

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 April 8, 2024. Chairman, Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, Tristan Ulmer, Marcia Ellermeyer and Martin Balukas, Mark Diehl (5:33)

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: Cole Bass, Marne Bender, Mason Skains, Carson Bender, Mary Smith, Dani Jones, Rebecca Weniger, Dymon Root, Marne Bender, Mason Skains, Eli Brunson, Alden Brunson, Travis Lomahukluh, Connor Stafford, Kristy Brown, Robyn Mohs

Via Zoom: Team Dusenberry, Kari Speicher, Kate Johnson, Michael's phone, Tamika Schoppe

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments

Reports

Student Report

Coach Bender introduced Dymon to talk about the girls' basketball team and how much the program means to her.

Marne Bender and Cole Bass spoke about the EHHS Esports program with a slideshow. Some members of the team spoke about their experiences: 2024 Overwatch State Champions, Tanner, Kaylee and Ayden talked about their experiences this year. 2023 and 2024 Rocket State Champions Travis, Eli and Connor wanted us to know how much they loved the program. Alden the Super Smash Bros state champion for 2023, represented his team and Mason Skains, one of the Esports coaches, spoke about his experience meeting the other coaches and players.

Administrator Report

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported that tomorrow the 8th grade will tour the high school. The EVMS A and B rotations will change for the remainder of the year due to the ACT testing. There is a dance coming up with positive rewards for ten days without a write up and loyalty essays finished.

Radley Principal Gus Somerfeld talked about the new assessment that we will participate in for OPI. At this time of the year, the staff are working on making class lists, schedules and some pre-planning for the 24/25 school year.

Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal Brandon Crusat spoke about the planning for next year. He let us know that our Kindergarten registration numbers are close to last year. The Early Kindergarten screening for LittleLante was finished on Tuesday and they screened 70 students. He felt like the test results provided a lot of information that can be used going forward. The thoughts are to use something similar for future Kindergarten screenings.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper reported that the office referrals have gone down considerably and are more spread out. The first 8th grade celebration parent meeting took place and the last round of enrichment classes are starting up.

EHHS Principal Brian Kessler reported about student achievement. Tomorrow is ACT testing for everyone. Welding took 2nd place in the skills competition and all the participants were offered a scholarship through Helena College for doing such great things. The school is trying next year to become a Unified Champion School to make sure that all kids are included with a focus on Esports.

EHHS Vice Principal Duane Schlabach reported about the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports) and the staff is working on diving deeper into building relationships with students. Office referrals are lower compared to last year and there will be a continued effort to keep office referrals down going forward.

Activities Director, Shaun Murgel reported about the spring activities. He spoke a little about Esports and spoke about our one new bus driver who will help meet the needs of our extracurricular activities.

Director of Information Systems, Brandon Hansen reported about some of the projects that took place over Spring break. The team is looking into the schools' infrastructure with wiring and are reconfiguring some settings. Brandon also spoke a bit about the META conference he and Oliver Atkinson attended. AI was a huge subject and concern at the conference and they plan to focus on making sure EHPS is secure and will be investigating different tools to stay ahead of the trends.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chair Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Chairman Walter spoke about the MTSBA meeting and that COSSBA will be coming to Montana which everyone is looking forward to.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about the bargaining training sessions. Classified will start negotiations tomorrow night and Certified has already had two meetings.

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.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about our enrollment numbers and trying to determine reasons why our enrollments are dropping each month. He also wanted the Board to know that he has received the plans from SMA after some further plans regarding Radley.

Dani Jones asked a question regarding the school enrollments.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- Amanda Small Paraprofessional
- Duane Schlabach EHHS Vice Principal
- DeLane Erickson Custodian
- Vanessa Warner EVMS Art Teacher

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the March 11, 2024 Regular Board

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #49680 - 49755) and (Payroll # 65244-65415)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- Debbie Dunlap Summer School Secretary
- Laura Boltz Summer School Secretary
- Philomena Howard Student Aide
- Anthony E. Stenberg Bus Driver

Helena School District Enrollment Approval

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

- 5th grade – 1
- 9th grade – 1
- 10th grade – 3
- 11th grade – 2
- 12th grade - 4

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Unfinished Business

Discussion of Procedure 3141(P) – Non-resident Student Enrollment Procedures

Superintendent Rispens presented procedure 3141(P) for approval.

