

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EAST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
Monday, October 9, 2023

EAST VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW OF AGENDA

HEAR THE PUBLIC

REPORTS

1. Student Report
2. Administrator Reports
3. Trustee and Committee Reports of the K – 12 Board
4. Strategic Planning- Scan for Future Needs
5. Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting September 11, 2023
- B. Approval of Former & New Warrants
- C. Personnel Actions

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. MCEL Update

NEW BUSINESS

1. Out of District Attendance Approval
2. Policy Review First Reading - Policy 2410
3. Hi SET Application Approval
4. Activity Account Requests - FCCLA and EHHS Concessions
5. Charter School Application Update

ADJOURN

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Regular Meeting – November 13th, 2023 5:30 @ EAST VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Citizen Participation

All citizens are welcome and are encouraged to attend all meetings of the Board. In accordance with Montana Open Meeting Law (2-3-203, MCA) it is required that citizens have an opportunity to address the Board. All Board of Trustees meetings in which a quorum is present shall include an agenda item called 'Hear the Public.' The Board shall adopt the following guidelines for this agenda item.

Hear the Public:

Persons wanting to address the Board of Trustees on items not on the agenda can do so at this time.

- a. Each person may address the Board at the time designated in the agenda by stepping to the front of the room or the podium, giving their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record. Each individual shall limit his/her comments to the Board to three (3) minutes.
- b. All remarks shall be addressed to the Board only and NOT to any member of the Board, staff or audience.
- c. No person, other than the Board and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion either directly or through a member of the Board, without the permission of the Presiding Officer.
- d. No questions shall be directed towards any individuals except through the Presiding Officer.
- e. Under Rules of Order, questions cannot be answered by the Board, only heard. The Board is not under any obligation to respond. It is illegal for the Board to take any action on the comments.
- f. Speakers will not mention specific names of individuals in a public forum due to rights of privacy. Individual attacks will NOT be tolerated.
- g. Comments made by the person addressing the Board do not represent the opinions of the Board, or staff and are only the expressed opinion of the speaker.

Board Meeting Agendas location info:

[Join Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 873 5874 7944 Passcode: STx9Na

Zoom invite:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87358747944?pwd=ZmZ2TmtYZ3lKaTNNSnBDdlptM1lYQT09>

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 October 9, 2023. Chairman, Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, Martin Balukas, Tristan Ulmer, and Mark Diehl (5:42)

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: Stu Rogers, Ashtyn Ridgeway, Brooklyn Bray, Bode Casey, Michael Aakre, Kate Johnson

Via Zoom: Nancy Bailey, Kari Speicher, Mary Smith, KD Jones

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments from the public

Reports

Student Report

Students from EVMS student council reported about MTSS Youth Day and some potential fundraising events for the year.

Administrator Reports

Principal Brandon Crusat reported that at Prickly Pear and Eastgate they have started with the safety drills and have formed a K-2 Safety Committee which includes staff from each building. They are continuing to foster the teacher growth mindset by conducting a Para Academy every Friday to provide additional training and resources. He also reported that he is hoping to become part of an opinion group regarding HB352 group to provide feedback.

Principal Lynsi Morris reported that testing is complete and the EVMS teachers spent an early out developing pre-tests and post-tests to help going forward. The PTO fundraiser is coming to an end and the Learning Labs have started.

Vice Principal Michael Kemper reported behavior writeups are increasing and there is now a different approach to track writeups in Infinite Campus. He wanted to give a big thanks to Carroll College for providing incentives. The Enrichment Program is in full swing and has a high number enrolled.

Principal Brian Kessler reported about College App week with a college application night planned. He also reported about the Homecoming game and dance. The PSAT is this week and the school is hoping to get another Merit Scholarship finalist. EHHS is also excited about the speaker they have secured for Red Ribbon Week.

Vice Principal Duane Schlabach reported that the discipline report office referrals are down compared to last year. He feels like EHHS has done a good job building a positive culture and facilitating good communication.

Director of Information Systems Brandon Hansen, talked about new things we are learning in Infinite Campus and that the 504 writing process is a focus going forward.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chair Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Infrastructure Committee met to review the progress of our current projects and to offer suggestions going forward. He also reported he had good meeting with Booster Club and has plans to meet with PTO. He will be sharing suggestions for solutions presented to the Board in upcoming meeting. The next meeting will not be talking about money or cost estimates but just want ideas of future planning solutions.

