

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 March 14, 2022.

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Trustees Stacy Baird, Martin Balukas, Mark Diehl, Marcia Ellermeyer, Tyrel Murfitt and Breck Scheet. Superintendent Dan Rispens and Clerk Kim Aarstad.

Principals: Brian Kessler, Brenda Stoltz, Brandon Crusat, Gus Somerfeld, Vice Principals, Krista Swindel and Shaun Murgel and Technology Coordinator, Brandon Hansen.

Visitors: Aric Curtiss, KD Jones, Tim Baird, Kate Johnson, Juliet Hahn, Cathy Carlson & Robyn Mohs.

Visitors on Zoom: Brian Daum & Tamika Schoppe

Review the Agenda

Hear the Public

Aric Curtiss discussed High School Baseball being offered at the High School.

Brian Daum read a letter concerning Sexual Harrassment and Sexual Assaults that are happening in the district.

Reports

Principal Report

Principal Somerfeld wanted to give a shout out to students and staff for all their hard work this past month. He reported that Taco Bell held a fundraiser and donated \$790.00 for the Radley Olweus Program.

Principal Crusat reported that the Kindergarten students had taken a City Hall tour. The Reading Committee is working on getting a curriculum proposal to the Board in the next few months. Staff has been working on year end planning and will begin to work on the planning for the 2022-2023 school year.

Principal Kessler reported that the Junior class will be doing ACT testing on April 12, 2022 and Freshmen and Sophomore students will be doing the PreACT tests at the same time. Principal Kessler also gave a huge shout out to the leadership class who is working on getting out and spending time with the lower grade students.

.Principal Stoltz reported that the voting for 8th grade graduation t-shirts and mural wall will be completed soon. She reported on the Mental Health Screens for 6-8 grades. Staff and students are working on the Anti Bullying programs at EVMS. On March 17 & 18 the 6th Grade students will be doing a field trip to the Museum of the Rockies, and students are working on teacher appreciation.

Krista Swindell, EVMS Vice Principal, reported on the current discipline report.

Shaun Murgel, EHHS Vice Principal, reported on the current discipline report at EHHS. Principal Murgel will start working on the parking lot fines for students who have not purchased a parking permit for this year. Vice Principal Murgel also discussed the estimated cost to start baseball within the district.

Technology Coordinator, Brandon Hansen, discussed the technology updates and needs within the district.

Student Report

Kaden Sager, EHHS Basketball player, reported on the Swimming and Wrestling students who went to state this year.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

No committee reports. Chairman Walter reported that MTSBA will be holding a two day workshop to discuss the Strategic plan for MTSBA on March 16, 2022.

Strategic Planning - Scan for Future Needs

Superintendent Rispens discussed the Strategic planning meeting on March 7, 2022. Superintendent Rispens and Chairman Walter will work on getting the Infrastructure Committee together in the next few months.

Notifications of Retirement and Resignations

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

- | | | |
|------|----------------|---------------------|
| i | Mike Evans | -TOSA |
| ii. | Jeremy Shields | -Special Education |
| iii. | Jenny Murnane | -Elementary Teacher |

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------------------|
| iv. | Austin Waldbillig | -High School Teacher |
| v. | Jessica Hoffman | -Paraprofessional |
| vi. | Brenda Stoltz | -Principal |

Consent Action Item

A. Minutes from the February 14, 2022 and Special Meeting from March 7, 2022

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the February 14, 2022 and March 7, 2022 minutes as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

B. Approval of the September former and new warrants (Claims 46137- 46202 and Payroll 60439 - 60590).

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

C. Personnel Actions - Recommendation of employment

- | | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| i. | Angela Adamson | -Paraprofessional |
| ii. | Elizabeth Thomas | -Paraprofessional |
| iii. | Audrey Howard | -Temporary TOSA/Culinary Arts Teacher |
| iv. | Monica Foster | -Summer Program Paraprofessional |
| v. | Shayla Murphy | -Summer Program Paraprofessional |
| vi. | Kendra Elgen | -Summer Program Paraprofessional |
| vii. | Monica Reed | -Substitute |
| viii. | Elizabeth Clarkson | -HS Math/Alternative School |
| ix. | JD Ferris | -HS Math |
| x. | Bret Charlton | -HS English/Alternative School |
| xi. | Patti McLean | -Summer PALS Teacher |
| xii. | Veronica Rubio-Pratt | -Summer PALS Teacher |
| xiii. | Camryn Beck | -Summer PALS Teacher |
| xiv. | Katie Burk | -Summer PALS Teacher |
| xv. | Melinda Yeary | -Summer PALS Teacher |
| xvi. | Kimber Mook | -Summer PALS Teacher |
| xvii. | Blanca Sauer | -Kitchen |
| xviii. | Dayna West | -Kitchen |

