

Minutes

Regular Meeting Of The East Helena Board Of Trustees, East Helena

School District NO. 9

Call to Order: The East Helena School Board held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023. Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

In Attendance: Scott Walter, Board Chair, Tyrel Murfitt, Vice-Chair, Dan Rispens, Superintendent. Trustees: Marcia Ellermeier, Martin Balukas and Stacy Baird. Principals Brian Kessler, Brandon Crusat, Gus Somerfeld and Lynsi Morris, Vice Principals Duane Schlabach and Michael Kemper. Director, Information Systems Brandon Hansen and District Secretary, Jen Cordell

Trustee Mark Diehl arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Visitors: Whitney McLaughlin, Mary Smith, Denise Feller. Online Participants: K. Butler, KD Jones, Patti McLean, Jill Richards, Kate Johnson, Crystal Thompson, Chris & Stacy Baird and Katy Hauer.

Hear the Public: No one addressed the Board

Administrator Reports: Chairman Walter invited the Administrators to report to the Board

Principal Kessler reported that exciting things were happening at East Helena High. The graduation ceremony fit as many people as possible in the building. Mr. Kessler expressed special thanks to the counselors, custodians and secretaries for all of their help and hard work to make the evening special. The OPI accreditation meeting was an exciting afternoon. To have the Board grant full accreditation status for the District was a long anticipated goal, as well as the positive reports about community involvement. Chairman Walter congratulated the high school admin team for the phenomenal job with the graduation ceremony. The Trustees reiterated his thoughts.

Vice Principal Schlabach went over his report for the Trustees. He stated that the lowest office referrals all year were in May. Though fewer referrals, they were heavier.

VP Schlabach showed the logo to be used next year. "Be a Graduate" was enlarged for emphasis. East Helena High received a \$10,000 grant for tobacco use prevention. Schlaubach explained to the Board how the money will be spent. A big piece of this program will give students help to quit vs suspension. Trustee Baird asked if the grant was just for vaping and if coaches would have the opportunity to be trained for NARCAN. Coaches training for NARCAN? And such for travel and such. EHPS will make that happen. East Valley Middle School Principal Morris reported that May was a very busy month. 3 band concerts, underground spirit week, the graduate walk and 8th grade fun day were some of the

month's activities. She relayed that the test scores were all over. Her next mission is to work over the data and find new strategies while also implementing what has been working to improve all around scores.

Vice Principal Kemper gave the behavior report for the month of May. Although generally pretty consistent with the year, there were more escalating behaviors. He spoke about the academic incentive games and rewards like kickball with himself and Principal Morris. VP Kemper also stated they had about 60 students per grade level who had earned rewards. They are emphasizing core values that are more than just a name: Everyone gives respect; Value education; Make responsible choices; Strive to be kind.

Principal Crusat reported that the students enjoyed the grad walk. The younger students did not fully understand but still enjoyed seeing the older students. He went over his Board report and stated that there is a lot to celebrate in his buildings. Looking at the data from testing there are things to work on next year and plans to hit the ground running. Last week during kindergarten screening, he and his staff got to meet new kiddos and parents who will be coming into the District next year. Chairman Walter asked about the jump in discipline issues at Prickly Pear Elementary. Crusat explained the correlation between anxiety in many students with summer break approaching and discipline issues.

Question from Denise Feller-Would volunteers on the playground be helpful?

Principal Crusat- This is a possibility, additional adults in proximity of groups of students will help defuse potential incidents.

Principal Somerfeld went over his Board report for the Trustees. SBAC stayed at a stagnant rate but positive compared to the rest. Overall, the team will take what they did well and focus on making improvements. May was a busy month at Radley with both discipline issues and fun events. There were 46 serious discipline referrals. Strong interventions have helped and they have made great progress in adjusting the afternoon recess where there are issues.

The first ever Radbration sports centered event was held. There were 25 areas in which to participate. It was a fun way to celebrate the end of the year. Somerfeld gave a shout out to the PTO for funds provided to make the Radbration a success. 15 Radley students received the Presidential Award from the Department of Education.

Brandon Hansen reported that he will take advantage of empty classrooms to get work done. The new internet service will be in place July 1, 2023. He said if he's learned anything, summer is not as long as it seems!

Trustee and Committee Reports of the Board:

Chairman Walter reported that the Infrastructure Planning Committee is working on district wide recommendations to present to the Board. Superintendent Rispens informed the Board that SMA has put out a survey to the Staff and Community and that postcards will be sent out as well. Chairman Walter also spoke about the MTSBA meeting.

