

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 September 9, 2024. Vice Chair, Tyrel Murfitt called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, Tristan Ulmer, Martin Balukas, and Mark Diehl (@ 5:55)

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide, Athletics Director Shaun Murgel, Student Representative Brooke Harris

Building Admin: Michael Kemper, Lynsi Morris, Trish Klock, Gus Somerfeld, Shaun Murgel, Paul Condon and Brandon Crusat

Visitors: Caleb Wallis, Trinity Nelson, Alexis Cooney, Eric Lehman, Kate Johnson, Shandi Hayes, Robin Mohs, Ariel Simon

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments

Reports

Student Report

Brooke Harris reported to the Board about the day to day activities in East Helena High School. Students are settling in and the clubs and athletics have started in full swing. She is meeting on September 23rd with other students to hear opinions and possible items for the Board.

Administrator Reports

Radley Elementary Principal Gus Somerfeld spoke about the opportunities to add more games and equipment this year. He believes that recess is quite a bit more enjoyable and will hopefully help with behaviors now that they have more to do.

Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal Brandon Crusat introduced Kayla Combs, Alicia Menius and Eric Lehman, his new staff. He reported that the school year has started out strong.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris spoke about the excitement for the sports that have started and in particular the Volleyball team. She also introduced her new Social Studies teacher Alexis Cooney.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper reported that the start of school has been extremely smooth which they are attributing to all of the work that the staff has previously accomplished.

EHHS Principal Paul Condon reported that some of the core classes are bursting with an average of 30 students. They do have some relief with several elective classes that are smaller. He introduced Trinity Nelson the new EHHS FCS teacher.

EHHS Vice Principal Trish Klock introduced Teaje Ellison who is in training for a career in administration. She wanted the Board to know how strong the year has started with the teaching staff. Each teacher has gone through a portion of the handbook with their students, so that they are getting full exposure to the school's pertinent information. They believe this will be hugely helpful moving forward. She also reported that the first Vigilante Star award has already been given out.

Athletic Director Shaun Murgel reported about the athletic events that have already started. He updated the newsletter and hopes to be able to get one created for each Board meeting. He talked about huge openings in the event worker positions and he is always looking for people to help out with the events. He also spoke about the softball co-op and possibly moving to AA class next year but he asked to be kept at class A. He is still trying to find a trainer but currently has a sub working for a couple weeks. He will continue to look for someone to fill the position.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Vice Chair Murfitt solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about upcoming policy committee meeting they are trying to plan.

No other reports from the Committees and Trustees.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

Vice Chair Murfitt solicited comments and observations regarding the current strategic plan and planning needs.

No comments.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

No resignations reported.

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, August 12, 2024

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, August 15, 2024

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #48609 - 48687) and (Payroll #66606-66783)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Jennifer Loomis | Temporary, Part-time Athletic Trainer |
| • Anna Dahlvig | Substitute |
| • Selena Poaso | Substitute |
| • Denise Harvey | Substitute |
| • Chelsea Hager | Substitute |
| • Taylor Davis | Substitute |
| • Bret Charlton | 5-8 Cross Country Coach |
| • Wanda Lambott | 7/8 Volleyball Coach |
| • Sophia Lance | 7/8 Volleyball Coach |
| • Jon Moore | Speech & Debate Coach |
| • Kenzie Lombardi | Speech & Debate Coach |
| • Ty Ridgeway | EHHS Boys Basketball Coach |
| • Sean Thatcher | EHHS Boys Basketball Coach |
| • J.D. Ferris | EHHS Boys Basketball Coach |
| • Carson Bender | EHHS Girls Basketball Coach |
| • Shelby Holmes | EHHS Girls Basketball Coach |
| • Jaicee Senecal | EHHS Girls Basketball Coach |
| • Troy Arntson | EHHS Girls Basketball Coach |
| • Jon Henneman | EHHS Swimming Coach |
| • Jennifer Scoles | Temporary FFA Advisor |
| • Katherine Davis | Substitute |

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the consent action items as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Unfinished Business

227 Academy Update

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board about the fall opening of the 227 Academy Public Charter School.

Lynsi Morris reported about 227 Academy - Middle School and that there was a lot of shuffling at the beginning because some parents enrolled students and then decided to change. She said the

students seem to be loving it. They have all started out strong and she is extremely pleased with how well all of her staff are contributing.

Trish Klock reported about 227 Academy – High School and that there are currently 50 students enrolled. There are some students attending part time and the staff are working on training the students that were part of the alt program last year. She feels like the kids are doing really well and the staff has been amazing. The students have settled into the patterns and seem to be adjusting well. Core classes are taking place at 227 Academy but some students are going back EHHS for their elective classes.

EPA Rebate and Lion Bus Delivery Update

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board regarding the Clean School Bus Rebate Program and our progress with Lion Electric and the status of our current bus on order.

Enrollment Report and Start of School Update

Superintendent Rispens and the building admin updated the Board about the district's Fall start up.

New Business

Consideration of Natural Gas Supply Contract

Superintendent Rispens reported that we are due for a renewal with Commercial Energy. He suggested that the Board approve a 9-month price agreement.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the 9-month price agreement. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Summer School Report

Superintendent Rispens spoke to the Board members and the public about the 2024 Summer program including the Early Literacy piece.

Gus Somerfeld (Administrator for the elementary aged students) reported that having the same staff this year helped quite a bit with the smooth transitions. The staff added some beneficial items for the kids that seemed to help. There were 129 enrolled in the program with an average of 15 absences a day. Sports camps were held and some of the students participated. The swim lessons every Friday and Stem Tuesdays seemed to be a huge hit for the kids. Family engagement was added to the Stem Tuesdays and they saw huge participation. The students went on weekly field trip to some amazing places. He feels like the staff did a good job of preventing summer regression. Gus reported that 71% of the students approved on their scores from their assessments at the end of the school year. Jump Start Early Literacy program was integrated into the program (56 students qualified).

Lynsi Morris (Administrator for middle school and high school) reported that there were 46 high school students and 24 middle school students enrolled. They had 38 students working on

transformational learning courses which gave them a head start for the next year. In all she felt like she saw a lot of progress.

Consideration of the RBHI MOU for Suicide Prevention Screening

Superintendent Rispens reported that we need to renew our ongoing agreement for suicide prevention screening and partnership with Rural Behavioral Health.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the MOU for our ongoing suicide prevention screening. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Charter School Contract Update

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Board of Public Education re-issued Public Charter School Contracts with some minor adjustments to the reporting structures and requirements.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 14th, 2024 @ 5:30 EHHS

Submitted by: _____
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

Date _____

Approved by: _____
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date _____