

## **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 November 11, 2024. Chairman Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

#### **Attendance and Introduction of Board Members**

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, Tristan Ulmer, and Mark Diehl (@5:34 )

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

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

Visitors: Tamika Schoppe, Dakota Smith, William Ward, Sonny Tapia, Ethan Davis, Chris Charles, Camy Dusenberry, Kate Johnson, Michelle Sexton, Andrew Turpin, Mr. and Mrs. Burnside

#### **Review the Agenda**

No comments

#### **Hear the Public**

No comments

#### **Reports**

##### **Student Report**

Brooke Harris reported about the fall sports which will be ending. Winter sports are arriving quickly and the Macho Match starts Friday. The end goal is for the winners to play the teachers and the Apple vs Donuts basketball game is coming up where the teachers play the SROs.

##### **Administrator Reports**

Radley Elementary Principal Gus Somerfeld referenced his board report. He wanted to talk about the students vs teachers Trap League. He felt it was a lot of fun and very nice to see kids from past years who are now in High School.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported that our East Helena kids were asked to be leaders at MTSS Youth days. She said they did an amazing job where they led the groups and role played with the Telephone game and an observation course. The group was told that the East Helena room was the one everyone wanted to visit. The sixth grade will be going to Carroll College to watch the women's basketball game at the end of November.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper referenced his report and pointed out that there is an increase in behaviors. The staff agreed that they need to re-highlight expectations and procedures.

EHHS Principal Paul Condon reported about the State cross country meet in Missoula. He thought it was “very cool” to go watch.

EHHS Vice Principal Trish Klock reported about MTSS youth days. The students were able to go to a senior living community and she said they made her extremely proud. Discipline reports are down significantly from last year. She feels like all the effort put in by the staff is really starting to pay off.

Athletic Director Shaun Murgel reported about fall sports and the recent winter parent meetings. He felt like it was extremely successful. Shaun wanted to reiterate that the winter sports start the day after the Apples vs Donuts game.

### **Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board**

Chairman Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Chairman Walter informed the group that Kris Goss, the MTSBA Policy Director has left the association. Tony Koenig will be his replacement for policy within school districts

No other reports from the Committees and Trustees.

### **Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs**

Chairman Walter solicited the Board for any reports about strategic planning.

There was some discussion about the rumors regarding East Helena building another high school.

### **Notifications of Retirements and Resignations**

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- Karen Chaffins                      School Foods
- Evan Lampman                      EVMS Science

### **Consent Action Items**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 11, 2024

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #50442 - #50521) and (Payroll #67007 - #67188)

### **Personnel Actions**

**Recommendation of Employment:**

- Barb Peters                      Kitchen Substitute

|                      |                                                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| ● Heather Reynolds   | Substitute                                                 |
| ● Connor Werdel      | Substitute                                                 |
| ● McKenzie Heidinger | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Boys Basketball Coach                |
| ● Austin Gerry       | 7 <sup>th</sup> grade Boys Basketball Coach                |
| ● Sophia Lance       | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Girls Basketball Coach               |
| ● Dakota Smith       | Head Softball Coach                                        |
| ● Christa Schoenfeld | EHHS Student Council Advisor                               |
| ● Bret Charlton      | EHHS Student Council/Yearbook Advisor                      |
| ● Sarah Cobb         | National Honor Society Advisor                             |
| ● Casey Harris       | Skills USA Advisor                                         |
| ● Anna Spoja         | Business Professionals Advisor                             |
| ● Ashley Torgerson   | Science Olympiad Advisor                                   |
| ● Marne Bender       | Vigilante ESports Coach                                    |
| ● Mason Skains       | Vigilante ESports Assistant Coach                          |
| ● Cole Bass          | Vigilante ESports Assistant Coach                          |
| ● Leighla Schultz    | Vigilante ESports Assistant Coach                          |
| ● Keana Darrah       | JV Cheer Coach                                             |
| ● Tabitha Smail      | Vigilante Robotics Advisor / Vigilante ESports Asst. Coach |

East Helena School District Students Requesting Enrollment in Other School Districts for the 2024-2025 School Year

|                        | <u>Helena</u> | <u>Jefferson High</u> | <u>Montana City</u> | <u>Clancy</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| MM (PreK)              | 2             |                       |                     |               |
| Kindergarten           |               |                       |                     |               |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> grade  |               |                       |                     |               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade  | 1             |                       |                     |               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade  |               |                       |                     |               |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> grade  |               |                       |                     |               |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> grade  | 1             |                       |                     |               |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> grade  |               |                       |                     |               |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> grade  |               |                       |                     |               |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> grade  |               |                       |                     |               |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> grade  |               |                       |                     |               |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> grade |               |                       |                     |               |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> grade |               |                       |                     |               |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> grade | 1             |                       |                     |               |
| Total: 5               |               |                       |                     |               |

The minutes were pulled to clarify that the COSBA Executive Director has not resigned yet and will be resigning in June of 2025.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the consent action items as presented without the minutes. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board minutes with the clarification regarding the Executive Directors resignation. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Vandalism and Insurance Follow-up**

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board regarding the insurance settlement for last spring's vandalism incident at East Valley Middle School and Radley Elementary.

