



Board of Trustees Work Session Meeting Part 1

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

4:00 p.m.

Central Elementary School and Teams

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Jennifer Walsh, Vice Chair
Janet Armstrong, Trustee
Kay Satre, Trustee
Jenny Murnane Butcher, Trustee
Keith Meyer, Trustee
Linda Cleatus, Trustee
Lisa Cordingley, Trustee-Elect
Keller Higbee, Trustee-Elect

Others

Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Sam Holman, Business Director
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Nick Radley, Central Elementary School Principal
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director
Dr. Kaitlyn Hess, Data & Federal Programs
Director
Dr. Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent
Rich Franco, Human Resources Benefits
Manager
Katrina Chaney, Lewis & Clark County
Superintendent
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Guests of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m., and the Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh reviewed the agenda with the Board of Trustees, and there were no changes. The Board of Trustees then proceeded to hear general public comment.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

IV. PRESENTATION

Principal Nick Radley, Central Elementary School

Mr. Nick Radley, Principal of Central Elementary School, provided a comprehensive overview of the school and reviewed the pamphlet included in the agenda.

Demographics

Grade (FTE)	Enrollment – 410
Kindergarten (2)	44
Kindergarten Montessori (1)	18
1 st Grade (2)	43
2 nd Grade (2)	43
3 rd Grade (2)	53
Lower Montessori (2)	36
4 th Grade (2)	55
5 th Grade (2)	60
Upper Montessori (1)	25
Functional Life Skills (1)	11
Trailhead 1 (1)	11
Trailhead 2 (1)	11

Special Education: Students on an IEP

Speech Only: 59
Resource (including related services) 39
Trailhead (1 & 2): 22
Functional Life Skills: 11

Principal Radley provided an overview of Central Elementary School's leadership teams, family engagement initiatives, academic performance data, and the school's action plan goals for continuous improvement. He also addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items

1. 4/28/26 Board of Trustees Work Session Meeting Minutes
2. Personnel Actions
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. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Outdated, Unsuitable and Obsolete Instructional Materials & Equipment

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh commented, “At this point, I would entertain a motion to approve the *Consent Action Items* as presented.”

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

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

B. Items for Action

1. **Approval and Ratification of the HPS-Carpenters Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2026-2027**

Ms. Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director, presented action item one, *Approval and Ratification of the HPS-Carpenters Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2026-2027*.

Background:

Pursuant to MCA 39-31-306, an agreement reached by the public employer and the exclusive representative must be reduced to writing and must be executed by both parties.

The Helena School District and the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters reached a tentative agreement on May 22, 2026. The District negotiation team recommends ratification.

The agreement was open for wages for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. A summary of the conditions of the contract are noted below. Upon the Board’s approval, a final copy will be made available electronically.

- A two and a half percent (2.5%) increase of \$.69 per hour to the base wage from \$27.53 per hour to \$28.22 per hour for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- A retention bonus of \$1,000 to be paid in installments of \$500 on the paychecks in July and December 2026.
- The estimated salary cost of this settlement is \$5,457 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Considerations:

- HPS and the Carpenters have a collaborative relationship and productive negotiations history.
- This agreement continues to bring parity to the bargaining units within HSD that work together on facility projects.
- This agreement supports the directive of the Board to support our staff members and address issues relative to the district budget.

Superintendent recommendation:

Approve and ratify the collective bargaining agreement as agreed upon between HPS and Carpenters.

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

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh entertained a motion to approve action item one: *Approval and Ratification of the HPS-Carpenters Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2026-2027*.

Motion: Trustee Linda Cleatus moved to approve action item one: *Approval and Ratification of the HPS-Carpenters Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2026-2027*. Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

2. **Smith Elementary School Photovoltaic System Project Award**

Mr. Todd Verrill, Facilities Director, presented action item two, *Smith Elementary School Photovoltaic System Project Award*. The Board reviewed the recommendation to award the Smith Elementary School Photovoltaic System Project to Bozeman Green Build. The project includes the installation of a 57.75 kW solar photovoltaic system on the gymnasium roof. Mr. Verrill reported that Bozeman Green Build submitted the lowest responsive bid of \$83,686 and is a qualified contractor capable of completing the project before the start of the 2026–2027 school year. Mr. Verrill addressed questions from the Board of Trustees regarding the information presented.

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh entertained a motion to approve action item two: *Smith Elementary School Photovoltaic System Project Award*.

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to award the Smith Elementary School Photovoltaic System Project to Bozeman Green Build as presented. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0; motion carries unanimously. (*Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh abstained from voting as she is a Trustee strictly for the high school district and this action item only pertains to the elementary district*).

3. Canvass of Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election
a. Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (Elementary)
b. Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (High School)

Ms. Sam Holman, Business Director, presented action items 3a and 3b: *Canvass of Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election, a. Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (Elementary), b. Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (High School) to the Board of Trustees.*

Background:

The annual regular school election was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Pursuant to 20-20-415, MCA, at the first regular or special meeting after receiving the certified tally sheets and no later than 25 days after the election, trustees must canvass the election results. After the canvass of the total votes cast, trustees must issue a certificate of election. In the case of a trustee election, the certificate must be issued to the elected trustee and the county superintendent, designating the term of the trustee position. In the case of an election on a proposition, the trustees must issue a certificate specifying the outcome of the election.

Considerations:

- The County Election Office provided the attached canvass report on May 13, 2026.
 - Highlights:
 - Total registered voters in the elementary school were 40,496. Total ballots issued were 35,059. Total ballots tabulated were 16,100 with a total voter turnout of 39.76%.
 - Total registered voters in the high school were 42,784. Total ballots issued were 37,088. Total ballots tabulated were 17,042 with a total voter turnout of 39.83%.
- The election results were also provided by the county elections office on May 13, 2026.
 - Highlights:
 - The elementary general fund levy proposition failed by a margin of 57.27% (6,858 FOR, 9,192 AGAINST).
 - The elementary technology levy proposition failed by a margin of 60.23% (6,390 FOR, 9,677 AGAINST).
 - The high school technology levy proposition failed by a margin of 59.83% (6,832 FOR, 10,177 AGAINST).
- Katrina Chaney, County Superintendent of Schools will administer the oath of office to elected trustees.

Superintendent recommendation:

Canvass the election results, issue the certificates of election, and administer the oath of office to elected trustees.

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

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh entertained a motion to approve action item 3a: *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (Elementary)*.

Motion: Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher moved to canvass the election results for the elementary district. The motion was amended to include issuing certificates of election. The amended motion was to canvass the election results and issue certificates of election for the elementary district. Trustee Keith Meyer seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0; motion carries unanimously. *(Please note that Trustee Jennifer Walsh abstained from voting as she is a Trustee strictly for the high school district and this action item only pertains to the elementary district).*

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh entertained a motion to approve action item 3b: *Canvass Election Results and Issue Certificates of Election (High School)*.

Motion: Trustee Kay Satre moved to canvass the election results and issue certificates of election for the high school district. Trustee Janet Armstrong seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 6-0; motion carries unanimously.

C. Oath of Office for Elected Trustees and District Clerk

Ms. Jennifer Walsh, Mr. Keith Meyer, Ms. Lisa Cordingley, and Mr. Keller Higbee recited the Oath of Office and were officially sworn in as Trustees by Ms. Katrina Chaney, Lewis & Clark County Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Sam Holman recited the Oath of Office and was officially sworn in as District Clerk by Ms. Chaney.

VI. BOARD OR SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no final Board or Superintendent comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice Chair Jennifer Walsh adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Candice Delvaux, Recording Secretary