Chairman Walter reported about MTSBA and some of the concerns and impacts of the 95 mills levy and MACO's decision. He wanted to emphasize that this was something MTSBA is actively working to address the concerns and possible solutions.

Board Chair Walter also reported about the Federal Advocacy conference by COSBA.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

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

Superintendent Rispens reported that our fall count numbers are down and ANB numbers declined. He stated that facility planning and budgeting for next year will be a challenge. The costs are increasing but our growth won't offset the costs. The high school numbers can be volatile and we are not used to seeing the decline with the elementary students.

Superintendent Rispens wanted to mention possibly contacting MTSBA about some new language in our strategic plan with the new out of district enrollments coming up. He also believes we need to start reviewing our policies and deadlines regarding this subject.

Trustee Baird asked about the process to bring up concerns for Board discussion. She specifically wanted to know what happens when something is mentioned at a Board meeting as a concern. Board Chair Walter mentioned that it always stays on list but sometimes is dealt with in an administrative role.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The following staff resignations have previously been accepted:

- Sydnee Clairmont Secretary
- Laura Helgeson Paraprofessional

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the September 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Chairman Walter asked to pull the minutes for clarification regarding Stacy Baird abstained from the vote. He would like the minutes to state that Stacy Baird abstained from the vote due to nepotism rules with MCA 22-302.

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims # 49273 – 49352) and (Payroll # 64770 -64620)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Taylor Hayes | -Paraprofessional |
| • Hope Hamilton | -EHHS Concessions Manager |
| • Mallory Noem | -HS Student Aide |
| • Ansleigh Held | -HS Student Aide |
| • Kennedy Higgins | -HS Student Aide-Tiger Program |
| • Jordan Murgel | -HS Student Aide-Tiger Program |
| • Andrew Mazanec | -HS Student Aide- Tiger Program |
| • Eric Lehman | -Tiger Program Instructor |

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ● Karly Olson | -Tiger Program Instructor |
| ● Erin Finstad | -Tiger Program Instructor |
| ● Bethany Cathcart | -Tiger Program Instructor |
| ● Julia Allen | -Tiger Program Site Coordinator |
| ● Veronica Rubio-Pratt | -Tiger Program Substitute |
| ● Rachel Beveridge | -Tiger Program Substitute |
| ● Ashley Ferro | -Tiger Program Substitute |
| ● John Henneman | -EHHS Swim Coach |
| ● Kenzie Lombardi | -Assistant Speech & Debate Coach |
| ● Mariah Hurd | -Assistant Speech & Debate Coach |
| ● Kevin Dighans | -Assistant Wrestling Coach |

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the consent agenda as presented with the minutes pulled for clarification. Unanimous vote for the motion.

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

Unfinished Business

MCEL Update

Superintendent Rispens reported on the Montana Conference for Educational Leadership conference being held in Billings October 19th and 20th.

New Business

Out of District Attendance Approval

Superintendent Rispens reported that there are currently some students (17) EHPS resident students attending school in neighboring districts. Since the process requires the Board's approval for non-resident attendance, he presented the pertinent information for the discussion.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, Seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve the non-resident attendance of the 17 EHPS students. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Policy Review First Reading – Policy 2410

Superintendent Rispens asked the Board to add language to the existing policy that will allow our local district to award an EHHS Diploma to students who successfully complete the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) program and meet other standards.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, Seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the policy with amendments as presented on first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Hi SET Application Approval

Superintendent Rispens presented the HI-Set Application for approval. Principal Kessler explained some of the logistics of the process and the hope of keeping the student in school to prevent a drop out status and successfully earn a diploma.

Motion by Trustee Balukus, Seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the application for implementing a HI Set program. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Activity Accounts Requests – FCCLA and EHHS Concessions

Superintendent Rispens presented the request to establish a student activity account for our new Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and a separate account for High School Concessions.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, Seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the requests for the new FCCLA and EHHS Concessions student activity accounts. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Charter School Application Update

Superintendent Rispens discussed a possible application for charter school(s) within EHPS under the auspices of HB 549.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on November 13, 2023 5:30 at East Valley Middle School Library.

Submitted by: Jill Hoogerheide
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

10/10/23
Date

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

Nov. 13, 2023
Date

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