



Superintendent

Rex Weltz
324-2001

Business Director

Sam Holman
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted:

Jennifer McKee, Chair
Jennifer Walsh, Vice Chair
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Jenny Murnane Butcher,
Trustee
Keith Meyer, Trustee
Delaney Lynch, Capital High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Brock Gardipee, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Sam Holman, Business Director
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Gary Myers, Director of Educational
Technology
Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent
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 5:30 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 revisions.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. Mock Trial State Champions – Helena High School

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Helena High School's Team A for earning the title of Mock Trial State Champions—an outstanding and well-deserved accomplishment. Congratulations to students Grey Gildroy, Bailey Gilbertson, Maverick Franklin, Meadow Brown-Wilson, Gabbi LaVoie, and Lily Berrin. This achievement reflects the students' dedication, critical thinking, collaboration, and commitment to excellence. The Board also extends its appreciation to advisor Kacey Askin and Coaches Ayaka Smart, Sean Morrison, Niki Zupanic, and Dimitrios Tsolakidis for their unwavering support, leadership, and mentorship. Their guidance played an integral role in fostering the team's success and providing students with a meaningful and enriching educational experience. The Board is proud to recognize Team A for representing Helena High School and the district with distinction.

B. NSHSS Claes Nobel Educator of the Year Finalist for 2026

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to Helena High School educator Erin Cleveland for being named one of the top ten finalists for the 2026 NSHSS Claes Nobel Educator of the Year Award—an exceptional and well-deserved honor. This national recognition reflects Ms. Cleveland's dedication, passion, and meaningful impact on her students, school, and community. As a finalist, she will receive a \$1,000 award and be formally recognized at the NSHSS Scholar's Day Event in Atlanta, Georgia. The Board commends Ms. Cleveland for her outstanding contributions to education and for representing Helena High School and the district with excellence.

C. Recognition of Achievement: Seal of Biliteracy Recipients

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding students from Capital High and Helena High who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy, an honor recognized at both the state and national levels and awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in two or more languages. This achievement reflects the hard work of both English Learners and World Language students who have met rigorous standards through formal testing. Their success highlights the importance of multilingualism and cultural understanding in our schools and community. We commend these students for their dedication and academic excellence.

Congratulations to the following Helena High students: Freya Elias, Kendal Simpson, Natalie Zimmerman, Kate Lee, Edward Woolf, Hallie Winward, Gavin Payne, Ella Nasset, Garrett Hinderman, Bailey Gilbertson, Brock Gardipee, Nora Dwyer, and Elinore Clancy.

Congratulations to the following Capital High student: Olivia Margotat.

IV. PRESENTATION: Helena Advanced Services Report – Dr. Jonathan Plucker

Dr. Jonathan Plucker presented the Advanced Services Report to the Board of Trustees. Topics discussed included, but were not limited to, the District’s advanced learning programming, PEAK curriculum, differentiation practices, academic acceleration opportunities, program strengths, areas for improvement, and recommendations for future implementation and support. Superintendent Weltz shared that administration will use the report recommendations as guideposts moving forward and continue discussions through future Teaching and Learning Committee meetings. Dr. Plucker and administration addressed questions from Trustees regarding the report and recommendations.

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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

Recognitions

- Vigilante Day Parade – Thank You Facilities Team
- May 5th Election Day
- Recognition of Board Chair Jennifer McKee, Trustee Linda Cleatus, Delaney Lynch - CHS Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, and Brock Gardipee – HHS Student Representative for the Board of Trustees
- Helena Education Foundation – Celebration of Excellence
- May 1, 2026 – National School Principals’ Day
- May 1, 2026 – School Lunch Hero Day
- May 4–8, 2026 – National Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5, 2026 – National Teacher Appreciation Day
- May 6, 2026 – National School Nurse Day
- May 8, 2026 – School Communicators Day
- May 18, 2026 – National Speech-Language Pathologist Day
- Thank you to Callie Aschim & the Chamber of Commerce for hosting Community Outreach: Brews & Blueprints
- Congratulations to the following 105.3 KMTX Teacher of the Month recipient:
 - Joslyn Carney, Central Elementary School– March
- Other

New Business

- Student Board Representative Interviews – May 4
- Special Education Director Position
- 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
- New Podcast Series – From the Ground Up
- 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
- Budget Staffing and Budget Planning and Preparation for the 2026–2027 School Year
 - Administrative & Director
 - Teacher
 - Support Services
- Planning for the 2026 Summer Conference is underway, with AA Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Business Managers in attendance
- Other

