

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 13, 2025. 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, Marcia Ellermeyer, Martin Balukas and Mark Diehl

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide, Athletics Director Shaun Murgel, IT Coordinator Eric Power, and Student Representative Brooke Harris (@ 5:50)

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

Visitors: Kate Johnson

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments from the public

Reports

Student Report

Since Brooke would be late to the meeting, it was decided that the Admin Reports would be given first.

Administrator Reports

EG and PPE Principal Brandon Crusat spoke about some of his schools goals this year. He also reported that there were 104 Kindergarteners registered so far.

Radley Elementary Principal Gus Somerfeld referenced his Board report and wanted to talk about the recognition Radley received from US News and World Report. He wanted to make sure that each staff member of the district receives a shout out for all they do because it is a team effort. He also pointed out the "Hats off to You" bulletin board created by the students to show their appreciation for the School Board.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported about all the enjoyable times during December like the staff "Masked Singer" day and all that they did with the Elf on the Shelf to boost student morale.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper didn't have much to add on top of what he submitted for his board report. The staff has started to reinforce all of the expectations for behavior after such a long break and he feels this will be an important step to get everyone ready for the rest of the year.

EHHS Principal Paul Condon asked if anyone had questions regarding his Board report. Staff are starting to look at some of the successful and unsuccessful plans regarding the High School and the 227 Academy to see if there are some changes needed going forward. He also believes he will have more to show regarding that at the next Board meeting.

EHHS Vice Principal Trish Klock spoke a little about her Board report. December was tough for the staff and students with an increase in office referrals. There were some big situations that the staff were forced to deal with. The break seems to be pretty tough leading up to it for most of the students. Staff will continue to review the handbook with the students as they enter into a new semester with new courses. They are still stressing how important attending school is and how it can affect their school work and credits. The high school and charter school are seeing a fairly large percentage of absences in the senior class as well as the other grade levels. They are looking for ways to increase attendance.

IT Coordinator Eric Power reported that the IT focus for past month has been network security. This is something that they will continue to work on as the school year progresses. They are also working on updating and refreshing the Chromebooks. He has some ideas to save the District money by extending the warranties and is working on trying to bring that to fruition. He also believes we do not need to send out for repairs and can do the repairs in house. He also reported about two grants that were awarded to the District.

Student Representative Brooke Harris reported about some of the sport teams' attendance and the winter dance. She did have an issue brought to her attention by some athletes. The basketball teams can't all practice together and wrestling is taking the spot in between the two teams. Wrestling and basketball practices are conflicting. Students are wondering if there is another place for wrestling to practice.

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 and that John Doran came to speak regarding the Insurance Trust that is in the planning process.

Trustee Ellermeyer felt like the insurance meeting was informative but acknowledged that there is quite a bit more to learn regarding the new Insurance Trust.

Chairman Walter spoke about COSSBA and that the organization is working hard on filling the open Executive position. He will also be attending their conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

MTSBA had their meeting last week and it was strongly centered around the 2025 legislature sessions.

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.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about the District's enrollment numbers. He and his admin team have noticed that the numbers are staying sort of stagnant. There have not been a lot of increases, but also not a lot of decreases in enrollment. He also wanted to let the Board know that there is a Habitat for Humanity meeting coming up Thursday at the Myrna Loy Center.

Trustee Baird asked if it was possible to get a cross walk put in at Main and Kalispell. Chairman Walter stated that this has been an issue for many years and Vice Chair Murfitt stated that this would be very challenging to do.

Legislative Status Report

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

Superintendent Rispens spoke about following the MTSBA and SAM correspondence pretty intensely. There are several house bills in the legislature that he will be monitoring. The STARS Act (HB 252) is definitely one he will be watching.

Chairman Walter spoke about some of the potential changes in elections going forward regarding voter turnout max requirements. Another item that may impact schools across the state is the potential to get a large increase in funding regarding school land trusts.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- Kathryn Kellerman EVMS Paraprofessional
- Elizabeth Thomas EVMS Paraprofessional

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the Regular Meeting December 9, 2024 and May 9th Special Meeting.