Strategic Planning- Scan for Future Needs:

Superintendent Rispens reported on the progress with the Greenway Trails on PP Creek near the Kleffner Ranch. The trail concept is to connect East Helena, Helena and Montana City for community use. He reported that wildlife and wetlands are very nice and the plan is to open to the public in the spring 2024. The agreement was for the East Helena School District to eventually take over care of the Greenway and use it for outdoor classrooms and such. Rispens also walked the Grove Trails and saw the flood damage this past week. There is work to be done to repair the damage.

Superintendent Rispens reported that he had recently accepted the following resignations:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| i. | Taylor Stipcich | -Elementary Teacher |
| ii. | Kim Powell | -Kitchen Aid |
| iii. | Victoria Kraft | -Kitchen Aid |
| iv. | Angela Huschka | -High School Business Teacher |
| v. | Dante Vallance | -Paraprofessional |
| vi. | Alyssa Weber | -Paraprofessional |
| vii. | Elizabeth Clarkson | -High School Math Teacher |

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting May 8, 2023
- B. Approval of the May former and new warrants (Claims # 41386 - 41476 and Payroll # 63455 - 64036)

Motion: by Trustee Ellermeyer Marcia to approve the Minutes and Warrants as presented.
seconded by Trustee Diehl

Motion Carries

Recommended Employment of Staff

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • Laura Helgeson | -Paraprofessional |
| • Abigail Lynes | -High School Teacher |
| • Samantha Burke | -Elementary Teacher |
| • Sydnee Clairmont | -HS Summer Program Secretary |
| • Lucy Davis | -HS Summer Program Paraprofessional |
| • Tonya Hauk | -HS Summer Program Paraprofessional |
| • Jon Moore | -HS Summer Program English & Social Studies |
| • Richard Leistiko | -Custodian |
| • Cody Tofflemire | -HS Teacher |
| • Kelly Allen | -Summer School Bus Driver |
| • Steve Allen | -Summer School Bus Driver |
| • Amanda Small | -Paraprofessional |
| • Ray Sebestyen | -Counselor pending issuance of a MT teaching certificate |

- Lucy Davis -SPED Teacher pending issuance of a MT teaching certificate
- Meghan Patton -Elementary Teacher
- Jennalei Kiy -Instructional Tutor
- Tyler Murray -Head Football Coach
- Troy Arntson -Assistant Football Coach
- JD Ferris -Assistant Football Coach
- Riley Sampson -Assistant Football Coach
- Drew Boedecker -Assistant Football Coach
- Jeff Darling -Head Soccer Coach-Girls
- Nikki Odegard -Assistant Soccer Coach-Girls
- Troy Zeeman -Head Soccer Coach-Boys
- Dawes Elwood -Head High School Cross Country Coach
- Sean Thatcher -Head Golf Coach
- Karla Layson -Head High School Volleyball Coach
- Tammi Daum -Assistant High School Volleyball Coach
- Alex Johnson -High School Summer School Math Teacher
- Joshua Jopling -JROTC Instructor
- Sarah Elliott -Special Education Teacher
- Eric Lehman -TLC Teacher
- Erin Finstad -ELE Robotics Coach
- Jewel Fox -ELE Robotics Coach
- Tabitha Smail -High School Robotics Coach
- Cody Tofflemire -HS Summer School Program Science
- Audrey Howard -Middle School Summer Program Teacher
- Bret Charlton -Middle School Cross Country Coach
- Shelby Holmes -Middle School Volleyball Coach
- Jen Hager -Middle School Boys Basketball Coach
- McKenzie Heidinger -Middle School Boys Basketball Coach
- Alesha Ayers -Middle School Girls Basketball Coach
- Sophia Lance -Middle School Girls Basketball Coach
- Troy Arntson -Middle School Track Coach
- Tricia Haines -Middle School Track Coach
- Nikki Odegard -Middle School Track Coach
- Breanna Humphrey -Part-time High School English

Superintendent Rispens informed the Board of the new personnel actions for the month. He reported that Rori Schoenfeld and Taylor Field will be joining the EHPS summer maintenance crew and Denise Linton will be joining the central office team as the substitute/accounts payable clerk.

Motion: by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the personnel actions.

Seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer

Motion Carries

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Legislative Advocacy Update:

Superintendent Rispens reported on the Health Insurance Bill for School Districts.

Look into the MTSBA policy to see what our options are with HB332

The open enrollment policy is also something that the Board will need to address in the near future. 21st Century Grant Notice of Award; Rispens reported about the reapplication process. \$93,00 has been awarded to the District. The amount is less than in years passed, but doable with our Tiger Program that this grant funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Vigilante Day:

Superintendent Rispens reported that this issue has been debated before. There are some families upset that this day is an attendance day for our students. The Principals reported a 40-70 percent absentee rate this year on Vigilante Day. Rispens had 5 responses from parents asking to please schedule as a non attendance day so their families can attend. The Superintendent met with the Helena Administration to see if EHHS could participate in the parade with HHS and CHS. We could then consider it an attendance day. Based on that conversation, it probably won't be a possibility.

