

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, EAST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

Call to Order: Trustees of School District No. 9 held a meeting on May 13, 2024. Chairman, Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, Tristan Ulmer, Marcia Ellermeyer, Mark Diehl, and Martin Balukas (5:45)

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide, Director of Information Systems Brandon Hansen and Activities Director Shaun Murgel.

Principals and Vice Principals: Brandon Crusat, Michael Kemper, Duane Schlabach, Gus Somerfeld, Lynsi Morris, and Brian Kessler

Visitors: Morgan Mortieau, Toana Effertz, Hailey Weidow, Rilie Stephenson, Bowen Traynham, Paige Clayton, Casey Copenhauer, Amy Copenhauer, Carly Copenhauer, Kima Traynham, Mallory Noem, Keith Noem, Adeline Weidow, Lydia Weidow, Michelle Eckhart, Patricia Gillett, Randy Gillett, Bridgit Levie, Allen LeVie, Keagan Levie, Keston Sargent, Zachary Eckhart, William Traynham, Keir Balukas

Via Zoom: Team Dusenberry, Mazanec, Whitney Mitchell, Karla Layson, Dawn Schriber, Feller, Kari Speicher, Mary Smith, Jon Cantrell, Shana Dachs, Kate Johnson, Karly's iPhone 14, Troy Arntson, Alex Reid, KD Jones, Beverly Mitchell

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments

Reports

Student Report

EHHS Valedictorian Keston Sargent and Salutatorians Paige Clayton, Carly Copenhaver, Kiegan LeVie and Mallory Noem spoke to the Board regarding their plans for after graduation.

Administrator Report

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris wanted to thank the community for all the support they have offered the past couple months. She felt like our community and staff are so strong that they will prevail and she couldn't image going through the tough times with anyone else.

Radley Principal Gus Somerfeld spoke a little about the MAST testing that Radley participated in. The staff felt like the interface for MAST was challenging compared to the Smarter Balance test, but most thought the test did a good job of aligning with the state standards. The staff is sad to see fifth grade moving to new school but excited for the new third graders.

Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal Brandon Crusat pointed out that Camryn Beck should have been listed as “recommended for Tenure” in his board packet recommendations. He also mentioned the Kindergarten parent meeting that is coming up and that next year’s class lists are finalized. The staff are getting ready for fly-up in the next couple weeks and everyone is sad to see 2nd grade moving to Radley.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper noted a behavior variable during state testing when they saw an increase in incidences. Teachers did a great job of reacting quickly to minimize the potential problems. The staff continue to see impressive behaviors from the 8th grade class.

EHHS Principal Brian Kessler reported about ACT scores. This year they are a little lower in all categories compared to last year. There was a noted increase between Pre-Act scores and the ACT scores. The Admin team feels like this shows that kids are learning and still making progress. There will continue to be a focus on figuring out how to bump the students up to the next level by looking at trends.

EHHS Vice Principal Duane Schlabach reported that office referrals were heavier this last month and they saw some chronic behaviors coming out. He is currently looking at reviewing trends to compare with previous data. There was a noted 200 % increase in detention numbers this month.

Activities Director, Shaun Murgel reported about our end of year sports. He noted that track was in top three for state competitions and tennis is looking strong as well.

Director of Information Systems, Brandon Hansen wanted to thank Oliver, Mason and Levi for their EVMS cleanup effort. They did a lot of hard work. In the next couple months, the team will transition for HB 890 regarding recording the Board meetings. The plan is for next month to be a test month on our YouTube channel and we will also be recording graduation and have it posted to our YouTube channel.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chair Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Chairman Walter spoke about the negotiating committees. The classified negotiating committee has finished negotiations, and the certified committee will be finishing up shortly.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about creating a hiring committee for the High School Principal position. Trustee Baird and Trustee Ulmer said they would be interested in participating.

No other reports from the Committees and Trustees.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

Chairman Walter solicited comments and observations regarding the current strategic plan and planning needs.

Vice Chair Murfitt had questions about where to find the SMA facilities survey.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- Casey Gergen EVMS Teacher
- Abigail Lynes EHHS Teacher
- Aurora Peavey EVMS
- Patti Blaskovich Interpreter

Added after the packet was sent out.

