

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 September 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, Marcia Ellermeyer, Tristan Ulmer, Martin Balukas and Mark Diehl (5:38).

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

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

Visitors: Heather Countryman, Eric Lehmen, Samantha Burke, Christa Schoenfeld, Christina Power, Copen Earley, Daniel Shults, Whitney McLaughlin, Patricia Gillett, Robyn Mohs, Rachel Beveridge, Breanna Humphrey, Dani Norling, Bethany Cathcart, Ray Sebestyen, Abby Lynes, Kara Solan, Allison Brown, Cody Tofflemire, Nancy Bailey, Meghan Patton, Sonny Silverthorne

Via Zoom: Kari Speicher, kbutler

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments from the public

Reports

Student Report

Students from EHHS Student Council reported on some upcoming events and the Student Council focuses for the year.

Administrator Reports

The Building Administrators introduced their new employees:

Brandon Crusat (Eastgate and Prickly Pear) introduced Laura Helgeson, Tasha Norman, Trish Gillett, Ray Sebestyen, Allyson Brown, Meghan Patton, Rachel Beveridge, Chrissy Power, and Samantha Burke. Brandon also wanted to give a shout out to Tana for the grant and all the awesome equipment.

Gus Somerfeld (Radley) introduced Julia Allen, Abby Hogue, Kara Solan, Bethany Cathcart, and Eric Lehman.

Brian Kessler (EHHS) introduced Abigail Lynes, Breanna Humphrey, Nancy Bailey, Cody Tofflemire, Dani Norling, Alex Johnson, Alex Reid (as a ½ teacher), Marne Bender (moved to EHHS), Sara Elliott, and Victoria Farris. Brian also wanted to talk about the internship program with the Dept of Transportation.

Duane Schlabach (EHHS) discussed the office referrals program and the Vigilante Star program.

Michael Kemper (EVMS) introduced Ray Sebestyen (sharing with two other buildings), Lucy Davis, Brooklyn Purcell, Jackson Anderson, and Monica Reed (long term subbing for Walsh).

Brandon Hansen (Dir of Information Services) reported about Infinite Campus migration and that he feels like the process is going well.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chair, Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Vice Chair Murfitt and Superintendent Rispens reported about the upcoming Open Community Meeting and the Facilities Meeting.

Chair Walter reported about the recent COSBA meeting.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

Board Chair Walter solicited comments or observations regarding our current strategic plan and planning needs.

Superintendent Rispens talked about the Habitat for Humanity article and some of the plans and projections. He also wanted to point out the Enrollment Summary in the packet and that we are seeing Kindergarten - 5th grade enrollments going down and 6th -12th grade numbers rising. He believes this is something for us to watch and be aware of especially with the open enrollment law coming soon. He also stated that the Early Literacy Bill will allow us to possibly enroll more 4 year olds in the future.

Superintendent Rispens reported that the single boiler at Radley was approved and we might be able to receive some support from the Treacy Foundation for a second boiler. He has submitted a letter of intent and was asked to apply for funding to get a second boiler.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The following staff resignations have previously been accepted:

- Doreen Helfert Paraprofessional
- Angela Adamson Paraprofessional

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the August 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and August 23, 2023 Special Board Meeting
Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims # 49195 - 49262 and Payroll # 64323 - 55559)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- Sydnee Clairmont EVMS Volleyball Coach
- Victoria Farris Paraprofessional
- Talea Wigen Student Aide
- Cassie Goulart Student Aide
- Kadence Davis Student Aide
- Ashley Carpenter Student Aide
- Tucker Petty Student Aide
- Carson Bender EHHS Girls BBall Coach
- Shelby Holmes EHHS Girls BBall Coach
- Troy Arntson EHHS Girls BBall Coach
- Jacee Senecal EHHS Girls BBall Coach
- Ty Ridgeway EHHS Boys BBall Coach
- Bryan Haines EHHS Boys BBall Coach
- JD Ferris EHHS Boys BBall Coach
- Jon Moore EHHS Speech & Debate Coach
- James Chambers EHHS Assistant Soccer Coach
- Lori Schlagel Substitute
- Gina Lytle Substitute
- Melissa Parry Substitute
- Jason Selong Substitute
- Laura Juvan- George Substitute
- Linda Richards Substitute
- Jewel Fox Intramural Soccer Coach