Outreach/Meetings

- 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
 - HHS + PAL Community Meeting
 - KESS Community Meeting
- Carroll College
- City of Helena
- Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Community Outreach – Brews and Blueprints
- Grow Our Own
- Board Leadership
- HEA
- HEF
- HEF Executive Committee
- Parent Advisory Committee
- Teacher Advisory Committee
- St. Peter’s Health Community Leaders Breakfast
- Helena Food Share Board of Directors
- Helena Food Share Finance Committee
- Cabinet & Leadership
- TV, Print, Radio, and Media
- Other

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

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Information - Facilities Bond Projects Updates

1. Kessler Elementary School Update

Representatives from Mosaic provided an update on the Kessler Elementary design process. Topics discussed included, but were not limited to, stakeholder and community input, site planning, city review updates, pedestrian safety considerations, exterior and interior design concepts, learning neighborhood layouts, classroom collaboration spaces, sustainability and durability considerations, and ongoing design development efforts. Representatives also shared updates regarding community engagement, coordination with staff and building committees, and continued review of successful features from other District school projects. Representatives from Mosaic addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

2. Capital High School Update

Representatives from Slate/RTA Architecture provided an update on the Capital High School design process. Topics discussed included, but were not limited to, project phasing and scheduling, abatement and renovation work in the basement and first floor, classroom relocation planning, and coordination with district staff, consultants, and contractors. The presentation also covered design development updates, including continued refinement of building and interior design elements and stakeholder engagement. Additional discussion included the value engineering process to align the project with available budget while maintaining program priorities, as well as updates on mechanical, electrical, and plumbing system replacement and phased implementation. Trustees received information regarding budget alignment, contingency planning, and prioritization of project components to balance cost and program needs. Representatives from Slate/RTA Architecture addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

3. 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/A&E and a representative from Dick Anderson Construction provided an update on the Helena High School campus project. Topics discussed included, but were not limited to, project scheduling and construction timelines, upcoming phase one bidding and planned construction start dates, ongoing design development and budget alignment efforts, and coordination with subcontractors and project partners. The presentation also included updates regarding temporary parking arrangements, collaboration with Helena College to provide

additional parking capacity, and planning for the June 16 groundbreaking ceremony. Representatives reviewed progress on the Helena High School, PAL, district kitchen, and stadium components of the overall campus project, including construction document development, site coordination, and phased implementation planning. Additional discussion included exterior material and interior design considerations, value engineering and cost management efforts, and restroom design concepts informed by consultant research and post-occupancy data from other schools. Representatives from SMA/A&E and Dick Anderson Construction 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 next Item for Information.

B. Item for Information

1. Helena Public Schools Baseball Program Update for the 2026-27 School Year

Superintendent Rex Weltz and Mr. Eric Peterson, Activities Director, presented the information item, *Helena Public Schools Baseball Program Update for the 2026-27 School Year*. Mr. Peterson reported that most Montana AA school districts currently offer baseball, while Helena High School and Capital High School do not. He discussed potential impacts on student participation opportunities, alignment with district extracurricular goals, and comparisons with other AA programs. Preliminary information was provided regarding potential staffing considerations, estimated operating and startup costs, and possible funding approaches, including district support and limited community fundraising, with emphasis on the need for secured startup funding and appropriate district oversight. Trustees discussed anticipated student interest, current student participation in outside programs, funding structure, comparative participation in similar activities, and governance considerations related to fundraising and program implementation. Broader discussion included alignment with district priorities and the impact of funding constraints on program expansion decisions. The item was presented for information and discussion only. A formal proposal is expected to return to the Board for future consideration.

Mr. Brian Solan, a community member, provided public comment regarding the potential high school baseball program. He commented on participation opportunities in existing youth baseball programs and discussed potential differences between current offerings and a high school program. Mr. Solan also stated that a community group has been exploring potential fundraising support for program startup costs, should the district move forward with implementation.

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. 4/14/26 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 Linda Cleatus moved to approve the *Consent Action Items* as presented. Trustee Kay Satre seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 8-0; motion carries unanimously.

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

D. Item for Action

1. Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2027 Elections

Ms. Sam Holman, Financial Director, presented action item one, *Approval of Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2027 Elections*.

Background:

Pursuant to 20-20-417, MCA, the trustees of a district may request the county election administrator to conduct certain school elections during the ensuing school fiscal year. The request must be made by a resolution of the board of trustees. Whenever the county election administrator agrees to conduct a school election, the administrator shall perform the duties imposed on the trustees and the clerk of the district for school elections and deliver to the trustees, for the purpose of canvassing the vote, the certified tally sheets and other election items needed for canvassing the vote.