- Brian Kessler EHHS High School

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the April 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #49835 - 49944) and (Payroll #65585 - 65761)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- Kelly Allen -Summer School Bus Driver
- Tom Stevison -Summer School Bus Driver
- Nathaniel Bailey -Head Coach, High School Cross Country
- Holden Sampson -Substitute
- Breanna Humphrey -High School English
- Michelle Madsen -Substitute
- Erin Finstad -Tiger Robotics Coach
- Jewel Fox -Tiger Robotics Coach
- Tabitha Smail -Vigilante Robotics Coach
- Chelsea Hager -Substitute
- Alex Johnson -Summer School Math
- Jon Moore -Summer School English/SS
- Tonya Hauck -Summer School Para

- Sherylle Ito -Summer School Para
- Sean Thatcher -Head Coach-Golf
- Jeff Darling -Head Coach- Girls Soccer
- Nikki Odegard -Assistant Coach-Girls Soccer
- Jim Chambers -Boys Soccer Coach
- Tyler Murray - Head Coach, Football
- Troy Arntson -Assistant Football Coach
- JD Ferris -Assistant Football Coach
- Riley Sampson -Assistant Football Coach
- Andrew Boedecker -Assistant Football Coach
- Karla Layson -Head Coach, Volleyball
- Tammi Daum -Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Kayla Combs -Paraprofessional

2024-2025 Hiring Recommendations

Principal Crusat had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Tenured Certified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Bender, Marne	Briski, Jillian	Dachs, Shana	Fetherston, Tana
Gallups, Brandy	Griffiths, Katie	Haas, Jolette	Hansen, Catherine
Hager, Jen	Heidinger, McKenzie	Johnson, Kate	Krantz, Matthew
Krause, Jenni	Lunday, Nancy	Mikesell, Ashlee	Odegard, Nikki
Odermann, Jannice	Ophus, Kristin	Petersen, Kara	Phelps, Kelsey
Pollington, Amy	Salerno, Alyssa	Sandau, Sarah	Simonson, Adrienne
Vetsch, Erin	Warner, Jenn		

Non-tenured Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Beck, Camryn*	Beveridge, Rachel	Burke, Samantha	Graham, Kayla
Power, Christina	Shaul, Alyssa	Eric Lehman	

**Principal Crusat stated that Camryn Beck should have been added to the "Non-tenured Staff be Rehired for the 2024-25 School Year and Be Awarded the Status of Tenure" section instead of "Non-tenured Staff Recommendation for 2024-25".*

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Boltz, Laura	Clark, Natalie	Elgen, Kendra	Emmons, Ella
Foster, Monica	Kalous, Bethany	Kalous, Kari	Kuhl, Joseph
Madsen, Erika	McLaughlin, Connie	Tyler, Lew	Merriman, Philesha
Rivers, Caitlin	Schwaller, Carrie	Mergenthaler, Hillary	

Principal Somerfeld had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Tenured Certified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Bright, Rachel	Clement, Carrie	Cloeren, Michael	Countryman, Heather
Dusenberry, Camilla	Ferro, Ashley	Finstad, Erin	Haines, Tricia
Ireland, Scott	Jones, KD	Layson, Karla	Mazanec, Traci
McLean, Patti	Metzger, Kim	Penner, Julie	Reiff, Anna
Scoles, Jennifer	Senecal, Katherine	Speicher, Kari	Teders, Vashti

Non-tenured Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Cathcart, Bethany	Fox, Jewel	Snarr, Karley	Rubio-Pratt, Veronica
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Non-tenured Staff Not Recommended for 2024-25

Lehman, Eric *

**Principal Somerfeld stated Eric Lehman was incorrectly added to this section and is being hired in another position at Eastgate.*

Non-tenured Staff be Rehired for the 2024-25 School Year and Be Awarded the Status of Tenure:

Olson, Karly

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Allen, Julia	Cranmore, Sarah	Dunlap, Debbie	Ereth, Trina
Gunderson, Sharyn	Hayes, Taylor	Lashway, Michelle	Meeker, Jacquelyn
Smith, Emily	Terry, MaryAnn	Vallance, Dante	Yeary, Melinda

