

## **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 December 11, 2023. Chairman, Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

#### **Attendance and Introduction of Board Members**

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

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: Stuart Beagles, Randy Siemers, Shana Dachs, Katherine Senecal, Erin Vetsch, Jolette Haas, Mike Vetsch, Keir Balukas, Jillian Haas, Mackenzie Vetsch, Zoe Fromknaecht, Kate Johnson, and Whitney McLaughlin.

Via Zoom: Sonny Tapia, Mary Smith, iphone-YJPVH9PJWL, Kari Speicher, BobMo

#### **Review the Agenda**

No comments

#### **Hear the Public**

Stuart Beagles addressed the Board regarding the bus driver shortage.

#### **Reports**

##### **Student Report**

Students from the EVMS Media and Creation class reported about what they are doing this year. This class is responsible for the year book and a monthly newscast. They showed a video clip of their newscast.

##### **Administrator Report**

Eastgate and Prickly Pear Principal Brandon Crusat asked if anyone had questions or concerns regarding his Board report submitted previously.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris talked about the Shakespeare play they went to see and asked if there were any questions regarding the Board report she previously submitted.

Radley Principal Gus Somerfeld reported about their third grade discipline referrals were the lowest this month when in the past they were always the highest.

Vice Principal Michael Kemper asked if there were any questions regarding his previously submitted Board report and talked a little about the Vigilante Award process. He also reported that vandalism is still a problem and the administration is coming up with strategies to mitigate the vandalism happening in the bathrooms.

EHHS Principal Brian Kessler reported that the Hi-Set option application was approved. Alt program teachers are getting ready to implement it second semester and there are a couple students already interested. Winter Formal was last Saturday and was a big success.

Vice Principal Duane Schlabach asked for any questions regarding his previously submitted board report. He reported that discipline seems to be an issue but continuously working on ways to lower the incidences.

Director of Information Systems Brandon Hansen let people know that there is need for volunteers for the Robotics team. He also asked for any questions.

Activities Director, Shaun Murgel reported about the High School robotics team and other upcoming activities. He wanted to give a shout out to his new Activities Secretary, Janie Taylor.

## Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chair Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

There were no reports.

Chairman Walter updated about MTSBA and the upcoming COSBA Board of Directors meeting coming up.

## Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

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

Superintendent Rispens did not have any new reports.

Chairman Walter inquired about the ASARCO properties and how we are affected regarding the EPA's new cleanup threshold.

## Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

No retirements or resignations to report

## **Consent Action Items**

Minutes of the November 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims # 49465 - 49453) and (Payroll # 64792 - 64939)

### **Personnel Actions**

Recommendation of Employment:

- Caleb Wallis Paraprofessional
- Misty Lockey Kitchen Aid
- Arlee Hutchinson Kitchen Aid
- Gracianna Olds Substitute
- Krist Knutson Substitute
- Stephanie Listoe Substitute

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

## **Unfinished Business**

### **McKinstry Change of Order Consideration**

Superintendent Rispens reported that he has requested a change order with McKinstry to finish the second boiler at Radley. The Treacy Foundation has pledged \$75000.00 towards the project with the offer to assist the District to pursue additional Funding. The Change Order will allow the district to get materials and equipment ordered for the summer 2024 installation.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the \$142,000 Change Order with Mckinstry. Unanimous vote for the motion.

### **Resolution #235 – Obsolete and Unused Equipment – Big Openings**

Superintendent Rispens presented the received bids for consideration.

- Baird Construction - \$20 on the joiner

Motion by Trustee Balukas , seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to accept the bid for \$20 for the joiner by Baird Construction and to authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the remaining obsolete equipment. Stacy Baird abstained from the vote for a potential conflict of interest.

Unanimous vote for the motion.

### ARP/ESSER Plan Update Approval

Superintendent Rispens presented the ARP/ESSER plan for review and update.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the updated plan. Unanimous vote for the motion.