Considerations:

- The county election administrator has agreed to run elections scheduled for the regular election day, May 4, 2027.
- If a special election is requested, the county election administrator would want to find an agreeable date for the election and may refuse to run elections on a date that does not work for election office.
- The District must provide copies of all candidate filing forms and any ballot issue language by the candidate filing deadline.
- The county election office will run the election by district, not by precinct. Requests to run the election by precinct will not be accommodated.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve the attached resolution requesting the county to conduct 2027 elections for Helena School District No. 1.

Ms. Holman addressed questions from the Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Chair Jennifer McKee entertained a motion to approve the *Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2027 Elections*.

Motion: Trustee Keith Meyer moved to approve the *Resolution Requesting County to Conduct 2027 Elections*. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher 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

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 wrap up the school year, lots of exciting things are happening at Capital High.

Final Week of AP Testing:

Truly a joint effort between students and staff. Huge shoutout to our counseling staff for overseeing roughly 700 tests!

CHS Plant Sale:

Capital High Green Club is putting on their annual plant sale! The event occurs on Wednesday, May 20th and is run by CHS students. The plant selection is incredible every year, and I encourage everyone to check it out!

Building Renovation:

Staff are encouraged to take home personal items and to start removing any unwanted items. Abatement will occur in the downstairs classrooms and in some classrooms on the main floor. We are working with maintenance to get classrooms moved at the end of this school year to prepare for next fall. There will be no classrooms in the downstairs area at the beginning of the year (except those found under the library).

Vigilante Parade:

We had great participation in the Vigilante Parade this year; students were eager to participate and show off their floats.

Prom Last Friday:

CHS Prom was last Friday May 8th; the theme was Vegas! Huge shoutout to all the juniors who planned, set up, and cleaned up. Another huge thank you to all of our chaperones who donated their time to make sure everything ran smoothly.

Teacher Appreciation Week:

Thank you to student council for sponsoring a variety of daily drawings for many different types of gift cards. Also, STUCO provided lunch from Panda Express for all staff last Thursday.

Cash on Delivery:

The spring show, Cash on Delivery, has recently ended. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend.

State Math Competition:

Capital High had many top placers in the recent state math competition, including a student, Grady Dushin, who finished 2nd in the state.

Senior Grad Walk:

The annual Senior Grad Walk will occur on Wednesday, May 27th. This year, seniors will travel to CRA before boarding the bus to their respective elementary schools.

We are looking forward to wrapping up the school year on a high note. Go Bru!

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

Mr. Brock Gardipee, Helena High School Student Representative for the Board of Trustees, presented his report to the Board of Trustees. "Hello I hope you guys are doing well! I can't believe this is the last time I am doing this, but I really enjoyed my time being a part of this board.

- AP tests are currently being given over a span of 2 weeks; we will be giving 573 tests. This is a great number, and it shows how dedicated Helena High students are to their education.
- Teacher appreciation week was last week, and it was awesome to celebrate the amazing teachers we have with gifts and handwritten cards.
- Thanks to the HIA for the grant they gave us for our Hoop House and our Unity Garden. Students from Bryant and Helena High will be able to take part in this amazing opportunity to see the growing process.
- Tomorrow our students will also have an opportunity to talk with the architect team about the progress so far and will be able to add their input as well.

Recognitions:

- Congrats to the students who competed in the state music festival during the week of Vigilante Week. The students put in a lot of hard work, and they had great teachers to lead them.

Upcoming Events:

- Band on 5/18 and Choir on 5/19 are their final concerts, starting at 7 p.m. at HMS.
- Finally, come watch me and many others graduate on June 6th.”

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

2. Helena Education Association Report

Ms. Jane Shawn, Helena Education Association (HEA) President, presented the Helena Education Association report. Ms. Shawn provided an overview of the district’s stipend position process. She noted that CMS is currently reviewing athletic coaching stipends across the district and explained that stipend positions also exist for other activities such as drama, yearbook, and DECA. She described the established process for adding or evaluating stipend positions. Proposals for new or revised stipends—such as coaching or activity roles—are submitted with details outlining duties, time commitment, and student impact. These proposals are reviewed by a committee composed of both union members and administrators through the activities committee structure. Recommendations from the activities committee, including compensation considerations, are then forwarded to the bargaining team, which incorporates approved stipend positions into the collective bargaining agreement. Ms. Shawn emphasized that this collaborative process ensures appropriate review of workload and student benefit while supporting fair compensation for staff who contribute additional time and effort through extracurricular programs. Ms. Shawn addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

3. Facilities & Technology Committee Report

Trustee Keith Meyer presented the Facilities & Technology Committee report.