Principal Morris had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Tenured Certified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Arntson, Troy	Brown, Bryanna	Cobb, Jason	Gates,Carolynn
Horne, Cory	McLaughlin, Whitney	Metzger, Kimberly	Murphree, Kaitlyn
Pritchard, Erik	Schoppe, Tamika	Somerfeld, Holly	VanNice,
KevinVanderZanden, Katie	Walsh, Beth	Solan, Kara	

Non-tenured Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Berg, Christina	Cantrell, Jon	Elliott, Andrew	Lance, Sophia
Lampman, Evan	Davis, Lucy	Senecal, Jaicee	Sebestyen, Ray
Purcell, Brooklyn			

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Hines, Jennifer	Lucero, Stormi	Kellerman, Kathryn	Thomas, Beth
McCall, Ember	Palmer, Summer	Valvoda, Teri	

Principal Kessler and Vice Principal Duane Schlabach had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Tenured Certified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Ty Ridgeway	Carson Bender	Jana Nygaard	Cole Bass
Tamika Schoppe	Ashley Torgerson	Sarah Cobb	Victoria Curtiss
Whitney Mitchell	Casey Harris	Jon Moore	Christa Schoenfeld
Marne Bender	Nicole Hash		

Non-tenured Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Rebecca Bergman	Andrew Boedecker	Andrew Elliot	Ethan Hoffman
Tabitha Smail	Anna Spoja	Alex Johnson	Sarah Elliott
Cody Tofflemire	Breanna Humphrey	Amanda Countryman	

Non-tenured Staff Not Recommended for 2024-25

Hope Hamilton	Alex Reid	Patricia Gillet	
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Non-tenured Staff be Rehired for the 2024-25 School Year and Be Awarded the Status of Tenure:

Bret Charlton	JD Ferris	Shelby Holmes	Tyler Murray
Brad Paskey	Riley Sampson	Kelli Kerpa	

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Tammi Daum	Tonya Hauck	Sherylle Ito	Alex Reid
Janie Taylor	Bridget Guerin	Miriam Horner	

Food Service Supervisor Michelle Olds had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Food Service Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Aaron Strong	Dicee Harrison	Joan Lizar	Izabella TwoTeeth
Arlee Hutchinson	Joe Guerin	Karen Chaffins	Blanca Saur
Renee Slocum	Kaydee Strum	Kayla Groat	Kathy Cook
Misty Lockey			

Maintenance and Custodial Supervisor Steve Skains had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Maintenance/Custodial Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Liam Gallups	Michael Sloan	Harold Olson	Kyle Yeary
Rick Krause	Mason Skains	Ken Leistiko	Dave Gamble
Patrick Moore	Dennis Briggs	Laurie Leistiko	

Transportation Supervisor Nick Turner had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Bus Driver Staff Recommendation for 2024-25

Randy Vose
Kelly Allen
Carl Moore

Hank Flatow
Stuart Beagles
Joseph Krall

Lester White
Ralph White
Randy Siemers

Tom Steverson
Doug Hollingshead
Anthony Stenberg

Superintendent Dan Rispens had the following staff hiring recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Administrative Staff recommended for contract renewals:

Gus Somerfeld

Brandon Crusat

Brandon Hansen

Jill Hoogerheide

Jennifer Wiedbusch

Steve Skains

Michelle Olds

Jennifer Cordell

Shaun Murgel

Michael Kemper

Kaylee May

Lynsi Morris

Janice Osborne

Brian Kessler

Nick Turner

Denise Linton

Kaylee May

Oliver Atkinson

Helena School District Enrollment Approval

East Helena School District Students Attending Other School Districts for the Remainder of the 2023-2024 School Year:

Helena

- 9th grade -1
- 10th grade -2
- 11th grade- 2
- 12th grade – 4

Jefferson High

- 9th grade - 1
- 11th grade - 2

Minutes for April 8th were pulled for editing and personnel actions were pulled to correct Eric Lehman and Camryn Beck's approval classification.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the consent action items which include approval of past and current agenda to approve as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the personnel action items as modified at the direction of Superintendent Rispens, Principal Crusat and Principal Somerfeld.