### **MCEL Reflections**

Trustees and Administrators shared their observations and lessons learned at the annual Montana Conference for Educational Leadership.

### **Resolution 238 – Obsolete and Unusable Equipment Bid Opening**

The Board opened the bid for obsolete equipment items.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to award the one-ton Chevy Flatbed to Perry Gardner for \$100 and to direct the Superintendent to dispose of the remaining obsolete equipment as state law allows. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

### **Policy Review Second Reading – Policy #2309, #2314 and #3630**

- Policy 2309      School Library Program
- Policy 2314      Instructional or Library Material Review
- Policy 3630      Cell Phones and Other Electronic Equipment

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the policies as presented under second reading.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to amend the motion to include the editorial clarifications to policy 2314. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Chairman Walter called for a vote on the amended motion with the editorial clarifications to policy 2314. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

### **METG Annual Meeting Reflections and Discussion**

Trustees who attended the METG meeting shared some of their reflections and what they learned.

### **EPA Electric Bus Rebates and Lion Electric**

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board regarding our EPA rebates for the electric buses with Lion Electric.

## **New Business**

### **Eagle Scout Recognition**

EHHS Junior, Andrew Turpin appeared before the Board to be recognized for his efforts to improve District Property. Andrew replaced trees and damaged memorial signage at EVMS as part of an Eagle Scout project. They created new signs and planted new trees to add new life to the park and give some pride to the community of East Helena.

Board Chair Walter presented him an honor cord to wear at his graduation. Andrew thanked Superintendent Rispens and Gus Somerfeld for all their help.

### **Student Travel Request – Washington DC, 2026**

The Board heard from Camy Dusenbury regarding a student trip she would like to take to Washington, D.C. in June of 2026.

Motion by Trustee Baird , seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the travel request to Washington DC in 2026. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

### **EHHS Choir Travel Request Revision**

The Board heard from Tamika Schoppe and some members of the EHHS Choir to request a change in their travel request approval from last month's meeting. They are asking for the Board to approve the trip to Vancouver, Canada instead of Vancouver, Washington.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the adjustment to the previous travel request out of country. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

### **Out of State Travel Request – Superintendent Rispens**

Superintendent Rispens discussed the potential for him to travel to New Orleans in March to attend the National Superintendent's Conference.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the Superintendent's travel request. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

### **227 Academy Charter School Financial Report**

Superintendent Rispens presented the quarterly report regarding the 227 Academy required by the Board of Public Education.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the financial report and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk to sign the report. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

## EHPS Budgetary Update and Projections

Superintendent Rispens presented early estimates for the FY26 District general fund budget based on the fall enrollment count.

## Consideration of MOU with EHEA Regarding Sick Leave Donations

Superintendent Rispens shared that the EHEA leadership have asked that the Board consider adjusting the limits on sick leave donations given the number of maternity leaves we have this year among the teachers.

After discussion, the MOU will be amended to remove the language that limits donations for only maternity and paternity to now say for any sick leave needs.

Motion by Trustee Baird , seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the MOU with the adjustment to remove the language that limits donations to only maternity and paternity leave. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

## Legislative Advocacy for Education

Superintendent Rispens has asked the Board to direct him and Board Chair Walter to lobby the 2025 Montana Legislature on behalf of the students at EHPS.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve directing Superintendent Rispens and Board Chair Walter to lobby the 2025 Legislature on behalf of the students of East Helena Public Schools. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

## Distribution of Superintendent's Evaluation

Hard copies of the evaluation tool for the Superintendent's evaluation were handed out to the Board members with the directions to submit to Chairman Walter. They were also advised that they will receive the evaluation tool through email as well. The Board had a consensus to use scores in the evaluation.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

## Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024 @ 5:30 Prickly Pear Elementary.

Submitted by: Jill Hoogerheide  
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

12/05/24  
Date

Approved by: Scott A. Walter  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

DEC. 9, 2024  
Date