

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 December 9, 2024. Chairman Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt (until 7:42 p.m.), Stacy Baird, Tristan Ulmer, Marcia Ellermeyer and Mark Diehl (@5:33)

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide, Athletics Director Shaun Murgel, IT Coordinator Eric Power, and Student Representative Brooke Harris (@6:02)

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

Visitors: Nancy Marks, Sarah Sandau, Kate Johnson, Randy Siemers, Ephraim Young, Linda Kent, Sonny Tapia

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

Nancy Marks, from MT43 News wanted to introduce herself and her colleague. The newspaper would like to start covering our Board meetings.

Reports

Student Report

Brooke Harris reported that winter sports have started. She talked about some of our sports that have been extremely successful so far and there are many sporting matches coming up. After speaking to other students, she felt like many are extremely excited about the upcoming games.

Administrator Reports

EG and PPE Principal Brandon Crusat spoke about the Early Literacy program. HB 352 is being opened to allow online resources for students who were part of the Jumpstart program.

Radley Elementary Principal Gus Somerfeld referenced his Board Report and asked if anyone had questions. He wanted to give a special shout out to the PTO. He said "They are always looking out for our staff and go above and beyond to help meet their needs." Staff will have dress up days leading up to the break to help ease some of the potential anxiety some kids have about the long breaks.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported that math testing is now complete. There were some technical issues and the admin staff hopes that it didn't affect the scores. A catch-up day is coming up for students needing academic help while the other students will go to the school dance.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper spoke about the dramatic drop in referrals in the month of November. Seventh grade had a significant drop in incidences, and the plan for staff is to continue to use the strategies they previously devised.

EHHS Principal Paul Condon referenced his Board report and stated he would be open for any questions. At the January Board meeting there will be a deeper dive into the 227 Academy.

EHHS Vice Principal Trish Klock reported about the PBIS program regarding assemblies and Star Awards. The staff believes that there are not enough events for students outside of school to keep them engaged. Admin and staff are thinking outside the box to come up with things that will potentially help with discipline issues. There were 97 office referrals for behavior but also 115 Star Awards which makes her think that the program is working. She is very excited that the amount of the Vigilante Stars is rising.

Athletic Director Shaun Murgel reported that MHSAA met a couple weeks ago to realign the conferences for football. Tennis was already realigned. The football realignment will hopefully cut down on the long travel days. He also stated that there are probably 40 teams playing baseball next year. EVMS will have their new scoreboard in the next couple weeks and the Wrestling light should be up for the next wrestling match.

IT Coordinator Eric Power reported that the new website is finally up and running. He is now focusing on training all the necessary staff. Another project is trying to determine any shortfalls in some of our devices and determining the next steps. He is also currently working on the CRDC reporting.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Chairman Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about the insurance committee meeting. Marsh McLennan came and spoke to the committee regarding our current plans and specifically the HSA plan. The next meeting will be on January 6th at PPE.

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 were no items for discussion or consideration this month.

Legislative Status Report

The Board, Superintendent, Admin and the public all had an opportunity to report and discuss pending legislation.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about the new legislation regarding the Quality Educator payment.

Chairman Walter spoke about a component that will increase funding for students who are working on post-secondary credits. He also spoke about Advanced Opportunity funding and a potential increase in major maintenance aid payments.

Chairman Walter also noted that COSBA sent out a national request for the new Executive Director position. They feel optimistic based on the applications they have received so far.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

No resignations to report.

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 11, 2024

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #50522 – 50590) and (Payroll #67214 - 67405)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- Brandi Dearing Substitute
- Natalie Clark Tiger Program Substitute
- Tess Prendergast Temporary Middle School Science Teacher
- Cassandra Lynn Paraprofessional
- Jon Moore EHHS Track Head Coach
- Nathaniel Bailey EHHS Assistant Track Coach
- Bret Charlton EHHS Assistant Track Coach
- Alex Reid EHHS Assistant Track Coach
- Jayden Tripp Assistant Softball Coach
- Krystal Smith Assistant Softball Coach
- Lily Larsen Assistant Softball Coach
- Tom Banks Head Tennis Coach
- Thad Buurkarl Assistant Tennis Coach
- Ethan Hoffman Head Baseball Coach
- Ron Henze Assistant Baseball Coach
- Layne Snarr Assistant Baseball Coach
- Ty Walker Assistant Baseball 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)				
Kindergarten	3			
1 st grade	3			
2 nd grade				
3 rd grade				
4 th grade	1			
5 th grade				
6 th grade				
7 th grade				
8 th grade				
9 th grade				
10 th grade				
11 th grade				
12 th grade				
Total:	7			

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the consent action items as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Unfinished Business

EPA Electric Bus Rebates and Lion Electric Order Status

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board regarding the EPA rebates and our order status for electric buses with Lion Energy.

Collection of Superintendent’s Evaluation

Board Chair Walter collected any paper submissions.

New Business

Final Audit Report

The district has not received the report yet, so this item is tabled until the January Meeting.

Resolution 239 – Obsolete Equipment – EHHS Planer

Superintendent Rispens reported that the EHHS Planer is no longer needed because the EHHS shop received a new one through the Carl Perkins grant. He asked for approval to dispose of or sell the item with requisition 239.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve Requisition 239 to dispose of or sell the EHHS planer. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Requests for New Student Activity Accounts: Girls Wrestling, EHHS F1 Club, East Strength Club, EHHS Dungeons and Dragons Club.

Superintendent Rispens reported that the clubs need a Student Activity account to deposit their funds.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the Girls Wrestling, EHHS F1 Club, East Strength and EHHS Dungeons and Dragons clubs. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Montana Advanced Opportunity Annual Report

Superintendent Rispens reported that this a required annual report to show our fund expenditures and program details. The Board must approve the report before we can submit it to OPI.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the Montana Advanced Opportunity Annual report. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Charter School Status and OPI Letter of Advisement

Superintendent Rispens discussed the current situation and possible required repayment of funds to the State of Montana.

Vice Chair Murfitt left the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Central Office Relocation Proposal

Superintendent Rispens discussed the SMA Facility Master Planning proposal to move the Central Office to the now empty health clinic building on the PPE property. He shared a proposed budget and plan for relocation.

The Board decided to table the discussion.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to table the relocation of the Central Office. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

MOU for EHESA Members to Work Over School Breaks

Superintendent Rispens requested to renew the agreement with EHESA that allows classified staff the option to work over breaks outside their job classification.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the MOU to give the classified staff the option to work over breaks outside their job classification. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Consideration of HiSET Options Application

Superintendent Rispens spoke about the advantages to becoming a HiSET Options provider which creates a pathway for local students to achieve a high school credential. He asked the Board to approve the application started by Principal Kessler and finished by Principal Condon.

Principal Condon spoke about some of the requirements for the program.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the HiSET application. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on January 13, 2025 @ 5:30 Radley Elementary

Submitted by: Jill Hoogerheide
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

1/8/25
Date

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

JAN. 13, 2025
Date