

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 November 13, 2023. Chairman, Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Stacy Baird, Martin Balukas, Tristan Ulmer, Marcia Ellermeyer and Mark Diehl (5:38).

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide and Director of Information Systems, Brandon Hansen

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

Visitors: Jason Davis and Mark Ophus from SMA, Oliver Atkinson, Cassie Wosoba, Keeley Bakas, Sonny Silverthorne, Christian Bourne

Via Zoom: Cole Bass, Sonny Tapia, Elizabeth Browning, Kate Johnson, Mary Smith, Butler

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments from the public

Reports

Student Report

Sonny from EHHS Student Council reported about the Student Council Convention and the excellent speakers that taught them how to be better people. They also talked about the food drive this week to help collect food for Food Share. Kathy and Christian talked about the Youth Days in Great Falls. They felt like it was a great experience where they learned many skills and were able to meet new people. They were able to do community service projects. Christian talked about the Kindness Activities and the wonderful outcome.

Administrator Report

Eastgate and Prickly Pear Principal Brandon Crusat reported about House Bill 252. He unfortunately was not chosen to be part of the committee but Dan and him will do a webinar to learn more about it. He can offer any additional information to anyone interested.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported about Parent Teacher conferences and that they had a huge turnout. Lynsi felt like the early communication and their efforts to build relationships helped a lot. She talked about the book fair and December 1st will be the first dance put on by Student Council. The 6th graders will get to go see a basketball game at Carroll College which everyone is excited for. The upcoming SROs vs Teachers basketball game will be on next Wednesday.

Radley Principal Gus Somerfeld reported about his discipline plans (there are quite a large of number of discipline issues with 3rd grade students) and that the staff is coming up with procedures and plans to mitigate the increasing number of incidences. They are hopeful they will be able find a workable solution.

Vice Principal Michael Kemper reported about the EVMS discipline plans. They are seeing a positive correlation to all the work the staff is doing to mitigate the behavior incidences. He also reported about some creative ideas like an alternative to snowball throwing with a creative way for them to throw against a wall instead of at each other. They are not able to report on the EVMS vape detectors yet since they are still calibrating but they hope to have some numbers soon.

EHHS Principal Brian Kessler reported about Parent Teacher Conferences and that it was the best turnout they have ever had. There were roughly 200 to 250 parents each night...many who had not come before. He felt like the staff did a great job of promoting the conferences and had the students more involved. Brian also reported about the MTSS grant support phase 3 (two year) to work on district wide implementation of the tiered support (Behavior, Academic and Engagement). He attended the High School Forum last week and saw some great speakers and interactions.

Vice Principal Duane Schlabach reported about EHHS discipline reports and that in-school suspensions are down. Staff are focusing on positive components, having the students' voices being heard, and encouraging engagement. They are also looking at ways to help the kids quit vaping and coming up with other resources.

Director of Information Systems Brandon Hansen reported that the EHHS vape detectors appear to be working effectively. Brandon introduced his intern Oliver and talked about some of his jobs and duties. He also reported about the enrollment numbers dropping and compared them to previous years. He mentioned some of the reasons regarding the sharp decline in numbers.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chair Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

There were no reports.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

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

Superintendent Rispens reported about a meeting being set up with Gary Oakland the developer for Highland Meadows. He spoke of their future plans and the possibilities of land donations (flood plain property and possibly 7 acres adjacent to our currently owned flood plain property).

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

No retirements or resignations to report

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the October 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #49410-49452) and (Payroll #64621-64791)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- Zerick Richerson -Assistant Wrestling Coach
- Ken Leistiko -Custodian
- Matt Krantz -Tiger Program Teacher
- Dante Vallance -Tiger Program Para
- Patricia Gillette -High School Business Teacher
- Pyper Ereth -Teacher Aide
- Oliver Atkinson -IT Intern

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

Unfinished Business

SMA Facility Master Plan

Representatives from SMA shared an update with the trustees about the FMP process and status with some ideas and cost estimates for additions or new builds.

Policy Review Second Reading

- Policy 2410 – High School Graduation Requirements

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve Policy 2410 on second reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

MCEL Reflections

Board members and Administrators who attended the MCEL Conference in October shared their thoughts and insights about the information presented.

Charter School Application and Approval Update

Superintendent Rispens reported that the District's application was submitted along with 25 others from across Montana. He provided an update to the Board regarding the revised timeline for review and approval.

New Business

Consideration of Prickly Pear Co-op Lease Agreement

Superintendent Rispens reported that Prickly Pear Co-op leases the Miller House from the District for their administrative offices. The lease was due to be renewed in June. He is recommending that the Board approve the two-year lease.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, Seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the lease for the Miller House property with Prickly Pear Co-op. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Notice of Public Meeting – Montana Environmental Trust Group

Superintendent Rispens reported about the upcoming meeting being held by METG on November 15th to update the community on the current Superfund cleanup process.

Zogby Survey Discussion

Superintendent Rispens presented the survey results and summary from the Zogby survey regarding attitudes towards public education.

Resolution 235 – Obsolete and Unused Equip

Superintendent Rispens reported that the district has some textbooks and shop tools that we need to dispose of.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, Seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve resolution 235 to solicit bids for our obsolete equipment. Unanimous vote for the motion.

EHPS Budgetary Update and Projections

Superintendent Rispens shared information with the Board regarding some financial challenges the district may be facing next year.

Distribution of the Superintendent's Evaluation

Chairman Walter mentioned that the Board members have hard copies of the blank Superintendent Evaluation but an electronic version will be sent to the Board members. Chairman Walter mentioned that the written comments would be distributed to the Superintendent but would not be part of the formal written Evaluation.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on December 11th, 2023 @ 5:30 Prickly Pear Elementary.

Submitted by: _____

Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

Date

Approved by: _____

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date