Technology Update:

At the Facilities and Technology meeting Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology, provided a comprehensive update on district technology operations, including staffing changes with two employees departing (one retirement and one relocation) and recruitment efforts underway. The committee discussed increased and evolving OPI reporting requirements, including CTE reporting and Infinite Campus data submissions, and the resulting administrative burden and system alignment challenges across platforms. Additional updates included Chromebook ordering issues, an FOB audit, upcoming interviews for a network and systems position, and planning for a wireless controller replacement as systems reach end of life in December 2026, including related licensing considerations. Trustees also discussed technology funding and levy implications, emphasizing the need for continued board engagement and proactive planning for future technology levies and sustainability.

Facilities Update:

At the Facilities and Technology meeting Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, provided a detailed facilities update, including recognition of community and student involvement at Vigilante Stadium events. Project updates included removal of one warehouse structure at the kitchen site, with one remaining, interior painting progress at Central and Jim Darcy, and closure of the CHS electrical fire claim. At Smith Elementary, the solar bid project has drawn interest from

four contractors, and at HMS, interior upgrades include replacement of auditorium and gymnasium doors with efforts to preserve historic stained-glass elements. Additional updates included one boiler out of service at May Butler, CHS/HHS pre-construction abatement planning, and ongoing summer maintenance work within budget constraints. Grounds crews continue seasonal maintenance, with noted challenges in vegetation control due to spraying restrictions during the school week. Custodial operations were also reviewed, including supply procurement changes following vendor transitions to Hillyard, staffing shortages with nine vacancies, and continued support for year-end district activities such as testing, prom, and graduation events. Trustee Meyer concluded by expressing appreciation for district staff efforts across facilities and operations and addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

4. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Trustee Janet Armstrong presented the Budget and Finance Committee report. Trustee Armstrong reported that the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the district's current financial position, noting overall stability and improved balances in both elementary and high school funds compared to the prior month. The committee discussed custodial expenditures and related coding practices, including adjustments to better reflect recurring costs. Trustees reviewed anticipated curriculum-related expenditures estimated between \$400,000–\$500,000 over the 2025–26 and 2026–27 fiscal years, along with additional potential instructional investments, with final timing and decisions pending. Ongoing monitoring of interlocal fund usage was emphasized to support cyclical and one-time costs such as technology, insurance, and curriculum. The committee also discussed continued reliance on interlocal funds alongside general fund resources for items including property and liability insurance, cyber insurance, curriculum, and technology, as well as the importance of tracking legislative and revenue developments that may impact future funding. Long-range projections were reviewed using historical trends, with anticipated increases of approximately 4% in utilities, higher increases in natural gas, and moderate increases in electricity. Trustees also reviewed long-term maintenance supply cost increases and recognized ongoing staff efforts to identify cost-saving measures within operations. Annual utility costs were noted at approximately \$1.5 million, with recent reductions due to decreased usage in certain facilities. Overall, trustees noted that while operational and mandated costs continue to rise, current budgeting practices and interlocal fund management are maintaining financial stability, with continued monitoring of revenues and legislative outcomes remaining important for future planning. Trustee Armstrong addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

5. Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher presented the Teaching and Learning Committee report. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher reported that the Teaching and Learning Committee received an overview of the Plucker report and a deeper review of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming and upcoming state-level changes. Discussion included the district's CTE coordinator role, which is currently a half-time position also serving as a counselor, and statewide movement toward career clusters designed to provide students with more flexible pathways aligned to post-secondary goals rather than a single career track. Trustees noted the intent that all students graduate with meaningful post-secondary preparation, such as certifications, AP coursework, or other career-aligned experiences. The committee also

reviewed anticipated state Future Ready Program payments, expected to begin in the 2027–28 school year. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

6. **Policy Committee Report**

Trustee Jennifer Walsh reported that the Policy Committee did not meet in May; however, she provided an update on the April meeting, during which the committee reviewed but did not finalize revisions to the district’s medication administration policy. She noted that the policy is extensive and involves detailed procedures related to medication distribution responsibilities between school secretaries and nursing staff, and that additional work is expected over the summer with further review anticipated in the fall. Trustee Walsh also expressed appreciation for the district’s nursing staff for their ongoing support in ensuring students receive appropriate medications and care.

