognize the following students who earned gold medals at the Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament: Gavynn Hilke, Parker Selch, Brynlee Caprara, Chance Raynor, Harlei Knuth, Brecken Caprara, Cael Thuotte, David Peterson, and Zoe Guinyard.

Congratulations as well to the following medal recipients: Logan Grant – Silver Medal; Ivanna Maw – Bronze Medal; and Brielle Thuotte – Silver Medal.

The Board extends its appreciation to our dedicated coaches — Chris Findley, Shiloh Corcoran, and Rebecca Cleveland — for their continued leadership and unwavering support of our student-athletes.

B. Capital High School 2026 DECA State Career Development Conference Recognition

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Capital High School for its outstanding achievements at the 2026 DECA State Career Development Conference.

Byron Lloyd was named Montana DECA Member of the Year. The Member of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional chapter member for distinguished leadership, dedication, performance, and commitment to Montana DECA. Recipients are selected by the State Director and the Montana DECA Executive Council and are honored at the State Career Development Conference.

Capital High School once again earned Gold Certification for its School-Based Enterprise, Bear Necessities, demonstrating excellence in business operations and student leadership.

Capital High School also received DECA Thrive Level Recognition, a prestigious national distinction awarded to chapters that demonstrate exceptional achievement in membership and chapter campaigns. Thrive Level chapters exemplify strong community service, school outreach, and innovation, meeting rigorous national campaign requirements.

The Board further extends its appreciation to Advisor Jessica Freeman for her leadership, dedication, and continued support of Capital High School DECA students.

C. **Helena High School 2026 DECA State Career Development Conference Recognition**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Helena High School for its outstanding accomplishments at the 2026 DECA State Career Development Conference.

Cate Hardan was named State Champion in Hotel & Lodging Management, demonstrating exceptional skill and professionalism in competitive events.

Meadow Brown-Wilson was named State Champion in Marketing Communications, reflecting excellence in strategic thinking, presentation, and marketing expertise.

Helena High School once again earned Gold Certification for its School-Based Enterprise, The Catty Shack, recognizing excellence in business operations and student leadership.

The Board further extends its appreciation to Advisor Kacey Askin for his leadership, mentorship, and continued dedication to supporting Helena High DECA students.

D. **NFHS Heart of the Art Award**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Capital High School educator Laura Brayko on her receipt of the NFHS Heart of the Art Award. This distinguished honor recognizes individuals who exemplify the positive heart of the arts and who embody the core mission of education-based activities. Ms. Brayko is celebrated for her exceptional dedication to arts education, her ability to inspire creativity and confidence in students, and her commitment to fostering inclusive, engaging learning environments. Through her passion, leadership, and advocacy for the arts, she has made a meaningful and lasting impact on student growth, school culture, and the broader community. Her work reflects the transformative power of arts education and exemplifies excellence in teaching and professional service.

E. **2026 Montana Thespian Festival Recognition - Capital High School**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to the following Capital High School students for their outstanding achievements at the 2026 Montana Thespian Festival:

Eden Guthrie – Recipient of the Outstanding Character Physicality Award.

Araya Harrison – Elected to one of five State Thespian Officer positions; received a Superior Rating for her monologue and qualified to compete at the International Thespian Festival.

Brycen Lougee – Received a Superior Rating for his monologue and qualified to compete at the International Thespian Festival.

The Board also recognizes and thanks Laura Brayko for her unwavering dedication and leadership, which continues to play an instrumental role in the success of these students and the Capital High School theater program.

F. **2026 Montana Thespian Festival Recognition - Helena High School**

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to the following Helena High School students for their outstanding achievements at the 2026 Montana Thespian Festival:

Abigail Zelenak – Recipient of the Outstanding Make-Up Award.

Natalie Zimmerman – Recipient of the Outstanding Set Design Award.

The Board further congratulates the entire cast for earning the Outstanding Ensemble Award and achieving an overall Superior rating for their performance.

The Board also extends its appreciation to Roger Scruggs for his steadfast leadership, dedication, and support, which have been instrumental in the continued success of these students and the Helena High School theater program.

G. **All-State Swimming Recognition - Capital High School**

The Board of Trustees proudly extends its sincere congratulations to Elizabeth Urban for her exceptional accomplishments as State Champion in the 100-Yard Butterfly and State Champion in the 100-Yard Breaststroke. Her dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have earned her these distinguished titles and reflect the highest standards of athletic achievement. The Board also expresses its sincere appreciation to Coach Karen Zielinski for her steadfast leadership, encouragement, and mentorship, which continue to positively impact Elizabeth and all of the student-athletes she guides.

