

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 February 10, 2025. 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, Stacy Baird, Tristan Ulmer, Marcia Ellermeyer, and Mark Diehl.

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide, Athletics Director Shaun Murgel, and IT Coordinator Eric Power

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

Visitors: Adrienne Simonson, Kim Metzger, Kate Johnson, Sarah Sandau, Cole Bass, Kaia Tharp, Jenn Warner and Family, JD Ferris, Linda Kent, Teaje Ellison

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments from the public

Reports

Student Report

Brooke was not able to attend the meeting.

Teacher Recognition

Superintendent Rispens reported that Jen Warner was selected as a winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Principal Crusat spoke about Jenn and some of the instances within her classroom that made her a perfect choice for the award.

Administrator Reports

EG and PPE Principal Brandon Crusat referenced some of the data from his Board packet. Originally all the 2nd graders were going to participate in a snowshoe activity but due to weather it was cancelled. They are now going to be able to learn inside and possibly still get to experience wearing snow shoes for a small time.

Radley Elementary Principal Gus Somerfeld wanted to expand on his Board report. He used the I-ready benchmark assessments for both math and reading. He wanted to point out that all three grade levels ended up on the high-performance quadrant in math and reading.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported they will be finishing up testing this week or early next week. Girls basketball ends this week. They are not having any other sports until track starts at the end of March. She feels like the indoor recesses due to weather are taking a toll on the students and staff.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper reported that the re-teaching of expectations has helped a lot. The initial totals look high, but a large percentage were addressed in the classroom. He felt like this was a great example of the teachers using the training and incorporating it into their plans going forward.

EHHS Principal Paul Condon spoke about his Board report. He wanted to mention something that happened on Thursday. The admin recognized students that did some great things in the community. He felt like this was effective for other students to see and hopes this would get them to join similar projects.

EHHS Vice Principal Trish Klock highlighted from her report that the staff went over the expectations again with the students. First class period everyone was working on the same section in the handbook. They have also compared referral numbers compared to last year at this time to see if their systems are working.

Athletic Director Shaun Murgel wanted to highlight all the proposals that passed at MHSA last week.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Chairman Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Chairman Walter spoke about MTSBA and about how they are working hard to advocate for districts in the legislature. He also mentioned that he and Superintendent Rispens participated in the Days on the Hill event.

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 enrollment and feels like we are fairly steady this year. He also wanted to give an update on the East Helena public library. They are wanting to construct a new building and have requested that EHPS allow them to use a parcel of our land to build their new library.

Legislative Status Report

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

Superintendent Rispens spoke about some of the house bills in the legislation right now. HB15 and HB252 are two that the District are following pretty strongly. HB 320 is one of concern for public schools and can affect the funding that comes to the schools. It can be a significant decrease. He feels it is one to keep an eye on.

Chairman Walter spoke about a couple inflationary bills. HB 265, which is the over-base levy inflation bill is one to watch. HB 266 is the inflation reconciliation bill and also should be on our radar. Some other bills to watch are SB 204 which limits the duration of mill levies and SB 205 which creates election turnout requirements.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- Patrick Moore Custodian
- Mariah Sprunger Paraprofessional
- Jess Peterson Paraprofessional
- Marquis Davis Paraprofessional
- Jewel Sullivan Teacher

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 13, 2025

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims # 50669 - 50728) and (Payroll #67576-67759)
Personnel Actions

Recommendation of Employment:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Rachel Bright | -After School Program Instructor |
| • CJ Hansen | -Summer Program Lead Teacher |
| • Amy Pollington | -Summer Program Lead Teacher |
| • Lauren Betz | -Student Aide |
| • Hailey Crawford | -Student Aide |
| • Ethan Davis | -Student Aide |
| • Emily Dearing | -Student Aide |
| • Ryder Figler | -Student Aide |
| • Eli Fox | -Student Aide |
| • Brianna Hoff | -Student Aide |
| • Christian Jensen | -Student Aide |
| • Cole Jones | -Student Aide |
| • Rainier Murgel | -Student Aide |