7. **Health Benefits Committee Report**

Trustee Kay Satre presented the Health Benefits Committee report this evening. Trustee Kay Satre reported that the Health Benefits Committee met on April 30 and continues its work within the district’s self-funded health insurance program. The committee reviewed trend data and consultant recommendations from Alliant to support development of premium rates for the upcoming plan year, which runs October 1 through September 30. Trustees discussed and approved using a 9% blended medical/Rx trend assumption, along with 4% dental and 2% vision, and also requested that consultants model a lower scenario of 8% blended medical/Rx, 3% dental, and 1% vision for comparison in premium forecasting.

The committee also reviewed financial implications of the district’s participation in Bridged Health, including potential savings from pooled stop-loss arrangements and associated administrative costs. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 21, with a final vote on premium rates for the 2026–27 plan year expected on May 28. Trustees approved reinstating the Hinge Health program for members at low cost, with implementation expected in the coming weeks. The committee also received an update on a potential 340B pharmacy arrangement being explored with Prism and PureView, which could provide estimated savings of approximately \$100,000 annually, primarily related to specialty medications for a small number of members. This arrangement would be separate from the district’s primary pharmacy benefit manager (Capital Rx) and remains under review pending contractual approval. Finally, the committee noted it is still awaiting finalization of the master service agreement with Capital Rx as part of the Bridged Health transition, which is currently in legal review. Trustee Kay Satre addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

8. **Wellness Committee Report**

Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher and Trustee Linda Cleatus presented the Wellness Committee report. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher reported that the Wellness Committee received an update on food service operations and ongoing program development. Robert Worthy, Sodexo Manager, shared updates on efforts to expand local food sourcing, including a new partnership with Old Salt to incorporate Montana beef into school meal programs. He also provided updates on recent food service events and progress with kitchen planning and equipment selection,

noting that equipment choices are high-quality, within budget, and designed to support long-term flexibility and program growth. The committee also learned that PAL qualified as a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school, which will allow all students at that site to receive free meals. This designation is based on meeting a federal eligibility threshold and will bring additional Title funding support, with the district covering remaining costs as needed.

Trustee Linda Cleatus added that she appreciated the continued work of the Wellness Committee and noted recent membership changes, including Keri Mizell's prior service and Kaitlyn Hess's addition to the committee. She emphasized that Kaitlyn's expertise in federal nutrition programs, including free and reduced-price meal eligibility, brings valuable perspective to the committee's work. Trustee Cleatus also highlighted discussion around a potential career and technical education (CTE) pathway in butchering in partnership with Old Salt, modeled after programs in other Montana communities, as an exciting opportunity for student engagement and workforce development. She further noted the importance of student voice in the committee's work, referencing a Capital High School student who has been actively contributing input on improving school meal programs and will continue to serve as a youth representative moving forward.

Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher and Trustee Linda Cleatus addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

9. **Montana School Boards Association Report**

There was no Montana School Boards Association report this evening.

10. **Parent Council Visit Report**

Trustee Kay Satre reported on her attendance at the Helena Parents of Montessori (HPMP) meeting on May 4, 2026. The group discussed efforts to increase awareness of the District's public Montessori program and encourage participation in the kindergarten lottery process. Outreach activities included an informational panel featuring administrators and teachers, as well as promotion through Kinder Sprouts teachers, which resulted in additional applications. A total of 78 applications were received for 36 kindergarten openings, and all available spots had been filled as of the meeting date, with a waitlist established as openings are declined. The organization also reviewed recent community-building and fundraising activities, including discussions about supporting a potential additional Montessori pod at the new Kessler School. Members discussed fundraising efforts to provide Montessori teacher training opportunities, noting that training is now available in Bozeman. HPMP will offer three summer camps this year for students entering grades 1–5, expanding from two camps offered in previous years. When asked about priorities and concerns, members expressed a desire to expand program capacity so that all interested students could participate without the need for a lottery. They also noted ongoing community questions regarding the lottery process and emphasized that the lottery is conducted randomly and fairly. Trustee Kay Satre addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

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

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board Chair Jennifer McKee reviewed upcoming committee and Board meetings with the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Weltz.

IX. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board members and Superintendent Weltz discussed an upcoming special meeting related to asbestos abatement contracts and required regulatory approvals. Trustees reflected on their service to the District, expressing appreciation for fellow board members, district leadership, staff, and the superintendent for their dedication to students and public education. Comments also highlighted the challenges facing public schools, the importance of community engagement and advocacy, and efforts to increase public understanding of school funding and education policy at the state level. The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude for those serving students, families, and the Helena community.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Jennifer McKee adjourned the meeting at 10:26 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary

Date