H. **State Wrestling Recognition - Capital High School**

The Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize and congratulate Taylor Lay on capturing the title of State Champion. This remarkable accomplishment reflects her determination, discipline, and competitive excellence throughout her wrestling career. The Board also extends its appreciation to Coach Cliff McKay for his dedication, leadership, and commitment to supporting student-athletes in achieving success both on and off the mat.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Wertz presented his Superintendent's Report to the Board of Trustees and discussed topics with the Trustees including, but not limited to:

Recognitions

- Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day – March 6
- Thank you to Callie Aschim & the Chamber of Commerce for hosting Community Outreach: Brews & Blueprints. The next event will be March 25 at 5:30 p.m. at Brothers Tapworks.
- Congratulations to the following 105.3 KMTX Teachers of the Month Recipients:
 - Elyse Ramirez, Smith Elementary School – November
 - Meghan Dolphay, Kessler Elementary School – January
- Thank you to Becca Leaphart, Brenda Carney, and the Helena Education Foundation for hosting their biennial Trading Places event. This meaningful initiative continues to strengthen connections and foster collaboration in support of our schools and community.
- Thank you to Principal Shinkle and educators Shay Coil, Mikayla Nickol, and Sheri Johnston for the invitation to read to Mrs. Johnston's second-grade class in celebration of Read Across America. It was a true pleasure to spend time with our students and share in such a meaningful literacy event.
- Thank you to educators Lucas Canney and Tom Kain, along with the many outstanding local businesses and sponsors, for hosting the 2026 Winter Trades Day. This event provides our students with valuable hands-on experiences and meaningful exposure to career pathways within our community.
- Thank you to the Holter Museum of Art and artists Leah, Cassie, and Katie for hosting the six-week Artists in Schools Residency Program at Kessler Elementary and Broadwater Elementary. Special thanks to the Montana Arts Council and the Robert Lehman Foundation for their generous grant funding, which made this enriching opportunity possible for our students.
- Thank you to Jeremy Slead and Christina Sieminski for inviting me to participate in PEAK Middle and High School's Great Conversations event. It was a pleasure to engage with students on leadership, collaboration, and personal growth.
- I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to The Boeing Company for its generous \$100,000 grant to the Helena Education Foundation. This significant investment will expand hands-on robotics learning opportunities at our high schools and strengthen K–12 professional development across the district, further enriching educational experiences for our students and staff.
- Other

New Business

- Facilities Bond Projects –
 - HHS/PAL Precedent Tour-Spokane, Washington - December
 - KESS Precedent Tour-Spokane, Washington - January
 - CHS Precedent Tour- Spokane, Washington - March
 - Bond/Construction/Facility Meetings
 - HHS Project-HHS, PAL, District Kitchen, Stadium
 - Naming and Sponsorship Investigation
The new stadium, adjacent to Helena High School, will feature a turf field with a projected \$2 million replacement cost in 10 years. There was a discussion about naming rights and sponsorship opportunities as a way to

offset future maintenance costs without burdening the district’s funds or taxpayers. The conversation emphasized maintaining community connection and pride through the stadium name while ensuring a transparent and competitive process guided by legal counsel. Some Trustees also highlighted the significance of the name beyond funding, noting its role in reinforcing community identity. Superintendent Wertz confirmed that this is an initial discussion and that many more conversations and proposals will follow to balance financial practicality with community engagement.

- CHS Project
 - Offsite Tours
- KESS Project – Pass
- Grow Our Own
 - Legal Counsel Presentation
 - Book Study – UDL Playbook for School and District Leaders – Katie Novak & Mike Woodlock
- Mentoring Program
- New Podcast Series – From the Ground Up
- CMS Ongoing Work -
 - Compensation Philosophy
 - Pay Plan Rules
 - Independent and Administrative Salary Matrix
 - Activity/Athletic Coaching Compensation Market Analysis
- District Academic Focus Work – 2026-2027
 - Academic Performance Indicators and Targets
 - Data Dashboard
 - Behaviors and Academic Growth Correlation
 - Book Study – Behavior Code – Jessica Minahan & Nancy Rappaport
- Bridged Health Alliance
 - Update – Signed Agreements
- Copy/Print Center Equipment Lease Contracts and Efficiency Upgrades
 - Mr. Myers
- Dr. Plucker Gifted & Talented Program Review
- Ameresco Energy Audits Across the District (Elementary)
- Planning and Preparation for the 2026 – 2027 School Year Budget
 - Administrative Preparation and Work Sessions
- No School March 30 – April 3: Spring Break
- Cell Phone Usage
- Other

Outreach/Meetings

- AA Superintendents Weekly Meeting
- Bond/Construction/Facility Meetings
 - Owner’s Rep
 - HHS Project - Architect Team & Construction Team
 - HHS/PAL Community Meeting
 - CHS Project - Architect Team & Construction Team
 - KESS Project - Architect Team & Construction Team

- AASA National Conference on Education
- Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Community Outreach – Brews and Blueprints
- Board Leadership
- Legal Counsel
- HEA
- HEF
- HEF Executive Committee
- Parent Advisory Committee
- HEF/Boeing Press Event
- Health Benefits Committee
- Helena Food Share Board of Directors
- Helena Food Share Finance Committee
- Carroll College Collaboration
- Cabinet & Leadership
- TV, Print, Radio, and Media
- Other

That concluded the Superintendent’s Report portion of the agenda. Superintendent Wertz responded to questions from the Board of Trustees, after which the trustees proceeded to hear general public comment.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

The Board of Trustees proceeded to hear the Facilities Bond Projects Updates.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Information - Facilities Bond Projects Updates

1. Capital High School Update

Representatives from Slate and RTA Architecture provided an update on the Capital High School design process. The team reported that work on the schematic design is progressing and is anticipated to be completed by March 27. They reviewed preliminary construction phasing plans and noted that early work may include concrete installation and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) components to help prepare the site for the larger phases of construction scheduled for the summer months.