● Jaci Nickovich	-Student Aide
● Slade Olson	-Student Aide
● Rori Schoenfeld	-Student Aide
● Matthew Shields	-Student Aide
● Kylie Shults	-Student Aide
● Killian Snarr	-Student Aide
● Emma Stapley	-Student Aide
● Rilie Stephenson	-Student Aide
● Zachary Steward	-Student Aide
● Jack Taylor	-Student Aide
● Janelle Taylor	-Student Aide
● Parker Taylor	-Student Aide
● Maya Westerhold	-Student Aide
● Talea Wigen	-Student Aide
● Joe Senecal	-Student Aide
● Kaden Cohn	-Student Aide
● Natalie Patterson	-Student Aide
● Connor Carpenter	-Student Aide
● Roxy White	-Student Aide
● Andrew Mazanec	-Student Aide
● Taysom Mitchell	-Student Aide
● Ashley Carpenter	-Student Aide
● Parker Taylor	-Student Aide
● Kaiden Belgarde	-Student Aide
● Casey Crawford	-School Bus Driver
● Sarah Sandau	-Jumpstart/Summer Program Teacher
● Rachel Bright	-Jumpstart/Summer Program Teacher
● Camryn Beck	-Jumpstart/Summer Program Teacher
● Kristin Ophus	-Jumpstart/Summer Program Teacher
● Patti McLean	-Jumpstart/Summer Program Teacher
● Jenni Krause	-Jumpstart/Summer Program Teacher
● Melinda Yeary	-Jumpstart/Summer Program Teacher

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	1			
2 nd grade	1			
3 rd grade	1			

4 th grade	
5 th grade	
6 th grade	
7 th grade	1
8 th grade	
9 th grade	1
10 th grade	
11 th grade	3
12 th grade	1

Total: 9

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

Unfinished Business

Day Treatment Services Contract with Intermountain Children's Home.

Superintendent Rispens reported that Exhibit B of the contract has been revised to more closely reflect our discussion from last month.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the service contract for ICH with an end term of June 30th, 2026. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

EHPS Portrait of a Graduate Review

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Policy Committee revised the document to maintain the original intent while cleaning up the language issues.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the EHPS Portrait of a Graduate. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Budget Update – FY '26 Projections

Superintendent Rispens updated the Board with a forecast of next year's budgetary situation based on current legislation and enrollment.

Health Insurance Fund Status Update

Clerk Hoogerheide spoke about the status of the District's self-insurance fund.

Reconsideration of the 25-26 Academic Calendar – Spring Break

Superintendent Rispens brought the school calendar discussion back up. HSD #1 confirmed that their spring break is a week later. The Calendar Committee would like to discuss changing our calendar choice to reflect a similar spring break.

Trustee Baird pointed out some counter points regarding changing the spring break dates.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt to adopt the calendar with the adjusted Spring Break, March 30th to April 3rd. The motion dies for lack of second.

New Business

Bus Driver

Superintendent Rispens reported that Garrett Ulmer has been recommended for hire as an EHPS bus driver. He is the son of Trustee Tristan Ulmer. This hire requires that the Board follow Nepotism Protocols which would require Trustee Ulmer to abstain from the vote.

Trustee Ulmer removed herself from the vote.

Martin Balukas has called in and is voting per speaker phone.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to hire Garrett Ulmer as an EHPS bus driver. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Request for Check Writing Authority – Educational Savings Account

Superintendent Rispens reported that the District was notified by OPI that we have our first resident student to apply and qualify for the Educational Savings Account Program. This requires the business office to submit monthly payments to OPI for deposit into his account. The payments do not always fall in line with the Board meetings so the business office is requesting check writing authority to meet the obligation in a timely manner.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Diehl to grant check writing authority to the business office for the ESA program. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Indian Education Report

Kim Metzger, Indian Impact Teacher provided education to the Board regarding IEFA efforts and our Indian Education Program.

227 Academy Update

Principals Condon and Morris provided an update of the progress and development of the 227 Charter school.

Traffic Study Proposal

Staff from Stahly Engineering presented a proposal to do a traffic study of the PPE property and the upcoming Valley Drive work.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to table the proposal for the study to prepare for upcoming improvements. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

TA Grant Application Consideration

Superintendent Rispens presented a request by Stahly Engineering to explore the possibilities of a TA grant through the newly formed Helena Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to improve access for students.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to accept the proposal from Stahly Engineering for the grant application and allow Superintendent Rispens to cancel the grant and any time and not exceed \$12000. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Consideration of EHEA MOU – Teacher Prep / Para Coverage

Superintendent Rispens asked the Board to consider a temporary MOU with the EHEA allowing teachers to be paid to prep outside the typical working hours which would enable them to cover for a paraprofessional shortage.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the MOU to allow a teacher to sub for a paraprofessional position during their prep period. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Resolution 240 – Call for Action by Mail Ballot

The Board was presented with the resolution for consideration.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve Resolution 240 to call for a Mail Ballot Election. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

District Clerk Evaluation.

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

Chairman Walter adjourned the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m.

The Board exited Closed Session and resumed the open session at 9.05 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on March 10, 2025 @ 5:30 East Valley Middle School

Submitted by: _____
Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

Date

Approved by: _____
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date