

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 11, 2021. 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 Martin Balukas, Kevin Bokovoy, Mark Diehl, Marcia Ellermeier and Tyrel Murfitt. Breck Scheet was in attendance through the zoom meeting. Superintendent Ron Whitmoyer and Clerk Kim Aarstad.

Principals: Brenda Stoltz, Dan Rispens, Joe McMahon and Brandon Crusat and Technology Coordinator, DJ Howell.

Visitors: Kate Johnson, Adrienne Simonson, Maddie Gard, Kyleigh Queen, Cathy Carlson, Lacey Pickeet, Ingrid Lietha and Robyn Mohs.

Zoom Meeting attendance: Kathryn Ault, Vicki Curtiss, Sarah Sandau, Tyler Manning, Alyssa Salerno, Ashley Ferro, Camy Dusenberry, Erin Finstad, Julie Penner, Kara Peterson, Katherine Senecal, Katie VanderZanden, Katy Hauer, Rachel Bright, Erik Pritchard, Robyn Arntson, Traci Mazanec, Brooklyn Bennett, KD Jones, Tamika Schoppe and Staci Dawes.

Review the Agenda

No Changes

Hear the Public

No one addressed the Board.

Reports

Principal Reports

Principal Rispens reported that all the winter sports have started.

Principal McMahon reported that there are currently 53 students registered for distance learning for the 1st semester, at the end of the semester, January 21, 2021, students can decide to stay as distance learners or can come back to school.

Principal Crusat reported that all Cohorts were back to work after the christmas break. Kindergarten registration opened on January 1st. Currently there are 38 children registered for kindergarten, and 22 children for the kindercub program.

Vice Principal Brenda Stoltz reported on the discipline issues at EVMS.

D.J. Howell, Technology Coordinator, reported that 395 people had downloaded the new district web application.

Student report

Kyleigh Queen and Maddie Gard reported on the key club activity and discussed the new block schedule.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Chairman Walter reported that MTSBA has been very busy with the legislative session.

Strategic Plan Scanning Future Needs

Superintendent Whitmoyer reported that he had nothing new to report or add.

Notifications of Retirement and Resignations

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

- I. Joe McMahon - Principal
- ii. Erica Romero - Tutor

Consent Action Items

- A. Minutes of the December 14, 2020 Regular meeting
- B. Approval of the December former and new warrants (Claims #- 44984-45052) and Payroll # 57758- 57905.
- C. Personnel Actions - Hiring Recommendations
 - i. Emily Munn - EHHS TRIO MT Tech Program Leader
 - ii. Samantha Burke - DL TOSA
 - iii. Jennifer Holton - Custodian
 - iv. Brittany Songer - EHHS Assistant Swim Coach
 - v. Chris Hovda - Secretary EVMS
 - vi. Jessica Holton - Paraprofessional

vii.	Stuart Beagles	- Bus Driver
viii.	Cole Rosling	- Substitute
ix.	Paidyn Herford	- Substitute
x.	Josie Christians	- Substitute
xi.	McKenzie Miller	- Substitute
xii.	Kevin Nettleton	- Head Track Coach
xiii.	John Moore	- Assistant Head Coach
xiv.	Megan Surginer	- Head Softball Coach
xv.	Kima Rosling	- Assistant Softball Coach
xvi.	Ryan Murgel	- Head Tennis Coach
xvii.	Megan Murgel	- Assistant Tennis Coach

Pending background checks and passage of CPR/First Aid classes.

Tuition Agreement Approvals - None at this time.

Motion by Trustee Bokovoy, seconded by Trustee Murfitt to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Unfinished Business

Building Construction Change Order Update

Superintendent Whitmoyer updated the Board on the change order at the high school.

EHPS COVID - Update

Superintendent Whitmoyer also updated the Board on the efforts the teachers and administration staff are using to educate and protect the kids.

Lacee Pickett asked when the district will be able to open up the spectator attendance at sporting events.

Superintendent Whitmoyer reported that the district is still under very strict orders from Lewis and Clark County on how many spectators can be allowed at events.

Robyn Mohs asked if the district was keeping an eye out for bills that will be coming through the legislature.

Superintendent Whitmoyer stated that he keeps an eye on bills everyday and if she had a specific bill that she would like him to look at to let him know.

New Business

Prickly Pear Land Trust Trail System Update

Superintendent Whitmoyer and Chairman Walter reported on the recent agreement with the State of Montana that will transfer 322 acres of trust property over the East Helena School, timeline for this transfer will be around 15 years.

Funds have been set aside to construct a trail system from the northern outskirts of the City of East Helena to northern Jefferson County near Montana City. There is also funds set aside to be used to care for the trail and weed control as part of the deal that eventually will be turned over to the East Helena Schools.

School Board Letter of Support for Trails and Sidewalks

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented a letter for the Board's consideration. The district will work in conjunction with Montana Fish Wildlife and parks to apply for a trails grant that will connect the backside of Prickly Pear Elementary School to the back corner of the high school near the new lift station.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Bokovoy to approve the letter as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Superintendent Whitmoyer asked if the Board would consider writing a letter of support for a transportation Alternative grant through the Montana Department of Transportation, this grant will provide sidewalk access across Montana Avenue onto Lewis Street to the Middle School and then south to old Highway 12 for access to J4 Automotive and Heritage Foods.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Bokovoy to approve having Superintendent Whitmoyer write a letter of support for the transportation grant to provide sidewalk access for students. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Preliminary Budget Considerations

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented the 2021-2022 preliminary budget. Chairman Walter asked that the Insurance/Budget committee meet with Superintendent Whitmoyer to discuss the options the Board should consider for the 2021-2022 school year.

Health Insurance Update

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented a trial balance report for the new district self insurance plan.

School Board Evaluation of the Superintendent

Chairman Walter adjourned the meeting at 6:49.

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

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Murfitt to offer Superintendent Whitmoyer 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 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Eastgate Library.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
District Clerk, Kim Aarstad

Approved by: _____
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date