The design team also shared that administrators and teachers recently participated in tours of six schools to help inform design priorities for Capital High School. Feedback from those visits highlighted the importance of natural light, well-designed commons-areas, and functional learning spaces. In addition, the team reported that work continues with district staff to refine program space needs, including classroom sizes and quantities. Representatives also discussed plans to

begin the pre-selection process for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing trades to ensure long-lead materials and equipment can be secured early and help maintain the project timeline.

Representatives from Slate and RTA Architecture addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

2. **Helena High Campus Update**
 - a. **Helena High School**
 - b. **Project for Alternative Learning (PAL)**
 - c. **District Kitchen**
 - d. **Competition Stadium**

Mr. Tim Meldrum of SMA and A&E provided an update on the Helena High School campus project. Mr. Meldrum reported that the project has progressed through the schematic design phase and that a recent cost analysis confirmed the project is currently on budget. He noted that the design team is now in the design-development phase, focusing on refining individual spaces and confirming building systems, including electrical, mechanical, cabinetry, finishes, and technology needs.

Mr. Meldrum shared that extensive engagement has taken place with Helena High School staff and district programs, including approximately 40–45 meetings with departments such as PAL, special education, culinary, marketing, and general education to ensure program needs are accurately reflected in the design. The design team also met with the district’s security consultant to review safety features and incorporate updated security approaches into the plans.

He reported that the design development phase is expected to conclude around April 16, after which the project will move into construction documentation. Preparations are underway for early construction activities, with site work anticipated to begin in June, starting at the south end of the campus and progressing north. Additional cost estimates will be completed as the design is further refined to ensure the project remains aligned with the approved budget.

Mr. Meldrum addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

The Board of Trustees took a brief recess and, upon returning, proceeded to review the Items for Information.

B. Items for Information

1. Policy 2010: Instructional Program

Ms. Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director, presented the information item, *Policy 2010: Instructional Program*. This policy was up for periodic review, with no substantive changes made during the Policy Committee Meeting when it was reviewed. 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. Ms. Mizell addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

2. **Policy 2070: Network Information and Communication Systems**

Ms. Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director, presented the information item, *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. No changes were requested when the Policy was reviewed at the Policy Committee Meeting. Ms. Mizell addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Consent Action Items.

C. **Consent Action Items**

1. Personnel Actions
2. Warrants
3. Approval of FY 2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements (Non-Resident Students Attending HPS)
4. Acknowledge FY 2025-26 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements (Helena Resident Students Attending Other School Districts)
5. 2/6/26 Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting Minutes
6. 2/10/26 Board of Trustees Full Board Meeting Minutes

Board Chair Jennifer McKee commented, "At this point, I would entertain a motion to approve the *Consent Action Items* as presented."

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve the *Consent Action Items* as presented.

Trustee Linda Cleatus seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

That concluded the approval of the Consent Action Items. The Board of Trustees moved on to review the Items for Action.

D. Items for Action

1. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Outdated and Obsolete Curricular Resources from CHS

Assistant Superintendent Justine Alberts presented the action item *Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Outdated and Obsolete Curricular Resources from Capital High School (CHS)*. The District currently owns various items of personal property consisting of obsolete curricular materials, including but not limited to teacher manuals, student textbooks, and student workbooks. These materials are no longer in use at Capital High School and are currently stored in the book room due to updated curriculum, outdated resources, and in preparation for upcoming updates associated with the building bond project. The Board of Trustees of Helena School District No. 1 expressed its intent to dispose of and/or donate these materials, as they are considered abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or otherwise unsuitable for school purposes. Individuals interested in obtaining additional information or scheduling a time to view the materials may contact Assistant Superintendent Dr. Justine Alberts at 406-324-2032.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve the *Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Outdated and Obsolete Curricular Resources From CHS*.

Motion: Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn moved to approve the *Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Outdated and Obsolete Curricular Resources From CHS*. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

2. Policy 2020: Student and Family Privacy Rights

Ms. Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director, presented the action item, *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. The District's legal counsel clarified that the two policies are not in conflict. Ms. Mizell addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve *Policy 2020: Student and Family Privacy Rights*.

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to approve *Policy 2020: Student and Family Privacy Rights*. Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

3. Policy 3010: Entrance, Placement and Transfer

Ms. Mizell presented the action item, *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. Ms. Mizell addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve *Policy 3010: Entrance, Placement and Transfer*.