Mary Smith had some questions about the procedure regarding priorities for staff children.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Balukas to resort to the original procedure with the section regarding military preference.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to amend the original motion by striking section/bullet six (military preference) from the procedure. Unanimous vote for the amendment.

Vote was called for the amended motion on procedure 3141(P). Trustee Baird, Trustee Ulmer, Trustee Balukas and Trustee Diehl all voted Aye. Vice chair Murfitt, Trustee Ellermeyer and Chairman Walter voted no. The amended motion passed with 4 aye and 3 no.

Consideration of Student Rep on EHPS School Board

Superintendent Rispens reported that he has prepared a student application and procedures for selection of a student rep for an annual term each year. He has also included Policy 1105 for revision and approval.

Dani Jones had a question about Student Council.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the documents and policy 1105 on first reading with the suggested changes. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Charter School Update

Superintendent Rispens provided the Board with an update of the status of public charter schools under HP549.

Election Update and Levy Advocacy

The Board was updated about the candidates who have filed for Trustee positions and the status of the levy request.

Christy Brown had a comment about Superintendent Rispens's clarifications.

Will had a comment about the FFA program.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to direct the Superintendent to advocate for the levy.

FWP Hunter's Education Program Request

Superintendent Rispens reported about the Hunter's Education program and the possibility of bringing it to East Helena.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the use of firearms on school property by Hunter's Ed instructors for demonstration purposes. Unanimous vote for the motion.

New Business

Out of State Travel Request - BPA

The Business Professionals of America group presented a proposal to the Board for approval of out of state student travel to a BPA conference.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the out of state travel request. Unanimous vote for the motion.

New Student Activity Account – EHHS Clay Target Team

Superintendent Rispens spoke about the newly formed group at EHHS who are requesting a Student Activities account for grant deposits and expenditure control.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the EHHS Clay Target Team Student Activity account. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Policy Review -1st Reading:

- 2132 Student and Family Privacy Rights

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the revisions to policy 2132 under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

- 2165 Early Literacy Targeted Interventions

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to adopt policy 2165 under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

- 3110 Students: Entrance, Placement and Transfer

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve policy 3110 with the cross-reference addition under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

- 3121 Students: Enrollment and Attendance Records

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Baird to adopt the revisions to policy 3121 under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

- 5325 Personnel: Breastfeeding in the School and Workplace

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Balukas to adopt the revisions to policy 5325 under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

- 8121 District Owned Vehicles

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to adopt the revisions and clarification language to policy 8121 under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

- 8132 Activity Trips

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the revisions to policy 8132 under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

- 8502 Noninstructional Operations – Construction and Repairs

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to adopt the revisions to policy 8502 under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Policy Review – Policies to Delete per MTSBA

- 2113
- 3100
- 7008

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve deletion of the policies 2113, 3110 and 7008. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Appointment of Representatives for Prickly Pear Cooperative Board

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Board must appoint a representative to serve on the PPC Board each year.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to recommend Superintendent Rispens to serve on the Prickly Pear Cooperative Board as the East Helena Public Schools Representative. Unanimous vote for the motion.

ESSA Report Card Data Report and Update

Superintendent Rispens highlighted some information from the annual report and asked for questions from the Trustees and public.

Consideration of Home Support Services Agreement with A.W.A.R.E

Superintendent Rispens presented a new A.W.A.R.E. service model for delivering mental health services to students in public schools.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the Home Support Services agreement with A.W.A.R.E. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Recommendation for Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured staff, Meghan Patton, for no cause.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the recommendation for non-renewal Meghan Patton. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on May 13, 2024 @ 5:30 East Valley Middle School..

Submitted by: Jill Hoogerheide
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

5/13/24
Date

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

MAY 13, 2024
Date