### School Reopening Plan Update Approval

Superintendent Rispens presented the COVID School Reopening plan for review and update.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the updated plan. Unanimous vote for the motion.

### Charter School Application Update

Superintendent Rispens reported about the status of the District's Charter School application.

### Collection of Superintendent's Evaluation

Board Chair Walter asked for any completed paper submissions and also emphasized that they can be submitted electronically to him via email.

## **New Business**

### Social Studies Curriculum Review

Superintendent Rispens reported that the District's Social Studies Committee has reviewed the curriculum and the current state and national standard in order to revise and align our curriculum to current standards.

Katherine Senecal reported that the group included K-12 Instructional Coaches and EHHS admin. The group spent some time revamping the document to include some of the new focuses regarding Indian Ed as well as the current state and national standards. She also distributed the new MT State standards to the Board as she reported that the Social Studies curriculum guide had not been revised since 2000.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, Seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the revised curriculum guide as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

### Social Studies K-5 Materials Adoption

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Social Studies Committee has selected the current social studies materials to be used to continue to support our social studies instruction. The decision to purchase and pay now will save the District thousands of dollars and set us up for success for the 5-year cycle.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt , seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the purchase of the recommended materials. Unanimous vote for the motion.

#### Notice of Intent to Bargain Collectively - EHEA

Superintendent Rispens reported that the District has received notice from EHEA of an intent to bargain a new contract to succeed the current agreement.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Baird to pass a motion directing the Superintendent to notify the Association of the Board's intent to bargain collectively. Unanimous vote for the motion.

#### Notice of Intent to Bargain Collectively - EHESA

Superintendent Rispens reported that the District has received notice from EHESA of an intent to bargain a new contract to succeed the current agreement.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to pass a motion directing the Superintendent to notify the Association of the Board's intent to bargain collectively. Unanimous vote for the motion.

#### MOU for EHESA Members to Work Over School Breaks

Superintendent Rispens presented the request to renew the agreement with EHESA to allow Classified staff the option to work over breaks outside their job classification.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the MOU regarding allowing EHESA members to work over breaks outside their job classification. Unanimous vote for the motion.

#### Policy Review – First Reading

- 1400 Board Meetings
- 1420 School Board Meeting Procedure
- 1511 Code of Ethics for School Board Members
- 1610 Goals and Objectives
- 2320 Field Trips, Excursions, and Outdoor Education
- 3141 Nonresident Student Enrollment
- 3305 Use of Restraint, Seclusion, and Aversive Techniques for Students
- 3410 Student Health/Physical Screenings/Examinations
- 3431 Emergency Treatment
- 5121 Applicability of Personnel Policies and Professional Development
- 5223 Personal Conduct
- 5330 Maternity and Paternity Leave
- 7320 Purchasing
- 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules

- 8125 School Bus Emergencies
- 8132 Activity Trips
- 8210 Procurement Policy for School Food Purchases and Use of Federal Funds
- 1240 Duties of Individual Trustees
- 1520 Board Staff Communications
- 5231 Personnel Records

Policies 3141 and 8132 were pulled for later review.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the Board policies except 3141 and 8132 as amended on first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

#### Consideration of Early Retirement Incentive for Certified Staff

Superintendent Rispens discussed the option of offering an early retirement incentive to Certified Staff.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve offering four early retirement incentives in accordance with the CBA. Unanimous vote for the motion.

#### RFQ for School Pictures Service Providers

Superintendent Rispens reported that our current agreement with Lifetouch will expire this year. We need to solicit qualifications and proposals for a service agreement for school pictures.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Baird to direct the Superintendent to solicit qualifications and proposals from service providers for school pictures. Unanimous vote for the motion.

#### Innovative Education Program Credit Information

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Innovative Education Program Tax Credit provides a direct one for one tax credit for qualified donations.

#### Final Audit Report Review

Clerk Jill Hoogerheide discussed the Audit report.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items**

The next regular meeting will be held on January 8, 2023 @ 5:30 Radley Elementary.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date