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve *Policy 3010: Entrance, Placement and Transfer*. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

4. Policy 3097: Use of Video Monitoring Cameras

Ms. Mizell presented the action item, *Policy 3097: Use of Video Monitoring Cameras*, to the Board of Trustees. 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 28 through 29 to enhance clarity.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve *Policy 3097: Use of Video Monitoring Cameras*.

Motion: Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher moved to approve *Policy 3097: Use of Video Monitoring Cameras*. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

5. Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Enrollment

Ms. Mizell presented the action item, *Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Enrollment*. House Bill 250 changes the out-of-district attendance laws that went into effect on 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. Ms. Mizell addressed questions

from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve *Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Enrollment*.

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve *Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Enrollment*. Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

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

Ms. Mizell presented the action item, *Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations*, to the Board of Trustees. 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. Ms. Mizell addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve *Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations*.

Motion: Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher moved to approve *Policy 3410: Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations*. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

7. Policy 7057: Use of Automated External Defibrillation

Ms. Mizell presented the information item, *Policy 7057: Use of Automated External Defibrillation*. This policy has been updated to reflect the components of the district's AED program and changes related to maintaining AEDs in accordance with Senate Bill 86. Specifically, SB 86 changes the requirement for maintaining a written plan for AEDs to requiring only a written notice of the location of the AED be provided to the 911 service covering the area. Ms. Mizell addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve *Policy 7057: Use of Automated External Defibrillation*.

Motion: Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn moved to approve *Policy 7057: Use of Automated External Defibrillation*. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

8. Policy 8100: Transportation

Ms. Mizell presented the information item, *Policy 8100: Transportation*. This policy has been updated to reflect legal references and to ensure compliance with House Bill 250 regarding transportation requirements for students with disabilities. Ms. Mizell addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve *Policy 8100: Transportation*.

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve *Policy 8100: Transportation*. Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

9. Approval of Bid for HMS Roof Project

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, presented a recommendation to award the 2026 Helena Middle School Partial Roof Replacement Project to K&K Roofing. The project includes the replacement of approximately 11,980 square feet of roof across six sections. Five qualified contractors submitted bids on March 5, 2026, with K&K Roofing providing the lowest bid at \$229,280, which was \$37,150 below the next lowest bid. Mr. Verrill noted that K&K Roofing previously completed roofing work at Smith Elementary in 2024 with high satisfaction regarding professionalism and workmanship. The project is scheduled for completion during the summer of 2026, prior to the start of the 2026–27 school year. Mr. Verrill addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to award the 2026 Helena Middle School Partial Roof Replacement Project to K&K Roofing.

Motion: Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn moved to award the 2026 Helena Middle School Partial Roof Replacement Project to K&K Roofing. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

10. Approval of Bid for Jefferson Roof Project

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, presented a recommendation to award the 2026 Jefferson Elementary Partial Roof Replacement Project to K&K Roofing. The project includes the replacement of approximately 4,658 square feet of roof across two sections. Four qualified contractors submitted bids on March 5, 2026, with K&K Roofing providing the lowest bid at \$89,018, which was \$1,532 below the next lowest bid. Mr. Verrill noted that K&K Roofing previously completed roofing work at Smith Elementary in 2024 with high satisfaction regarding professionalism and workmanship. The project is scheduled for completion during the summer of 2026, prior to the start of the 2026–27 school year.

Mr. Verrill addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to award the 2026 Jefferson Elementary Partial Roof Replacement Project to K&K Roofing.

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to award the 2026 Jefferson Elementary Partial Roof Replacement Project to K&K Roofing. Trustee Siobhan Hathorn seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

The Board of Trustees moved on to hear the Reports.

E. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Report

Mr. Brock Gardipee, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, was not in attendance; therefore, Ms. Delaney delivered the report on his behalf.

We continue to strengthen our connection with our sister school in Kumamoto. We received our first letter from Principal Watanabe. His letter highlighted our continued attempt to grow connections between our students. Principal Watanabe will be here for our graduation ceremony and plans to bring a group of students to their 60th celebration ceremony this December.

We are excited to continue our partnership with the Helena Indian Alliance, from which we will soon be receiving herbs, vegetables, and native plants to harvest this fall.

Our HASET options program has 5 people taking it, and they are working very hard to prepare for tests to earn their diplomas.

Recognitions:

1. Congrats to Connor Lamping for taking 3rd and Rylee Murgel for taking 4th at the State wrestling tournament.
2. Good luck to both our basketball teams as they move on to the state tournament.
3. Congrats to our Thespians who received top marks for their production.
4. Thank you, Mr. Hollow, for your work at the AA Band Festival. I heard great things about the performance.
5. Thank you to DECA for putting on a great Night to Shine, with around 890 people in attendance and raising a good amount of money to put toward nationals.
6. Thank you, Mr. Driggers, for your hard work on the bridge competition. Our students get very excited about this opportunity and enjoy it a lot.