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the Personnel Actions as amended. Unanimous vote for the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board on the efforts of the teachers and administration to educate and protect the kids from the COVID virus. Superintendent Rispens also reported that the CDC removed the mask mandate on staff wellness program that was held school buses

New Business

Consideration of contractor for work completion on 2 EHHS storage shed/press box projects.

Chairman Walter discussed two projects that need to be completed at East Helena High School. One is for a football/soccer storage building and pressbox. The other is a softball storage building and press box. Tim Baird has submitted a proposal to complete the two storage buildings/press box projects.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the football/soccer storage building and press box at a cost of \$45,800.00. Trustee Baird recused herself from the vote. Unanimous vote for the Motion.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve the softball storage building and press box at the cost of \$33,350.00. Trustee Baird recused herself from the vote. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Leading Testing Update

Superintendent Rispens reported that the district is waiting for the lab results for the remaining buildings to be lead tested. The district had one fixture over the limit and a few others near the limit at Eastgate.

Notice of Intent Regarding Permissive Levies - Resolution #229

Superintendent Rispens presented Resolution #229, for the Boards Approval. Superintendent Rispens explained that the proposed budgeted funds are permissively levied by the Board to support funds like Transportation, Tuition, Bus Depreciated Fund, Adult Ed and Building Reserve Fund.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve Resolution #229, Notice of Intent Regarding Permissive Levies. Unanimous vote for the motion.

FWP Hunter's Education Program Request

Superintendent Rispens presented a letter from Wayde Cooperider of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to continue the Hunter Education Program at East Valley Middle School. The request will allow demonstration firearms to be brought into school property for educational purposes.

Motion by Trustee Scheet, seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the Hunters Education Program at EVMS and to allow the use of demonstration firearms on school property. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Board Policy Review - First Reading Policy #7320

Superintendent Rispens presented Board Policy 7320, Purchasing, for the Boards consideration. The language change states the following:

“When possible and is in the best interest of the District, multiple bids for school bus purchases will be solicited, reviewed and considered.”

Motion by Trustee Murfit, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the first reading of Board Policy 7320, as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Consideration Electric School Bus Purchase through VW Clean Diesel Program Grant.

Superintendent Rispens reported that the district had received initial approval of 85% funding for the VW Clean Diesel fully electric school bus replacement program. The district has solicited 3 quotes for this bus, as required by the grant. Once the final contract language is approved the district will move forward with the purchase. Superintendent Rispens reported that the district had not received a contract from DEQ.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to give Superintendent Rispens the authority to enter into an agreement with Lion Electric to purchase an electric bus, contingent on the approval and contract from VW Clean Diesel Grant. Unanimous vote for the motion.

EHPS COVID reopening plan language review and update.

Superintendent Rispens presented the EHPS COVID reopening plan which provides additional flexibility in remote learning assignments.

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

Selection of Auditor

Kim Aarstad, Business Manager/Clerk, reported that two bids were received for the 2022-2024 Audit.

Clerk Aarstad explained that the district has a working relationship with Tom Hayes, Paul Strom & Associates, for the last 17+ years. Tom has a full understanding of the growth within the district and the changes the district has been experiencing in the last several years. He is always available to take my call when I have audit questions or come to the office if needed. Clerk Aarstad recommended that the Board consider extending the contract with Paul Strom Associates for another three year.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Scheet, based on the recommendation of Clerk Aarstad to go with Paul Strom & Associates. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Future meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on April 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the East Valley Middle School Library.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
District Clerk, Kim Aarstad

Approved by: _____
Chairman, Board of Trustees Date