

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 February 12, 2024. Chairman, Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, and Tristan Ulmer

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide, Information Systems Help Desk Technician, Oliver Atkinson, and Activities Director Shaun Murgel.

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

Visitors: Kim Metzger, Christina Berg

Via Zoom: Butler, Sonny Tapia, Brandon Hansen, Cole Bass, Kate Johnson, Mary Smith, Jon Cantrell

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments

Reports

Student Report

Christina Berg from EVMS Dungeons and Dragons club reported about the club. She read testimonies from students who are part of the group which were all extremely positive. The students spoke about all of the wonderful friends they have met in the club and all of the fun things they are doing. She also discussed the basics of the club and some of the fundamentals regarding the club's process.

Administrator Report

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported about the Lewis and Clark spelling bee winner at EVMS. She also stated that there has been huge progress since the fall regarding math and reading growth. Admin are looking at areas to alleviate some of the financial strain next year by adjusting classes and teachers if the retiring teachers' positions are not replaced.

Radley Principal Gus Somerfeld referenced the Board report that he had previously submitted. He wanted to clarify some of the items on the report and spoke specifically about math and reading

goals and that they have met their mid-year goals. The staff have been working hard to address some of the goals and feel happy with their progress. This is something that the staff will continue to work on as the school year progresses. Admin are still working on behavior issues and there was a noticeable spike in incidences this month.

Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal Brandon Crusat reported about current registration numbers with Kindergarten and Kinder cubs. He stated that we are showing numbers are high compared to where we were last year. He also spoke about some of the changes regarding selection and the required assessment process for next year.

Vice Principal Michael Kemper reported that the EVMS behavior issues at this time of year are promising. Bus referrals are a little up right now and the team is currently trying to determine the reason. Counselors have started lessons regarding character building to help with some of the behavior issues and building expectations. 8th grade parent night is February 13th.

EHHS Principal Brian Kessler highlighted some student successes. The Speech and Debate team is “rocking”. Wrestling and swimming are doing great and we have many students placing in the competitions. He is enjoying watching the kids compete and have fun. Brian also spoke about the governor coming to EHHS to speak about resources and some of the great things happening at our school. He also wanted to mention that registration for next year is getting close to finishing up.

Vice Principal Duane reported that the current level of referrals is pretty comparable to this time last year. The team is trying hard to shift the out-of-school suspensions to in-school suspensions to keep the students in school as much as possible. This will continue to be a focus for Admin moving forward.

Activities Director, Shaun Murgel reported about some of our sports and how well all the teams are doing. Swimming had only four students and they did really well in their competitions. He referenced all of the links in his previously submitted Board packet and all the resources and opportunities to learn more. Shaun also wanted to give a shout out to how our coaches and trainers responded to some injuries. He felt like they have been doing a stellar job.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chair Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Dan Rispens stated that Tuesday, March 12th is the upcoming bargaining meeting.

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 the Habitat for Humanity meetings that he has attended. The group stressed in the meetings that this was only the first step of the process and they are still planning and envisioning the possibilities going forward.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Kelli Widhalm | Paraprofessional |
| • Victoria Farris | Paraprofessional |
| • Diana McMahon | Teacher |
| • Staci Dawes | Teacher |
| • Lisa Mortieau | Instructional Coach |

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the January 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting January 22, 2024

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #49589-49678) and (Payroll #65083-65243)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Ethan Hoffman | Head Baseball Coach |
| • Lane Snarr | Assistant Baseball Coach |
| • Ron Henze | Assistant Baseball Coach |
| • Casey Gergen | Assistant Baseball Coach |
| • Jon Moore | Head Track Coach |
| • Bret Charlton | Assistant Track Coach |
| • Alex Reid | Assistant Track Coach |
| • Megan Surginer | Head Softball Coach |
| • Jayden Tripp Quinn | Assistant Softball Coach |
| • Cassie Rice-Wetzel | Assistant Softball Coach |
| • Shari Northcott | Assistant Softball Coach |
| • Tom Banks | Head Tennis Coach |
| • Thaddeus Buurkarl | Assistant Tennis Coach |
| • David Gamble | Substitute Custodian |
| • Bridget Royce | Substitute |
| • Robyn Arntson | Substitute |
| • Sabrina Page | Substitute |
| • Katelyn DeYoung | Tiger Program Student Aide |

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

Unfinished Business

Update for Radley Boiler Project

Superintendent Rispens provided the Board updated information about progress in securing additional pledges to help defray the costs of the Radley Boiler Project.

Budget Update – FY 25 Projections Based on Current Information

Superintendent Rispens and Business Manager Hoogerheide presented information to the Board regarding FY25 budget projections in light of Spring Student Count and updated ANB information.

Policy Review – Second Reading

- 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment
- 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules
- 8132 Activity Trips

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt , seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the Board policies under second reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Charter School Status Update

Superintendent Rispens, Mr. Kessler and Ms. Morris provided the Board with an update.

New Business

Indian Education Report

Kim Metzger, District Indian Impact teacher provided an update about Indian Ed activities and IEFA requirements.

Strategic Plan Review and Discussion

Superintendent Rispens asked the Board to consider including language in the Strategic Plan to address the standards for quality education in East Helena.

The Board decided to table the discussion until March to make a final decision and vote on the motion.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to table the discussion until a later date. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Health Insurance Trust Update

Superintendent Rispens and Chairman Walters reported about the Health Insurance Trust Summit in Helena that they recently attended.

Consideration of 2024-2025 School Calendar

The Calendar Committee brought forward a recommendation for the Board's consideration regarding the 2024-2025 academic calendar.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the committee's recommendation and approve calendar option 1 for the 2024-2025 school year. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Consideration of Resolution #236 – Calling for a Mail Ballot Election

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve Resolution 236 calling for a Mail Ballot. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Board Evaluation of Clerk/Business Manager

The Board entered a Closed Session in order to protect the privacy rights of the Business Manager/Clerk.

Chairman Walter adjourned the regular meeting at 8:04 p.m.

The Board exited Closed Session and resumed the Open Session at 8:23 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on March 12th, 2023 @ 5:30 East Valley Middle School..

Submitted by: _____
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

Date

Approved by: _____
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date