Upcoming:

1. Our Spring Play will be this weekend at 6:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday. They would love to see you there.
2. On 3/16 we will celebrate the valedictorians and salutatorians with an evening reception at 6:00.
3. ACTs for juniors will be April 8th while freshmen and sophomores take the PreACT.

- Additionally, that day Spanish 5 students, including myself will take the Seal of Biliteracy test.
4. Finally, the Vigilante Kickoff Assembly will be April 9th at 10:00 and Elementary students on our side of town will be able to come and show their floats they made.

Ms. Delaney Lynch, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, presented her report to the Board of Trustees.

Good evening, Trustees,

As we make our way toward spring break, CHS is busy the next couple of weeks!

Registration:

Current 9th – 11th graders have completed registration for the upcoming school year.

8th grade registration week starts on March 17th, including the annual 8th grade tour and 8th grade parent night- both hosted at Capital High School

8th Grade Tours:

Upperclassmen will be giving tours to incoming freshmen on March 17th. This is a joint effort between Student Council and NHS. Upperclassmen will be responsible for showing the incoming freshman around CHS and explaining basic things about how the school operates.

Bruin Talks:

Upperclassmen will be visiting current freshmen classes during homeroom to share some advice and answer any questions. This visit is meant to not only encourage collaboration and communication throughout the grade levels but also to keep freshmen motivated and informed about what their future could look like.

Spokane School Design Trip:

SLT and DAG group members were invited to visit some renovated high schools in the Spokane area. Participating teachers from a variety of curricular areas joined architects as well as Principal Zanto, Mrs. Kidder, Josh McKay, and Gary Myers in visiting these schools. They left last Monday, 3/2, at 6:00 a.m. in three vans and returned Tuesday night, 3/3. Participants met last Friday to discuss various highlights.

Professional Development last PLC Monday, “Equity and Opportunities to Respond:”

Recently, members of the CHS SLT met with Liz Tuss to continue reviewing literacy and engagement strategies at CHS. Last Monday during PLC time, SLT members presented highlights of a PowerPoint that Liz created regarding “opportunities to respond” occurring across classrooms at CHS. Each SLT member presented this information and led a discussion within each of their respective curricular departments.

Night to Shine:

Shout out to Jessica Freeman and CHS DECA for hosting this great community event. There were 22 acts, and they were outstanding! The Night to Shine provides the community with the opportunity to witness so many talented students found in our high schools.

Winter Trades Day- February 24:

A shout out to Mr. Canney for creating this hands-on opportunity for students from CHS, HHS, and East Helena High School. The event was held at the Fairgrounds. We had around 100 students sign up to work with professionals from many different trade areas.

As always, we are looking forward to a great couple of last weeks of 3rd quarter. Go Bru!”

Ms. Lynch addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

2. Helena Education Association Report

Jane Shawn, Helena Education Association (HEA) President, presented the Helena Education Association report. Ms. Shawn reported that elections were held at the recent Representative Council and general membership meetings. Ms. Shawn was re-elected as president for another two-year term. Other board members include Kellen Alger as first vice president; Thomas Caffrey and Hillary Potuzak as high school representatives; Jesse Franzen as Helena Middle School representative; Ricki Thompson as elementary at-large representative; and Jessica Hoffman as paraeducator at-large representative. One board position remains open.

Ms. Shawn also shared an update on the mentoring program for new teachers, noting that it is a teacher-driven initiative supported by the district and designed to provide guidance and support from experienced teachers. She emphasized that the program has strong potential to positively impact new staff and strengthen teacher leadership across the district.

Ms. Shawn addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

3. Facilities & Technology Committee Report

Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn presented the Facilities & Technology Committee report. Trustee Hathhorn reported that the technology and facilities teams have been preparing systems for spring break, including security checks and updates, and installing iPads and Chromebooks for the robotics program funded through HEF and Boeing.

At Smith Elementary, the HVAC project is nearly complete, and the solar project is currently in the design phase. The Central Elementary earthwork and resurfacing project, awarded to Helena Sand and Gravel for \$71,000, is ongoing. Materials from district warehouses are being relocated to the approved site for the district kitchen, with completion expected by March 31.

Mr. Verrill has been working to manage rising costs for district paper products, which currently total approximately \$13,000 per month for elementary schools and \$6,000 per month for the

high school. Environmental testing at Rossiter was conducted following several reported illnesses, with results confirming no environmental concerns. Hazmat testing has now begun at Kessler and Helena High School.

Trustee Hathhorn addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

4. **Budget and Finance Committee Report**

There was no Budget and Finance Committee report this evening.

5. **Teaching & Learning Committee Report**

There was no Teaching & Learning Committee report this evening.