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #50591 - 50668) and (Payroll #67407 - 67575)

Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

• Alex Reid	Hi SET Teacher .5
• Sophia Lance	EVMS Girls Basketball Coach
• Shawn Dinsdale	EVMS Girls Basketball Coach
• Nancy Peterson	Drivers Ed Instructor
• Dick McMahon	Drivers Ed Instructor
• Mekenzie Arnold	Substitute
• Allen Hunt	Substitute
• Emily Dearing	Student Custodian
• Tyler Murray	EHHS Head Football Coach
• Troy Arnston	EHHS Assistant Football Coach
• JD Ferris	EHHS Assistant Football Coach
• Andrew Boedecker	EHHS Assistant Football Coach
• Alex Johnson	EHHS Assistant Football Coach
• Jennifer Whitt	EHHS Girls Soccer Head Coach
• Rick Thompson	EHHS Boys Soccer Head Coach
• Shelby Hyatt	EHHS Boys Assistant Soccer Coach
• Sean Thatcher	EHHS Golf Head Coach
• Ashley Torgerson	EHHS Assistant Golf Coach
• Nathaniel Bailey	EHHS Head Cross Country Coach
• Jessi Peterson	Paraprofessional
• Caroline Case	Paraprofessional
• Patricia Jorge	Bus Driver

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				
1 st grade				
2 nd grade				
3 rd grade				
4 th grade				
5 th grade	1			
6 th grade				
7 th grade				
8 th grade				
9 th grade				
10 th grade	2			
11 th grade				
12 th grade				
Total: 3				

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer 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.

Resolution 239 – Obsolete Equipment

There was one bid received after the January 10th deadline stated in the Newspaper.

Chairman Walter wanted to err on the side of not opening the bid due to the missed deadline. The other Board members agreed.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to give authority to Superintendent Rispens to dispose of the property in compliance with state law. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Final Audit Review

Clerk Jill Hoogerheide reported about the audit from Strom & Associates and took questions.

New Business

Notice of DES Cybersecurity Grant Awards

Superintendent Rispens reported that the district was approved for \$61,118 for security subscriptions and staff training.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to accept the grant funds and allow Chairman Walter to sign on the Board's behalf. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Day Treatment Services Contract with Intermountain Children's Home

Superintendent Rispens reported that ICH is offering Day Treatment options on campus and believes we may have some students who would benefit from these therapeutic services.

The Board chose to table the discussion until a later date.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to table the discussion until a later date. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

EHPS Portrait of Graduate Review

Superintendent Rispens stated that the Portrait of Graduate is a required accreditation document. Our document has been developed by the EHHS parent council and we accepted public comment. The Board was asked to discuss the document and request any desired changes before the document's final approval.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to table the EHPS Portrait of Graduate approval and refer it to the policy committee for further discussion. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Consideration of EHEA MOU – Driver's Ed

Superintendent Rispens described the district's current situation regarding Driver's Ed and that we are struggling to provide the program due to a lack of instructors. The district has partnered with EHEA to develop an MOU as an incentive to current staff to earn the endorsement to be able to teach driver's Ed for our students.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the MOU for Driver's Ed. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

MHSA 2025 Executive Board Proposals – Review and Discussion

Dan Rispens shared information about the upcoming MHSA Meeting .

Consideration of the 25-26 Academic Calendar

Principal Condon presented to the Board the recommendation from the Calendar Committee to adopt option 1 of the 2025-2026 school calendar choices.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve option 1 as the 2025-2026 school calendar. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Superintendent Evaluation

The Board entered a Closed Session in order to protect the privacy rights of the Superintendent.

Chairman Walter adjourned the regular meeting at 7:46 p.m.

The Board exited Closed Session and resumed the open session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to extend the Superintendent's contract for one additional year. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on February 10, 2025 @ 5:30 Eastgate Elementary

Submitted by: _____

Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

Date

Approved by: _____

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date