Denise Feller- Surprised we aren't participating, it is the biggest parade around, almost in the entire State. She will get a group to call the Helena Superintendent to lobby for EHPS participation.

Motion: by Trustee Murfitt to adopt the revised calendar as presented, seconded by Chairman Walter.

The motion was made so the issue couple be discussed per School Board Meeting Rules.

Trustee Murfitt spoke and relayed that while he understands, we are a different school district and are trying to make our own traditions.

Trustee Ellermeyer stated that she struggles too. The history and importance of this day is huge and she understands both sides.

Trustee Balukas referenced the Superintendence response.- Dan wrote a thoughtful response, we weren't invited to participate but if you want to go that's wonderful, I respect that. If we were invited that would be different, our kids could participate.

Trustee Diehl- There is lots of history with the Vigilante parade. I participated and won lots of stuff. We also have a long history of trying to create our own identity and traditions. The Community has spoken about if they want to be Helena or East Helena.

Principal Somerfeld stated that he agrees with the stance of go if you would like to go but he ran into 2 staff members who couldn't go because of the personal days being closed as the district was at the limit for that day.

Principal Kessler stated that the key point would be if our kids are invited there is potential to be a part of the parade.

Trustee Ellermerys replied that while she respects everyone's opinion and knows it's a big deal, unfortunately, the result of separating from Helena is a little painful and sad to let some of these things go.

Mary Smith- What is the tradeoff? Is attendance the concern? If we add a day at Christmas, what about families traveling for the Holidays?

Chairman Walter called for a vote to change the calendar as presented.

Favor to change- none; Opposed -all

Motion Fails

Summer School Program Reports K-11

Superintendent Rispens reported that EHPS has a robust summer program for our students. Administration duties are being shared. K-5 Admin are Gus Somerfeld and Lynsi Morris and that will be held at PPE. 6-12 are Brian Kessler and Whitney McLaughlin and that will be held at EHHS. Somerfeld reported 112 students are signed up right now. The structure is morning instruction and the afternoon focus will be writing, arts and STEM activity. Field trips will be on Thursdays and on Friday's there will be Swim Lessons. Free meals for lunch and breakfast are also provided in the program.

Kessler reported 50 kids are enrolled in the summer school program. Online programs are not always successful so he has hired teachers for the program for face to face instruction. The structure is 3 , 2 hour blocks. He is hopeful the new schedule will bring more success for the students.

McLaughlin reported there are 17 kids middle school students signed up right now. They have 1 lead teacher and a para. The instruction day will be from 8-2 with 4 cores. The structure will look like a one room school house with small groups and an added incentive to promote good attendance- Fridays off.

After School Program Report:

Superintendent Rispens presented a slide show to the Board for the Program Director, Heather Countryman. The biggest challenges faced this year were staffing issues. High school kids were hired to help out. Radley and Eastgate both had Family Engagement Nights that were very successful and fun.

The program provides a safe place for younger kids after school plus academic support to help out families. This is all achieved through the 21st Century Grant.

Trustee Baird-if the District is not getting as much or the previous amount awarded in the grant, do we need to charge families a fee?

Rispens-Not allowed to charge with this grant. We'll have to scale back to manage that. We have submitted for an additional \$10,000 that must be spent this summer and we are looking to hire counselors or nurses for mental health support over the summer.

Approval of Age Exception Kindergarten Enrollment Under Policy 3100:

Superintendent Rispens alerted the Board that there was a typo in the packet. There are 21 potential students at this time, not 34. Only 1 KinderCub section is planned at this time.

Motion: by Trustee Baird to approve the enrollment of 34 students 2 sections under the age exception provisions of policy 3100; seconded by Trustee Diehl

Motion carries

Setting Fees for the 23-24 School Year Dan explained the changes included in the packet as well as tuition and the new law.

Rental fees and staff pay for 2023-24:

Copies	\$0.15/page
Tuition Elementary	\$200*
Tuition Middle School	\$300*
Tuition High School	\$400*
Student Breakfast	\$1.50
Student Lunch	\$3.00
Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30
Reduced Lunch	\$0.40
Milk -Single Carton	\$0.40
A La Carte	\$1.00
Adult Breakfast	\$2.00
Adult Lunch	\$4.30
Headstart Breakfast	\$1.90
Headstart Lunch	\$3.30
Headstart Snack	\$1.00
After School Snack	\$1.00
Substitute (Certified)	\$130 to start; \$145* with minimum service
Substitute (Non-certified)	\$120 to start; \$135* with minimum service
Technology Use Fee	\$10.00
<u>Classified substitute pay (hourly)</u>	
Tutor	As per sub pay above
Kitchen Aide 1	\$13.90*
Bus Driver	\$17.90*
Custodian	\$15.90*
Kitchen Aide II	\$13.65*
Paraprofessional	\$14.90*
Secretary	\$16.65*
Interpreter	As per substitute pay above
Teacher hourly compensation	\$23.00
Student Activity Pass	\$30
Adult Activity Pass	\$50
School Day Driver's Ed (Drive option)	\$50