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

Unfinished Business

Second Reading of Board Policies:

- 2410 High School Graduation Requirements
- 3465 Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act
- 7405 Financial Management

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, Seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the policies as presented under second reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Resolution #234 Bid Opening

Superintendent Rispens presented the received bids for consideration.

Cart – Tyrel Murfitt	\$5.00
Cart – Marcia Ellermeyer	\$5.00

Motion by Trustee Diehl, Seconded by Trustee Balukas to accept the bids. Unanimous vote for the motion; Vice Chair Murfitt and Trustee Ellermeyer abstained from the vote.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to allow the district staff to sell or dispose of any remaining items. Unanimous vote for the motion.

New Business

Consideration of Head Wrestling Coach

Superintendent Rispens has asked the board to approve the hiring of Tim Baird for the position of Head Wrestling coach at EHHS.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, Seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the hiring of Tim Baird as the EHHS head Wrestling coach. Unanimous vote for the motion; Trustee Baird abstained from the vote due to the nepotism rules associated with MCA 2-2-302.

MOU with Rural Behavioral Health Institute

Superintendent Rispens reported that the MOU with Rural Health Institute has expired and needs renewal for the continued partnership in support of suicide preventions and youth mental health.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, Seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the MOU with Rural Behavioral Health Institute for a two-year term. Unanimous vote for the motion.

School Based Outpatient Therapy Contract Consideration

Superintendent Rispens presented an agreement to provide ongoing therapeutic services for children at Radley and EVMS who will not be served in the absence of CSCT.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, Seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the contract for SBOT services with Intermountain. Unanimous vote for the motion.

21st Century (Tiger After School Program) Update and Approval

Superintendent Rispens stated that the annual report needs Board approval to operate under grant guidelines.

Heather Countryman, Program Director, reported on the plans for the 23-24 school year. Two sites: Eastgate (K-2) and Radley (3-8) opening on September 18th.

Motion by Trustee Baird, Seconded by Trustee Balukus to approve the Tiger After School Program service plan. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Summer School Report

Superintendent Rispens spoke a little bit about our Summer School program and its growth.

The summer administrators reported on activities and how the program looks for K-12:

Gus Somerfeld reported about the Kindergarten through 5th grade program; specifically about field trips, STEM and STEAM, math, and reading. He felt like things ran smoothly and that the majority of the students showed growth. Program absences seemed to be the main factor for the kids who did not show growth.

Lynsi Morris reported that some of the High School coaches allowed the Radley summer school students to attend activities at EHHS.

Whitney McLaughlin spoke about the 13 middle school students who attended summer school to focus on credit recovery (all were successful). The summer program primarily focused on Indian Ed. within all academic subjects and gave the students an incentive of "no class on Fridays" if all requirements were met. This proved to be hugely successful.

Brian Kessler talked about the 30 students who attended; 25 for credit recovery and 5 students were doing Transformational Learning dual credits. He felt like it was very successful and most of the students (22 out of 25) were able to earn at least 1 credit back (most earned 3).

Natural Gas Contract Approval

Superintendent Rispens reported that he is working on finalizing an agreement for our natural gas contract. Several options were presented.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, Seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to sign a 12 month agreement with Commercial Energy. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Wheelchair Lift Equipped School Bus Purchase Consideration

Superintendent Rispens asked the Board to consider purchasing a school bus to help accommodate the special needs of students.

Motion by Trustee Balukus, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the bus purchase from National Bus Sales in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on October 9, 2023 at East Valley Middle School Library.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted by: Jill Hoogerheide
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

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

OCT. 9, 2023
Date