

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 August 14, 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, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, Marcia Ellermeyer, Tristan Ulmer, and Mark Diehl

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide
Director of Information Systems Brandon Hansen, Athletic Director Shaun Murgel, District Secretary Jen Cordell

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

Visitors: Kim Aarstad, Tim Baird, Mark Ophus, Jeff Davis

Via Zoom: KD Jones, Amy Barton

Review the Agenda

No Comments

Hear the Public

No comments from the public.

Reports

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Board Chairman Walter solicited reports from the trustees and the committees.

Board Chairman Walter discussed the recent MTSBA meeting.

Administrator Reports

Brandon Crusat (Principal Eastgate Elementary and Prickly Pear Elementary) reported his kindergarten numbers at roughly 130 and 1st grade roughly 140. He anticipates the numbers will be even higher for Kindergarten this school year. He also reported on the playground at PPE and that when the staff return, there will be an emphasis on reviewing school safety procedures. He is excited about each schools' structural framework and that they are working hard to ensure all students get additional Tier One support with a specific focus on math this year.

Gus Somerfeld (Principal Radley Elementary) reported that his enrollment numbers are down for this year. He anticipates that they will see an increase in enrollment at the start of the school year. Gus spoke about some of the maintenance projects at Radley; the new sidewalk near the playground and the new asphalt near the basketball courts. The school staff will be working on developing their three main school goals for the 2023-24 school year.

Lynsi Morris (Principal East Valley Middle School) reported on the new basketball court and parking lot. This summer the team built a flex schedule to deal with at risk students and are developing a plan for receiving additional help. She also reported that school enrollment was high and that they needed to move around some elective classes in order to meet all of the needs. Some teachers are teaching multiple classes in order to help with this. Most of the schedule changes effected 8th graders.

Mike Kemper (Vice Principal East Valley Middle School) wanted to give huge kudos to the maintenance staff for the work they did this summer. He also reported about the open house for the upcoming 6th graders on August 28th.

Brian Kessler (Principal East Helena High School) reported about some of the activities that took place over the summer including camps and summer school. He believed that things went well in summer school and the majority of the students met the goals that had been previously established for them. He also spoke a little about some of the conferences he was able to attend this summer and felt that he gained some good information to prepare the team for the upcoming school year. In getting ready for the school year, the Vanguard team was put together. A major goal for the school year will be focusing on increasing school attendance by trying to rebuild the partnership to make school an inviting place. Principal Kessler was especially proud of his AP test results. He reported that 78% of the students that tested received a 3 or higher. Enrollment is continuously increasing with new students every day. There is a BBQ planned for August 26th to welcome back everyone and students will start picking up schedules on the 15th.

Duane Schlabach (Vice Principal East Helena High School) reported about the PVIS committee's effort to create a special logo and what it will look like in the classroom, hallway, restroom, etc. He thinks they should be on the walls by the first day of school. He is also working on the student

handbook with an insert regarding importance of attendance. He also reported that the team is working on practices to better support English language learners.

Shaun Murgel reported that some of the sports teams have already started practice and scrimmaging and the Golf team has already started to compete. He wanted the group to know that the posters with sports schedules will soon be out.

Brandon Hansen reported that he has been focusing on Infinite Campus implementation and data transfers. He has also been focusing on moving to a new internet service, replacing all of the phones in the district and over 100 teacher computers. He has also been creating Infinite Campus training videos to help alleviate stress for teachers and secretaries.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

Board Chairman Walter solicited comments and observations regarding our current strategic plan and needs.

Superintendent Rispens spoke a little bit about the upcoming Habitat For Humanity project that was recently in the news.

Chairman Scott Walter stated we need to start planning for the upcoming changes in tuition July 2024. He will share any information he receives so we can incorporate for this into the District's strategic plan.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The following Staff Resignations have been previously accepted:

- Kyra Gallups Paraprofessional
- Jennalei Wurtele Kiy Instructional Tutor
- Stephanie Higgins Paraprofessional
- Tauron Ferguson Paraprofessional

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the July 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Approval of the August Former and New Warrants (Claims #49105-49194 and Payroll #64115-64322)

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the consent agenda as presented minus the personnel actions. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- Natasha Norman Paraprofessional
- Julia Allen Paraprofessional
- Laurie Leitsko Custodian
- Brooklyn Purcell JV Cheer Coach
- Patricia Gillett Instructional Tutor
- Kathleen Cook Kitchen Aide
- Alex Reid Assistant Football Coach
- Alex Johnson Assistant Football Coach
- Dante Vallance Paraprofessional

Additional Recommendation of Employment

- Abby Hogue Paraprofessional

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the consent agenda as presented with the additional recommendation of employment. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Unfinished Business

SMA Business Planning

A Representative from SMA reported to the Board about their progress so far and the next steps in the process. He spoke about the survey results from the community and the next step will be to conduct community outreach meetings.

