

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 January 9, 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, Trustees Stacy Baird, Mark Diehl, Martin Balukas and Marcia Ellermeyer Superintendent Dan Rispens and Clerk Kim Aarstad.

Principals: Duane Schlabach, Lynsi Morris, Michael Kemper, Brandon Crusat, Brian Kessler & Gus Somerfeld. Athletic Director, Shaun Murgel and Technology Coordinator, Brandon Hansen.

Visitors: Kate Johnson, Camy Dusenberry, Stuart Beagles, Dan Carlin, Sarah Cobb, Kendra Elgen, Belle Surginer, Paige Clayton, Dru Lindsey, Isabella Williamson, Aryane Schiller and Krystain Higgins.

Visitors on Zoom: Catherine Hansen, Katy Hauer, Kari Speicher, KD Jones, Tamika Schoppe and Crystal Thompson.

Review the Agenda

Hear the Public

Stuart Beagles, EHPS Bus Driver, discussed the bus driver's salary.

Dan Carlin, Lewis & Clark County Engineer, reported that work on Valley Drive will begin on March 25, 2023.

Reports

Principal & Technology Reports

Principal Somerfeld reported that the 2022-2023 school year marked a Science Curriculum review, and recommendations will be presented to the Board soon. Student of the month assembly was held 1/9/2023 and the office only received 17 office referrals in December.

Principal Crusat reported that the winter adult ed classes will begin soon. Kindergarten enrollment has begun and as of today there are 109 children registered for the 2023-2024 school year. Staff is working on getting a schedule built for the 2023-2024 school year, and Mr. Crusat presented the monthly behavior report.

Principal Morris reported that several concerts were held in the month of December. EVMS held an end of the trimester awards assembly for students in EVMS. Girls Basketball tryouts just finished last week, and the 8th grade ski trip was a great success.

Vice Principal Kemper reported on discipline issues at EVMS and reported how the district is working with students to address their positive behavior, student enrichment classes are starting this week.

Principal Kessler reported that staff was working on the 2023-2024 school curriculum. The CTE Curriculum is also marked for review in the 2022-2023 school year. EHHS registration will not begin until March. Valedictorian and salutatorian for the 2023 school year will be announced at the February board meeting.

Vice Principal Schlabach reported on the discipline issues on EHHS and discussed the three tiers of the Behavior and roles for EHHS students.

Athletic Director Shaun Murgel, reported that winter sports is going strong, Carson Bender reported that the EHHS Girls basketball team is currently 3rd place in the SW conference.

Brandon Hansen reported that he has been busy working on the implementation of Infinite Campus.

Student Report

Sarah Cobb, National Honor Society Advisor, introduced Belle Surginer, Paige Clayton, Dru Lindsey, Isabella Williamson, Aryane Schiller and Krystian Higgins. These students updated the Board on the EHHS National Honor Society.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Chairman Walter reported that he was able to attend a national board for COSSBA, and at that meeting he was appointed as a member of the Board.

Strategic Planning - Scan for Future Needs

Superintendent Rispens reported that student enrollment has decreased in the last few months.

Notifications of Retirement and Resignations

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

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|
| i. | Ryan Jorgenson | - Bus Driver |
| ii. | Richard Adamson | - Teacher |

Consent Action Items

- A. Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.
- B. Approval of the January former and new warrants (Claims #- 46983 - _____) and Payroll # 62621 - _____).
- C.. Personnel Actions - Recommendation of employment

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| i. | Kelly Clavin | - Tiger Program Instructor |
| ii. | Kennedy Higgins | - Tiger Program Student Aide |
| iii. | Jordan Murgel | - Tiger Program Student Aide |
| iv. | RaeAnna Schnittgen | - Tiger Program Student Aide |
| v. | Stephanie Higgins | - Tiger Program Site Coordinator |
| vi. | Erin Finstad | - Tiger Program Instructor |
| vii. | Makala McDonough | - Tiger Program Instructor |
| viii. | Karly Olson | - Tiger Program Instructor |
| ix. | Ashley Stafford | - Tiger Program Paraprofessional |
| x. | Veronica Rubio Pratt | - Tiger Program instructor |
| xi. | Rachel Beveridge | - Tiger Program Site Coordinator |
| xii. | Anna Reiff | - Tiger Program Substitute |
| xiii. | Alex Johnson | - High School Math Teacher (Interim) |
| xiv. | Tauron L.Ferguson | - Paraprofessional PPE |

Trustee Walter asked that the consent action items be voted on separately because of possible changes.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the Board meeting minutes as amended. Unanimous vote for the motion

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the January claims as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the personnel actions as presented as amended. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Unfinished Business

Legislative Advocacy Update

Superintendent Rispens and Chairman Walter updated the Board on current bills and events relating to education at the Montana Legislature.

New Business

Electric Bus Update

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board on the status of the district's new electric bus, which was ordered from Lion Electric.

Emergency Authorization Update

Principal Kessler reported the EHHS had an open math position and reported the district was able to staff the position through the Montana OPI Certification Bureau.

Request to Establish Student activity Account - JROTC

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Balukas to establish a student activity account for the JROTC program. Unanimous vote for the motion.

MHSA Proposals and Representation for 2023

Athletic Director, Shaun Murgel, discussed proposals that will be presented to the MHSA membership for 2023.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Baird to appoint Brian Kessler and Shaun Murgel to represent EHPS at the annual MHSA meeting. Unanimous vote for the motion.

RFQ for Possible HVC replacement upgrades in East Helena School District

Superintendent Rispens presented an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) that will be published in the January newspaper. The District will consider a Design-Build team to work with EHPS to review some possible HVAC upgrades in the district.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the RFQ for publication. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Request for permission - JROTC Air Rifle Storage on the EHHS Campus

Superintendent Rispens requested approval to store the JROTC Air Rifles on the EHHS Campus.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Diehl to Allow the JROTC to store the Air Rifles on EHHS Campus. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Safe Return to School Plan

Superintendent Rispens presented the Revised Safe Return to School Plan for Board review and public comments. Possible changes to the plan is that the district is not doing remote learning for K-5, only 6th-12.

Motion by Trustee Balukas seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the revised plan after board and public comment. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Consideration of MOU with EHESA

Superintendent Rispens presented a MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) for a 1 year contract extension and pay adjustments for classified staff.

Trustee Diehl reported that the Sub Committee met and unanimously approved the MOA as presented.

Motion by Trustee Balukas , seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the MOA as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

EHESA will be voting on the MOA on 1/11/2021. If approved it will take effect on January 11, 2023.

ARP Plan Review

Superintendent Rispens presented a revised American Rescue Plan for Board and public comment

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve the revised plan after Board and public comment Unanimous vote for the motion,

School Board Evaluation of the Superintendent

Chairman Walter adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Chairman Walter called the meeting back into session at 7:51 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to offer Superintendent Rispens a 1 year extension on his three year contract. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Future meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on February 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Eastgate Elementary.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by: Kim Aarstad
District Clerk, Kim Aarstad

Approved by: _____ Date _____
Chairman, Board of Trustees