6. **Policy Committee Report**

Trustee Jennifer Walsh presented the Policy Committee report. Trustee Walsh reported that the Policy Committee reviewed all policies presented to the board this evening. She noted that committee members spent significant time discussing the Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy, asking questions about district software, program availability, and how AI may be used to support student work. The discussion included ways to identify AI-assisted submissions versus student-generated work and how such tools may be appropriately integrated. The committee also reviewed the Instructional Program policy during its first reading, which clarifies that students are assigned to classes and teachers at the district's discretion. Trustee Walsh addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

7. **Health Benefits Committee Report**

Trustee Kay Satre presented the Health Benefits Committee report. Trustee Kay Satre reported on the Health Benefits Committee meeting held on February 26. The committee received updates regarding the health trust and noted that several contingencies remain under review, with responses requested by March 31. These contingencies include confirmation of a Medicare multiple provision within the provider network and review of the pharmacy benefit manager agreement with Capital Rx. The committee also reviewed the health plan's financial performance for the first quarter of the plan year. While revenue was slightly lower due to fewer staff and spouses participating in the plan, overall expenses were approximately \$400,000 lower than the previous year, largely due to decreased claims and savings from the new prescription drug program. Trustee Satre reported that the plan is currently performing better financially compared with the same time last year, and the committee will continue monitoring its performance. Trustee Satre addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

8. **Wellness Committee Report**

Trustee Linda Cleatus presented the Wellness Committee report to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Cleatus reported on the Wellness Committee's recent activities, including the Future Chefs competition, where 60 students submitted recipes and 12 competed, with the winner

advancing to regionals. The committee discussed engaging past participants and alumni to support current students. The committee also focused on nutrition and healthy food access, highlighting the Harvest of the Month program and sharing recipes such as lentil nachos with students and the broader school community. Concerns were raised about the decline in free and reduced lunch applications, with factors including online application challenges, Medicaid disruptions, and systemic enrollment issues. Strategies to improve participation included assisting families during high-traffic school events and addressing systemic barriers. Trustee Cleatus emphasized that accurate participation is critical, as it directly impacts Title funding and student support services. Trustee Cleatus addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

9. **Montana School Boards Association Report**

Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn presented the Montana School Boards Association report. Trustee Hathhorn reported on the recent Montana School Boards Association meeting, noting that much of the discussion focused on internal matters, including strategic planning. The group also discussed questions regarding schools' rights and considerations related to the presence of federal agents on school campuses. Trustee Hathhorn further shared that several districts, including Bozeman and Missoula, have submitted advocacy ideas and resolutions to help shape the Montana School Boards Association legislative platform. She noted that Helena Public Schools may also consider developing and submitting ideas or resolutions in the future. While the next legislative session is not imminent, Trustee Hathhorn emphasized the importance of early collaboration and planning to ensure district priorities are represented. Superintendent Weltz added that AA superintendents plan to meet this summer to begin discussing potential resolution ideas. Trustee Hathhorn addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

10. **Parent Council Visit Reports**

There were no Parent Council Visit reports this evening.

This concluded the reports portion of the agenda. The Board of Trustees then moved on to review upcoming meetings.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board Chair Jennifer McKee reviewed upcoming committee and board meetings with the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Weltz. Superintendent Weltz discussed the purpose and format of the district's work sessions with the architects, noting they are intended to provide trustees with additional opportunities to receive information and engage in ongoing project discussions. While some trustees noted that portions of the information may overlap with board meeting presentations and that the daytime schedule can be challenging, Superintendent Weltz emphasized that the sessions are designed to ensure trustees have ample opportunity to stay informed and participate in the process. He clarified that attendance is optional and that the sessions will continue as opportunities for trustees to engage if they are available.

VIII. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Weltz highlighted the success of the third Crosstown game, noting strong student engagement, positive crowd management, and high praise from referees and parents. He acknowledged the efforts of the administration and athletic staff in ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all attendees, emphasizing the pride and energy demonstrated by the student body. Additionally, Superintendent Weltz addressed upcoming weather-related concerns, including potential snowstorms, fire hazards, and dust storms. Communication plans were in place to update parents promptly regarding transportation and safety measures. Trustees and staff expressed appreciation for the community’s involvement and student pride, noting the positive impact on overall school spirit.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Jennifer McKee adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary

Date

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

**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

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Item VII.D.1.

- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- Review of Agenda
- Presentation
- Recognitions
- Superintendent's Report
- General Public Comment
- Items for Information-Facilities Bond Projects Updates
- Items for Information
- Consent Action Items
- Items for Action
- Reports
- Upcoming Meetings
- Board/Superintendent Comments
- Adjournment

Item Title: Item for Action
1. Approval of the Helena Public Schools Girls Flag Football Program

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Satre					
Murnane Butcher					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					
Meyer					



Girls Flag Football Proposal/Baseball Interest Information



 Proposal for the 2026-27 school year





Current AA Status

- **13 out of 16** AA schools have already played a season or have approached the board to play girl's flag football for fall of 26
- **14 out of 16** AA schools will be playing high school baseball this spring



