

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, East Helena
School District #9

Call to Order: Trustees of School District No. 9 held a meeting on June 13, 2022.

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chairman Tyrel Murfitt, Trustees Marcia Ellermeyer, Stacy Baird, Martin Balukas, Mark Diehl and Superintendent Dan Rispens.

Principals: Brenda Stoltz, Brandon Crusat and Gus Somerfeld

Vice Principals: Duane Schlabach and Information Systems Director, Brandon Hansen

Visitors: Kate Johnson, Adrienne Simonson, Officer Stoltz, Deputy Turpin, Officer Wright, Sherriff Dutton and Tami Daum

Zoom: Kim Aarstad, Krista Swindell, Brian Kessler, Lynsi Morris, Shaun Murgel, Megan Surginer and Robyn Mohs

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:31

Review the Agenda

Hear the Public No one addressed the Board

Reports

Principal Report

Principal Crusat gave a recap of his Board Report and added that there was a lot to celebrate

Principal Somerfeld reported that he and his staff are working together with a common plan to tackle the student needs. He reported that although the testing data doesn't reflect as highly as it could, during the awards assembly on the last day of school, there were 17 students who received a Presidential Award. This award is a Nationally recognized and signed by the President of the United States.

Principal Stoltz Reported that the Pandemic did some damage as far as the testing scores but they are holding their own. She reported on the 8th grade graduation and the end of the year activities at the middle school.

Principal Kessler reported that there is a lot happening at the high school. Training, credit recovery, summer workouts and community activities. He reported that staff and parents have met and begun the process of planning out awards, valedictorian and salutatorian requirements and the graduation details for our students.

Vice Principal Swindell went over her Board report and stated that May was a busy time for discipline issues. She reported that some of the increase in ISS (In School Suspension) was because of students having to make up their time before the end of the year.

Vice Principal Murgel went over his Board report and stated that the spring sports teams had made a lot of progress over the last year. He talked about the new sidewalks being put in and the new press box and concession stand that will be ADA compliant.

Brandon Hansen reported that there is currently a crew of 8 people working on updating the bells and paging systems. He has 500 new Chromebooks and a lot of cleaning up and updating planned for the summer.

Student Report There was no Student Report

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

No Committee Meetings were held.

Chairman Walter reported that there was a June 9, 2022 MTSBA meeting and he has been selected as the President of MTSBA. He stated that he is looking forward to the challenge and feels that the position will be helpful to our School District as well.

Strategic Planning-Scan for Future Needs

Superintendent Rispens reported that the next LTIC (Long Term Infrastructure Committee) will be held in August when more accurate enrollment numbers are available.

Chairman Walter reiterated that it is the policy of the EH Board of Trustees to ask for input on how to improve our plan at every regular Board meeting.

Notifications of Retirement and Resignations

Superintendent Rispens reported that he has accepted the following resignations:

Kristin Fuhrman	-Paraprofessional
Mary Thompson	-Paraprofessional
Cali Cook	-Paraprofessional
Krista Swindell	-EVMS Vice Principal
Katy Hauer	-2nd Grade Teacher
Kayla Groat	-Kitchen Aide
Tasha Dearborn	-EHHS Math Teacher
Brooklyn Bennett	-EVMS Art

Vice Principal Swindell thanked the Board for the opportunity and experience with the District.

Consent Action Item

- A. Minutes May 9, 2022, March 14, 2022, April 28, 2022
- B. Approval of the June former and new warrants (Claims 47669-47767 Payroll 60874-61680)
- C. Personnel Action