After School/Summer Driver's Ed	\$200
Facility Fees:	
Elementary/Middle School Gym	\$20/hour
EHHS Gym	\$50/hour
Classroom	\$12/hour
Cafeteria	\$12/hour
Athletic Fields/Courts	\$12/hour
Turf Athletic Field - All Services	\$400/hour
Turf Athletic Field simple game/practice	\$150/game/practice*
All weather track - Timing Services	\$200/Meet*
All weather track simple practice/meet	\$100/practice meet*

(Facility use rentals are charged half the regular rate when 25% or more of the involved students are enrolled EHPS Students)

(A custodial overtime rate of \$30/hour* will be applied to facility rentals that occur at any time custodians would not be regularly scheduled to work.)

*indicates change from 22-23

Motion: by Trustee Murfitt to approve the fees for the 2023-2024 School year seconded by Trustee Balukas.

The Board discussed the changes and reasoning for the increases.

Motion carries

Online question- will families have to pay a tuition fee if they move outside of the district but want to remain at EHPS. Superintendent Rispens- yes

Non resident Student Application Approval for Continuing and New Applicants Grades 1 - 12.

Motion: by Trustee Balulas to approve the out of district requests as presented; seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer

Motion carries

Notification of Health Clinic Vacancy and Lease Termination:

Dan reported he's been working with the head of Purview, Justin Murgel.

Having a clinic in the community was a priority for the Board in the past.

Reasons why the clinic is not thriving include: Parents who work in Helena are closer to their physician there. Pre release center clients are not allowed near the school and the clinic is on school property. Many folks do not know where the clinic is located.

Purview would like to take some time and reevaluate but the lease is very specific and the building cannot be vacant for 30 days. Purview has chosen to vacate and now the District will need to decide what to do with the building.

Superintendent Rispens suggested waiting and seeing what SMA says when they are done with their facility improvement reports.

Chairman Wlatter explained the clinic came from the strategic planning committee for the community as well as the school district. He stated that life changes and he is not against moving forward in a different direction but not right away as the setup has worked well in Great Falls. Trustee Baird added that another provider might be beneficial to EHPS in that space. Trustee Ellermeyer suggested looking into other providers for the health clinic. Trustee Murfitt said the facilities review will be helpful in making a decision.

Denise Feller- Would an ambulance take folks to the clinic?

Superintendent Rispens- probably not, it was supposed to be a walk in clinic.

Denise Feller- I didn't know it was there, it wasn't advertised well.

High School Graduation Policies and Diploma Structure Review and Approval - Policy 2410 and Procedure 2410P

Superintendent Rispens reported what neighboring districts are doing as far as graduation credit requirements and posting that information in their Board Policy and Student Handbooks.

Principal Kessler explained the process of getting to the number of credits and how the school leadership team came up with proposed changes and level type of diploma.

EHHS is currently at a 22 credit requirement, which is more than the State requires.

The proposed changes are as follows:

Traditional Diploma 23 credit requirement.

Advanced Diploma 25 credit requirement

Montana Diploma 20 credit option

Trustee Murfitt asked about the implementation plan and how that will look

Principal Kessler explained what the year will look like and answered the question for the Board.

Motion: by Trustee Balukas seconded by Trustee Murfitt

To adopt the graduation requirements procedure in 2410P and the diploma changes as presented.

Motion carries

Approval of Bus Routes for 2023-24 as presented:

Motion: by Trustee Balukas to approval the bus routes for 2023-24 as presented Marcia seconded by Trustee

Trustee Baird asked about high school students riding the shuttle bus.

Superintendent Rispens replied high school students are not shuttled.

Trustee Balukas asked who do parents call to get on a route or to make a change.
Superintendent Rispens replied that they can call the District Secretary, Jen Cordell and she will put them in touch with Nick Turner, Transportation Supervisor.

Motion carries

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Special Meeting June 27th, 2023 5:30 PM @ EVMS

Regular Meeting – July 10th, 2023 5:30 @ EVMS

Submitted by:

J. Cordell
District Secretary, Jen Cordell

6/12/23
Date

Approved by:

Scott A. Walter
Chairman, Board of Trustee

JULY 10, 2023
Date