Unfinished Business

Second Reading Board Policies

- 1420 School Board Meeting Procedure
- 2132 Student and Family Privacy Rights
- 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Interventions

- 3110 Students: Entrance, Placement and Transfer
- 3121 Students: Enrollment and Attendance Records
- 5325 Personnel: Breastfeeding in the School and Workplace
- 8121 District Owned Vehicles
- 8132 Activity Trips
- 8502 Noninstructional Operations – Construction and Repairs

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve policies 1420, 2132, 2165, 3110, 3121, 5325, 8121, 8132 and 8502 under second reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Charter School Update

Superintendent Rispens shared information regarding the charter opening process and our planned opening of the 227 Academy in the fall of 2024.

Consideration of Classified Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Classified bargaining committee presented the culmination and highlights from the IBB (Interest Based Bargaining) process. They submitted the draft version of the new collective bargaining agreement for the Board's approval.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the collective bargaining agreement as presented by the classified bargaining committee. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Budget Update and Review – Setting Priorities for 24-25

Chairman Walter asked the public for comments.

Patricia Gillett spoke to the Board regarding the Business class that she is currently teaching.

Morgan Mortieau, Bowen Traynham, Keir Balukas, William Traynham and Zachary Eckhart spoke to the Board about how important the FFA club is to them and reasons why they would like to see it continue at EHPS.

Randy Gillett spoke about the process of selecting programs to continue and priorities regarding which one affects the most students.

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board about the current status of the district budget in light of the recently failed levy election. The Board was asked to help set priorities for ongoing program support if funds are available.

New Business

Certification of the Election

Clerk Hoogerheide reported on the election results for the May 7, 2024 Trustee and Levy Election. Results are attached to the minutes.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to certify the final election results. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Oath of Office for Newly Elected Trustees

Lewis and Clark Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Chaney, administered the Oath of Office to Tyrel Murfitt and Stacy Baird.

Reorganization of the Board

Chairman Walter turned the meeting over to Superintendent Rispens to get nominations for Board Chair.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Balukas to nominate Trustee Walter to be the Chairman of the Board.

Motion by Trustee Diehl seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to close the nomination and appoint Scott Walter as Board Chairman. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Superintendent Rispens turned the meeting over to Chairman Walter.

Chairman Walter called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Balukas to nominate Tyrell Murfitt as Vice chairman of the Board. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Board Committee Appointments

Chairman Walter asked the Board to consider where they would like to serve and the discussion will be made at the next board meeting.

Appointment of the Clerk

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Baird to appoint Jill Hoogerheide as the K-12 East Helena School Board Clerk for the 2024-2025 school year. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Health Insurance Renewal Update

Superintendent Rispens and Clerk Hoogerheide reported about the health insurance renewals and premium costs.

Setting Administrative Staff Salaries

Superintendent Rispens submitted a proposal to adjust salaries for staff not covered by the collective bargaining.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to adjust the salary of the staff not covered by collective bargaining in accordance of the proposal submitted by the Superintendent. Unanimous vote for the motion.

MTSBA Trainings and Opportunities

Chairman Walters shared information for Trustees to consider upcoming training opportunities through the Montana School Boards Association.

Non-resident Student Application Consideration

The Board was asked to consider the applications for non-resident status for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the non-resident applications as currently presented.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to amend the motion to eliminate the sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes from approval of the non-resident applications. Vice Chair Murfitt, Chairman Walter, Trustee Ulmer, Trustee Baird and Trustee Ellermeyer voted Aye. Trustee Balukas and Trustee Diehl voted no. Unanimous vote for the motion as amended.

Non-resident Student Application Denial

This action was no longer needed.

Non-Renewal of Temporary Certified Staff for No Cause, Patricia Gillett, Alex Reid

Superintendent Rispens reported that the two staff members were hired for temporary positions and must re-apply for consideration for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to non-renew Patricia Gillett's contract without cause. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Trustee Balukas , seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to non-renew Alex Reid's contract without cause. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Recommendation for Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff, Hope Hamilton For No Cause.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Baird to non-renew Hope Hamilton for a 2024-25 teaching contract for no cause. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

Special Board Meeting – Disciplinary Hearing will be held May 31, 2024 @ 5:00 PM EVMS Library
The next regular meeting will be held on June 10, 2024 @ 5:30 East Valley Middle School.

Submitted by: Jill Hoogerheide
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

6/05/24
Date

Approved by: Scott A. Walter
Chairman, Board of Trustees

6 | 10 | 24
Date