Ridgeway Settlement



- Ridgeway criteria in Montana is stricter than proportionality compliance standards
- Equal number of male and female sports is first compliance indicator for meeting Ridgeway requirements (we currently have 1 more girl's sport than boy's)
- If out of compliance, there are various measures that are used to determine if appropriate opportunities are available:
 - A student interest survey is one of the first steps - if there is sufficient interest to support adding a sport, then the school district should make an explicit and deliberate effort to equalize sports for males and females
- “If the explicit and deliberate efforts of a school district to equalize sports for females and males result in a survey of interest demonstrating that a particular sport would receive sufficient support to field a team, the school district shall add that sport to the extent of the financial ability of the school” (Ridgeway Settlement, 1982)





Survey Results

976 Total Respondents.

- 473 (48%) Male, 453 (47%) Female, 40 (4%) Prefer Not To Answer
- 570 Middle School Respondents
- 406 High School Respondents



Flag Football

Flag football (19%) came in a solid second of surveyed students as their choice girl's sport in the fall

- Volleyball (48%), Flag Football (19%), Soccer (17%), XC (14%), Golf (2%)



Baseball

Baseball (38%) came in a solid second of surveyed students as their choice boy's sport in the spring

- Track (44%), Baseball (38%), Tennis (18%)



Student Interest Survey



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a baseball. The person is wearing a grey athletic uniform with a pocket visible. The background is a blurred green field.

Title IX Three-Prong Test



The Title IX Three-Prong Test is used to determine whether a school is providing equal athletic participation opportunities for males and females. A school only needs to meet one of the three prongs to be considered compliant.

- Substantial Proportionality
- History and Continuing Practice of Program Expansion
- Full and Effective Accommodation of Athletic Interests



Flag Football is an emerging MHSA sport so it will help satisfy the Title IX piece by increasing the substantial proportionality in relation to enrollment for girls sports in the future.

A large blue curved arrow graphic pointing from the bottom left towards the right side of the slide.

Athletes in Helena Public Schools



Grades

- ✓ **Athletes have higher GPA's** than Non-Sports Participants (based on 1st semester)
 - Sports Participants - **3.4**
 - Females - 3.56
 - Males - 3.01
 - Non-Sports Participants - **2.91**
 - Females - 3.01
 - Males - 2.82

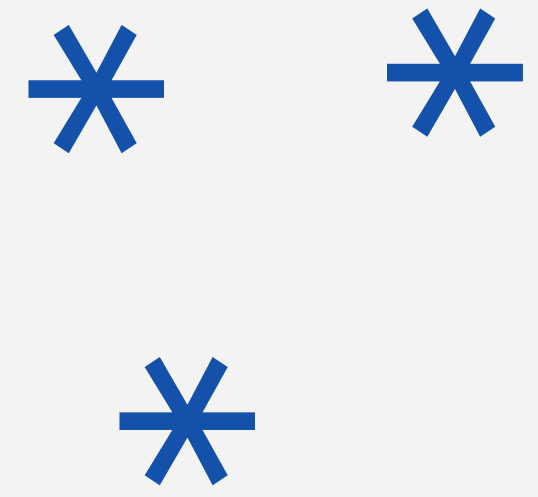
Absences

- ✓ **Athletes have less absences** than Non-Sports Participants (Average based on 1st semester) by almost half
 - Sports Participants - **6.38** days absent
 - Non- Sports Participants - **12.07** days absent





Proposed Budget



Flag Football

- **\$0 start-up and 26' season** with a \$30,000 grant from Arthur Blank Foundation
- Continued Cost: \$18,000

Flag Football Cost Breakdown



<u>Flag Football Costs</u>			
Yearly Program Budgets	\$2,000		
Officials/Workers	\$2,000		
Coach Stipends			
Head Coach X2	3984	7968	
Assistant X2	2,200	4400	
		12368	
Transportation	Bus Cost - 50.34/hr	Hours	
	1 Trip to Great Falls	10.84	545.69
	1 Trip to Missoula	11.92	600.05
	1 Trip to Butte	9.83	494.84
			1640.58
Start-Up Costs	Uniforms/Flags	\$7,000	
	Footballs	\$900	
	Field Marking Tape	\$250	
Total Start-Up + Year 1		26,159.56	
Continued Cost		\$18,008	



Policy Background
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14, 2026

The following policies are being presented for Information:

2085 Graduation Requirements

This policy is updated to reflect graduation requirements in alignment with state standards as well as revised language on waiver of requirements. New language has been added on the ability to achieve credit toward graduation requirements for participation in identified alternative programs.

4000 Public Relations

This policy is up for a periodic review; no substantive changes.

7050 Food Services

This policy is up for periodic review and changes made to reflect the appropriate governing authority(s) and guidelines.

The following policies are being presented for Action:

2010 Instructional Program

This policy is up for a periodic review; no substantive changes.

2070 Network Information and Communication Systems

An update to include language on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) to match the HPS student handbook.

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Item VII.D.2.

- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- Review of Agenda
- Presentation
- Recognitions
- Superintendent's Report
- General Public Comment
- Items for Information-Facilities Bond Projects Updates
- Items for Information
- Consent Action Items
- Items for Action
- Reports
- Upcoming Meetings
- Board/Superintendent Comments
- Adjournment

**Item Title: Item for Action
 2. Policy 2010: Instructional Program**

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Satre					
Murnane Butcher					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					
Meyer					

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Item VII.D.3.

- Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- Review of Agenda
- Presentation
- Recognitions
- Superintendent's Report
- General Public Comment
- Items for Information-Facilities Bond Projects Updates
- Items for Information
- Consent Action Items
- Items for Action
- Reports
- Upcoming Meetings
- Board/Superintendent Comments
- Adjournment

Item Title: Item for Action
3. Policy 2070: Network Information and Communication Systems

Board Action	1st Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Other
Hathhorn					
McKee					
Satre					
Murnane Butcher					
Cleatus					
Walsh					
Armstrong					
Meyer					

2
3 **STUDENT INSTRUCTION**

4
5 Network Information and Communication Systems Policy

6
7 The District makes Internet access and interconnected computer systems and equipment
8 available to District students and staff. The Board **of Trustees (Board)** intends for these
9 networks to be used only for educational activities and authorizes under this policy and District
10 network procedures specific limitations contained therein.

11
12 The District expects all students to take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this
13 access, including good behavior online. The District may withdraw student access to its
14 equipment and network when any misuse occurs. District teachers and other staff will make
15 reasonable efforts to supervise use of equipment, network, and Internet access; however, student
16 cooperation is vital in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

17
18 **The District supports the responsible and appropriate use of Generative Artificial**
19 **Intelligence (GAI) tools for students. GAI focuses on creating new content such as text,**
20 **images, or code, based on learned patterns. GAI can be used to perform tasks that typically**
21 **require human intelligence, such as understanding language, recognizing patterns, solving**
22 **problems, support personalized learning, and provide interactive learning experiences.**

23
24 Communications over District networks is not to be considered private. Network supervision
25 and maintenance may require review and inspection of directories or messages. All network
26 communication is subject to both federal and state laws regarding public disclosure. The
27 District reserves the right to access stored records in cases where there is reasonable cause to
28 expect wrong-doing or misuse of the system. However, the District will take all reasonable
29 steps to secure District data files. Access procedures based on individual privileges will be
30 instituted and monitored to ensure security at all levels.

31
32 Network access is a privilege and access to network services may be suspended or withdrawn
33 from students and staff who do not act in accordance with the District's Acceptable Use
34 Procedures. Student use of networked information and communication resources will be
35 permitted upon submission of permission forms by parents or guardians of minor students (under
36 18 years of age) and by the students themselves. These forms are included with the District's
37 Acceptable Use Procedures. Students will be required to indicate they will act in accordance with
38 the Acceptable Use Procedures by signing a document indicating they have read and will abide
39 by the procedures.

40
41 *Warranties/Indemnification*

42
43 The District makes no warranties of any kind, express or implied, in connection with its
44 provision of access to and use of its equipment, computer networks and the Internet provided
45 under this policy. The District is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged,
46 or unavailable when using the equipment, network, or for any information that is retrieved or

47 transmitted via the Internet. The District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or
48 fees resulting from access to the Internet. Any user is fully responsible to the District and will
49 indemnify and hold the District, its trustees, administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any
50 and all loss, costs, claims, or damages resulting from such user's access to its equipment,
51 computer network, and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred
52 through purchase of goods or services by a user. The District expects a user or, if a user is a
53 minor, a user's parents or legal guardian to cooperate with the District in the event of its
54 initiating an investigation of a user's use of access to its equipment, computer network, and the
55 Internet.

56
57 The Board directs the Superintendent to provide training and procedures that encourage the
58 widest possible access to electronic information and communication systems and networks by
59 students, staff and patrons while establishing reasonable controls for the lawful, efficient, and
60 appropriate use and management of the system.

61
62 Legal References:

63
64 Cross References:

65
66 Policy History:

67 Adopted On: 10.14.1997

68 Revised On: 9.10.2002, 1.14.2025

69 Reviewed On:

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item VII.E.1. - E.10.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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Adjournment

- Item Title: Reports**
- 1. Student Representatives Report**
 - 2. Helena Education Association Report**
 - 3. Facilities & Technology Committee Report**
 - 4. Budget & Finance Committee Report**
 - 5. Teaching & Learning Committee Report**
 - 6. Policy Committee Report**
 - 7. Health Benefits Committee Report**
 - 8. Wellness Committee Report**
 - 9. Montana School Boards Association Report**
 - 10. Parent Council Visit Report**

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item VII.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Agenda

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Item Title: Upcoming Meetings

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item IX.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Agenda

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Superintendent's Report

General Public Comment

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Adjournment

Item Title: Board/Superintendent Comments

**HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Item X.

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Agenda

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General Public Comment

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Board/Superintendent Comments

Adjournment

Item Title: Adjournment