Consideration of Heating and Cooling Projects with McKinstry

Superintendent Rispens reported that Jeff and Bob from McKinstry returned pricing for the Radley boiler replacement and that the Infrastructure Committee met and reviewed the options.

Vice Chair Murfitt summarized the Infrastructure Committee meeting and some of the decisions made. The committee made a unanimous decision to move forward with two boilers at Eastgate and one at Radley.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to start the process with the McKinstry contract based on the recommendations from the Infrastructure Committee. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Head Start Lease

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Head Start Lease is up for renewal. The new agreement is for a one-year term.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the Head Start lease for a one-year term. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Second Reading Board Policies

1005FE	Proficiency Based ANB
1006 FE	Fund Transfers for School Safety
1007FE	Multi-District Agreements
1009FE	Teacher Recruitment and Retention
1650	Public Charter Schools
1110	Taking Office
1400	Board Meetings
1700	Uniform Complaint Procedures
2050	Innovative Student Instructions
2132	Student and Family Privacy Rights
2140	Guidance and Counseling
2158	Parent and Family Engagement and Educational Involvement
2167	Correspondence Courses
2168	Remote Instruction from Non-District Sources
2170	Digital Academy Classes
2332	Religion and Religious Activities
2450	Recognition of Native American Cultural Heritage
2600	Work Based Learning Program
3100	Early Childhood Education Enrollment Exceptional Circumstances
3110	Entrance, Placement and Transfer; Entrance, Date and Age
3120	Compulsory Attendance
3121	Enrollment and Attendance Records
3141	Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance Policy
3150	Part-time Enrollment Attendance
3226	Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation/Hazing
3233	Student Use of Buildings: Equal Access
3235	Video Surveillance
3310	Student Discipline
3413	Student Immunization
3510	School-Sponsored Student Activities
3550	Student Clubs
4410	Relations With Law Enforcement and Child Protective Agencies
8301	District Safety

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the policies under second reading as presented in the packet. Unanimous vote for the motion.

MCEL – Planning for Attendance at the MT Conference for Educational Leadership October 18-20 in Billings

Superintendent Rispens reminded the Board members of the statewide MCEL meeting October 18th – 20th in Billings. He asked that anyone planning to attend please contact the District Secretary for registration.

Board went in to recess at 6:50. Board Chair Walter called the meeting back in to session at 6:59 p.m.

New Business

TFS Report Approval

Superintendent Rispens presented the TFS for Fiscal Year 2023 filed by the District Clerk.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the TFS report. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Final FY 24 Budget Approval

Superintendent Rispens presented the proposed budget amounts for fiscal year 2024.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the proposed budget amounts for fiscal year 2024 including permissive levies. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Consideration of Non-Resident Tuition Requests – 6 Kindergarten Students

Superintendent Rispens asks the board to approve the kindergarten non-resident requests for six students based on current resident enrollment.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the non-resident tuition agreements. Unanimous vote for the motion.

First Reading of Board Policies

- 2410 High School Graduation Requirements
- 3650 Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act
- 7405 Financial Management

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer , seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the policies under first reading. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Valley Bank Debit Card Mascot Use Request

Superintendent Rispens reported that Valley Bank would like to use the Vigilantes logo to include East Helena High School into their offered choices of customer debit cards.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the use of the Vigilantes logo version 2 for Valley Bank's Debit Card program. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Resolution 234 – Obsolete and Unused Equipment

Superintendent Rispens presented the resolution for disposal of our obsolete equipment due to the recent upgrade of the phone system and computers.

Motion by Trustee Baird , seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve resolution 234 to solicit bids for obsolete and unused equipment. Unanimous vote for the motion.

EH Wrestling Club Lease Renewal

Superintendent Rispens stated that the EH Wrestling Club Lease Agreement for the storage garage at Eastgate Elementary is up for renewal.

Chairman Walter asked Trustee Baird to state her connection to the EH Wrestling Club. There were no objections from the Board and they did not believe she needed to excuse herself from the vote.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the lease agreement with the EH Wrestling Club for the rental of the garage. Unanimous vote for the motion.

CSCT update

Superintendent Rispens offered an update of district services offered through CSCT and some of the challenges we are facing regarding servicing our students' mental health needs.

Summer Maintenance and Improvement Report

Superintendent Rispens reported about the summer projects.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on September 11, 2023 at East Helena High School

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by: Jill Hoogerheide
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

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

SEPT. 11, 2023
Date