Recommended Employment of Staff

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • Jonathan Cantrell | -Middle School Band |
| • Troy Arntson | -Middle School Track /EHHS Football Coach |
| • Tricia Haines | -Middle School Track Coach |
| • Nikki Odegard | -Middle School Track/EHHS Soccer Coach |
| • Gage Vermillion | -Middle School Track Coach |
| • Hailey Carpenter | -Middle School Track Coach |
| • Makayla McDonough | -Middle School Volleyball Coach |
| • Shelby Holmes | -Middle School Volleyball Coach |
| • Elly Lowney | -Substitute |
| • Betty Lou Cannon-Fletcher | -Substitute |
| • Kelly Allen | -Summer School Bus Driver |
| • Wendy Jorgenson | -Summer School Bus Driver |
| • Mark Stevens | -Summer School Bus Driver |
| • Hope Hamilton | -Family/Consumer Science & Drivers Ed |
| • Teri Valvoda | -Instructional Tutor |
| • Audrey Howard | -EVMS/EHHS TOSA |
| • Tyler Murray | -EHHS Football |
| • JD Ferris | -EHHS Football Coach |
| • Riley Sampson | -EHHS Football Coach |
| • Jeff Darling | -EHHS Soccer |
| • Lisa Mortieau | -EHHS Cross Country Coach |
| • Karla Layson | -EHHS Volleyball |
| • Jon Moore | -EHHS Speech & Debate |
| • Katie Jeno | -EHHS Speech & Debate |
| • Tonya Hauk | -EHHS Summer School Para |
| • Teri Valvoda | -EHHS Summer School Para |
| • Sherylle Ito | -EHHS Summer School Secretary |
| • Andrew Boedecker | -EHHS Assistant Football Coach |
| • Kayla Schell | -Elementary Teacher |
| • Duane Schlabach | -EHHS Vice Principal |
| • Lynsi Morris | -EVMS Principal |
| • Heather Countryman | -21st Century After School Program Director |
| • Jewel Fox | -Summer School Title 1 Teacher |
| • Gary Herseim | -Bus Driver |
| • Belle Surginer | -Summer Maintenance |
| • Kathy Brandt | -Special Education |
| • Sydnee Clairmont | -High School Secretary |
| • Rainier Murgel | -Summer Maintenance |
| • Rick Krause | -Summer Maintenance |
| • Shayla Murphy | -Summer Maintenance |

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer to seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the warrants and personnel actions. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Trustee Murfitt and seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the March 14, 2022, April 28, 2022 and May 9, 2022 minutes with the corrections made by the District Clerk. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve Bridget Guerin for hire as a high school secretary. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Unfinished Business

COVID Update

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board on the recent COVID numbers in the District. He also explained how ESSER money is being used for testing supplies and the addition of a part time nurse.

Review and Adoption of Revised, Updated Strategic Plan

The Board discussed the Updated Strategic Plan. Chairman Walter stated that this is a good base in moving forward and EHPS is often used in MTSBA discussions. Trustee Baird mention that the Tiger mascot was not mentioned in the plan, only the Vigilante and that is something the Board may have to address in the future. Trustee Diehl stated that the goals of the District are less visible now that the high school is built.

Motion by Trustee Diehl and seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the Updated Strategic Plan. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Budget update: End of year priorities; FY 2023 planning; ESSER Fund update

The Superintendent provided the Board and the public with updated information regarding end of year priorities, FY 2023 budget planning, and the status of the district's ESSER funding. He informed the Board of the adjustments that will need to be made once the ESSER money is no longer offered. The Board discussed ANB Money and levies.

New Business

Board Policy Review - First Reading Policy # 1900, 3121, 2510, 8502

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer and seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve the first reading of Board Policy 1900. Unanimous vote for the motion

Motion by Trustee Baird and seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the first reading of Board Policy 2510. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the first reading of Board Policy 3121 with the change in language as discussed. Trustee Baird voted no. All other Trustees Voted yes. Motion carried

*This Policy will be revisited in the November Board meeting.

Motion by Trustee Murfitt and seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the first reading of Board Policy 8502 adding the new language. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Chairman Walter called for the moving up of item #6 in the Agenda. The Law enforcement officers were waiting to present. He did make note that any community member had the right to interrupt and ask a question.

Consideration of contract for SRO services/DARE program at East Valley Middle School with LCCSO

Superintendent Rispens reported on a potential contract with the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office for a full time DARE instructor and SRO at East Valley Middle School. This contract will build on the successes of our current SRO program at East Helena High School. Additionally, the officer will provide Drug Abuse Resistance Education to EVMS 8th graders. The contract comes at a small cost to the district of \$12,500 annually and receives additional funding from DARE, the Bureau of Reclamation, and LCCSO. The District's share of the funding can be paid from school safety and security money in the Building Reserve Fund. This is a 3-year agreement. The officers present each reported on the positive impacts they have witnessed in the DARE program and the positive effect an additional Officer present in the School District will have.

Motion by Trustee Baird and seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the contract for SRO services/DARE program at East Valley Middle School with LCCSO. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Consideration of Softball Co-op with Jefferson High School

The Board is asked to consider arranging a multi-district co-op for girls' softball with Jefferson High School. The co-op is intended to provide more athletic opportunities for girls in both EHHS and Jefferson High. Jefferson has already approved the agreement. It must be approved by the EHPS Board before being forwarded to the MHSA board for final approval. Trustee Baird was concerned that this agreement could possibly take away opportunities from students in our own school district. Softball coach Megan Surginer explained the situation and how EHPS does not presently have enough players for a JV team and most game there are barely enough team members to compete. She offered that this opportunity would be beneficial to students in both districts. Chairman Walter pointed out that even with the agreement between the school district, MHSA may not approve this. Walter asked if any home/private school students were currently participating. Coach Surginer reported that no, there were currently no team members from home/private schools.

Motion by Trustee Murfitt: *"It is the intention of the School Boards to provide an opportunity for more females from both East Helena High School and Jefferson High School to be able to participate in girls' softball at the high school level so we are forming a cooperative for this to be possible"*

Seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer. Trustee Baird voted no. All other Trustees Voted yes. Motion carried

Summer School Program and After School Program Reports

Superintendent Rispens recapped on Melinda Yeary's after school program (21st century) end of the year report. Gus Somerfeld and Shaun Murgel reported on the Summer School Program activities and classes.

Administrative Staff Salary Adjustment

Kristen Lovaas, School Foods Supervisor, has made a request to share her pay increase for 22-23 with her assistant, Michelle Olds. Kristen has cut back on her hours and Michelle has stepped up to help with the administrative duties involved. Trustee Walter asked about any tax implications.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve adjust the salaries as requested. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Approval of Age Exception Kindergarten students under Policy 3100

The Board was asked to consider enrollment requests from Eastgate principal, Brandon Crusat to enroll students and operate 2 sections of age exception kindergarten under policy 3100. Brandon reported that all recommended students meet one or more of the qualifying criteria in policy 3100.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the age exception kindergarten students as requested. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Budget Amendment resolution #230 - Retirement Fund

The Board was asked to consider a budget amendment resolution for the retirement fund. Superintendent Rispens explained that with a few unexpected retirements this year, this action is to be proactive with the budget.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the budget amendment resolution #230. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Setting Fees for the 22-23 school year

The Board is asked to consider adjusting the following meal and rental fees and staff pay for 2022-23:

Copies	\$0.15/page
Tuition Elementary	\$100
Tuition Middle School	\$150
Tuition High School	\$200
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; \$140 with minimum service
Substitute (Non-certified)	\$120 to start; \$130 with minimum service
Technology Use Fee	\$10.00
<u>Classified substitute pay (hourly)</u>	
Tutor	As per sub pay above
Kitchen Aide 1	\$11.90*
Bus Driver	\$15.40*
Custodian	\$13.90*
Kitchen Aide II	\$11.65*
Paraprofessional	\$12.90*
Secretary	\$14.65*
Interpreter	As per substitute pay above
Teacher hourly compensation	\$23.00*
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	\$400/hour

(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 21-22

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer and seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the proposed fees and pay. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Establish New Student Activity Account

Superintendent Rispens explained the recommended East Helena High Green Club. This is a recycling activity at the high school.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the proposed student activity account-Green Club. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Consideration of ESSER stipends for EHPS Staff - MOU Approval

Superintendent Rispens reported that the COVID 19 pandemic continues to impact staff and families. This past year in the absence of paid COVID leave, many staff were negatively impacted by mandatory COVID quarantine. Newer staff did not have paid leave time available and some used a good portion of it during this time.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the stipends as outlined in the MOU'S with the EHEA and EHESA Unanimous vote for the motion.

Consideration of Superintendent's Contract

The Board discussed offering the Superintendent a 3-year contract including a 4% increase in compensation.

Motion by Trustee Balukas and seconded by Trustee Baird to extend the Superintendent's contract in a new 3-year agreement effective July 1, 2022 with 4% compensation amount. Unanimous vote for the motion.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Special Meeting - June 28, 2022 7:30 AM @ Central Office

Regular Meeting – July 11th, 2022 5:30 @ EVMS Library

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Submitted by: _____
Administrative Assistant, Jen Cordell

Approved by: _____ Date _____
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees