

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 May 12, 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, Tristan Ulmer, Marcia Ellermeyer, Martin Balukas, Stacy Baird, and Mark Diehl

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, Paul Condon and Brandon Crusat.

Visitors: Tiffany Richardson, Sarah Sandau and Mason Skains, Kaylee Peterson, Aidan Dess.

Review the Agenda

No comments

Hear the Public

No comments

Reports

Student Report

Brooke Harris spoke about all the excitement at the end of the year and the rush to get everything finished. She commented on how many of our sports teams are now heading to their Divisional conference and what a wonderful accomplishment this is. The EHHS Graduation will be on May 30th and she said seniors are definitely ready.

Administrator Reports

EG and PPE Principal Brandon referenced his Board packet and asked if anyone needed clarification on the black box, benchmarking, or anything else. He wanted to tell the Board that on May 1st the students and teachers dropped off baskets around the neighborhood on May day. Some also visited a retirement home to drop off packages and they thought it was great success. Prickly Pear Elementary had a second grader win a contest to create a poster for the Montana Attorney General. He hopes to have more information to share later.

Radley Elementary Principal Gus Somerfeld spoke about benchmark assessment season and wanted to let the Board know that the staff is very optimistic. He shared some highlights about the MT Adopt a

Species program and this year's animal was the black bear. Radley had three 3rd, 4th and 5th grade winners of the drawing program and will end up in the Fish and Wild magazine. He also wanted to point out that the Montana Flower Program winner is a Radley student and is currently on a billboard in the valley.

EVMS Principal Lynsi Morris reported that 78 students went to Butte for the track meet and tomorrow EVMS will host a meet. The school admin team is trying to find a way to rotate through blocks next year to help with low attention spans. They have a couple ideas and will share more when the admin team comes to a decision. On Vigilante day, the school noticed a large percentage of absences. The SROs spent some time with students by telling stories at a recent event. EVMS is sad that Cody Criner is leaving and will now have a replacement next year. Cody said his goodbyes and he introduced the Board to Aaron McBride who will be the new SFO next year. Officer McBride said his hellos and is eager to work with EVMS. Lynsi also wanted everyone to know that the IEFA grant went through for next year.

EVMS Vice Principal Michael Kemper reported that behaviors are up and chronic behaviors are extremely high; after 3 minor behaviors and parent contact the behavior is considered chronic. Also, the numbers of referrals have gone up. Cell phones were a particular issue this month but the team is trying to celebrate the positive behaviors. The staff is looking at trying to determine reasons for all the increases.

Trustee Baird had some questions for SRO Criner and Mr. Kemper regarding the procedures for follow up when a student has a write-up for vaping, pouches, dabs, etc.

EHHS Principal Paul Condon spoke about the ACT results. He received the performance summaries last week and plans to talk about the results at next month's Board meeting. The EHHS staff are brainstorming some ways to help increase some of the scores and are especially focused on science.

EHHS Vice Principal Trish Klock spoke about the increase in behaviors this month. EHHS also had a lot of students (over 300) absent on Vigilante Day. The school had quite a few attendance infractions for the entire month and the staff are brainstorming ways to help incentivize attendance moving forward. She did note that a large majority of the daily attendance problems were seniors and that the freshman made up a large percentage of the class skipping.

Athletic Director Shaun Murgel spoke about Spring sports and let the Board know they will be done in 2 weeks. BPA just came back from Nationals and ESPORTS will be going to their Nationals this summer. Our athletic teams have experienced a lot of success this year.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Chairman Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Superintendent Rispens spoke about the Budget Committee meeting that took place last week. Trustee Balukas told the Board that the committee tried to rank priorities based on student needs and bringing back most of the lost positions from the failed levies.

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 long-term infrastructure meeting with the public. There were updates from community members regarding some ongoing projects within the community. We were already aware of most of the projects that were mentioned.

Legislative Status Report

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

Superintendent Rispens told the Board that HB 252 (Stars Act) passed. We are now waiting to see if the Advanced Opportunity trainer bill passes.

Chairman Walter told the Board and public that Thinktank Thursday would be cancelled and everyone was waiting for some of the bills to be signed. He felt pretty optimistic that the bills we favored on the watchlist would be signed.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- Jaicee Senecal EVMS Science Teacher
- Anna Spoja EHHS Business Teacher
- Sharyn Gunderson Paraprofessional
- Brandy Gallups Special Education Teacher
- Randy Vose Bus Driver
- Cassandra Lynn Paraprofessional

Consent Action Items

Minutes of the Regular Meeting April 14, 2025

Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims #50880 - 50955) and (Payroll #68141 - 68346)

Personnel Actions

- Angie Cejka -Paraprofessional
- Kylie Layton -Paraprofessional
- Daniel Farnam -EHHS SPED Teacher-Pending MT Certification
- Shelby Holmes -Head VBall Coach
- Hanna Carey -EHHS English Teacher
- Kirk Hendrick -Bus Driver
- Thomas Holdforth -Substitute Bus Driver
- Patrica Gillett -EHHS Business Teacher
- Dessirae Anderson -EHHS Head Cheer Coach
- Nicole Burgess -Paraprofessional 25-26 School Year
- Alyssa Terry -Paraprofessional 25-26 School Year
- Jack Pkra -EVMS Science
- Tara Kelleher -Kitchen Aide 25-26 School Year
- Lauren Dotson -Kitchen Aide 25-26 School year
- Janie Taylor -EHHS Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Sydnee Clairmont -EHHS Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Sam Holman -EHHS Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Alex Reid -Assistant Football Coach

From: Brandon Crusat, Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal
Re: 2025-26 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2025-26

I recommend the following **tenured** staff members be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Beck, Camryn	Bender, Marne	Briski, Jillian	Dachs, Shana	Fetherston, Tana
Gallups, Brandy	Griffiths, Katie	Haas, Jolette	Hansen, Catherine	Hager, Jen
Heidinger, McKenzie		Johnson, Kate	Krantz, Matthew	Krause, Jenni
Lunday, Nancy	Mikesell, Ashlee	Odegard, Nikki	Odermann, Jannice	Ophus, Kristin
Petersen, Kara	Phelps, Kelsey	Pollington, Amy	Salerno, Alyssa	Sandau, Sarah
Simonson, Adrienne		Vetsch, Erin	Warner, Jenn	

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Beveridge, Rachel Burke, Samantha Power, Christina Eric Lehman

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Graham, Kayla Shaul, Alyssa

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2025-26

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year.

Boltz, Laura	Clark, Natalie	Combs, Kayla	Elgen, Kendra	Foster, Monica
Kalous, Bethany	Kalous, Kari	Kuhl, Joseph	Madsen, Erika	Tyler, Lew

Mergenthaler, Hillary
Umsted, Kerstie

Menius, Alicia
Cole -McLaughlin, Connie

Merriman, Philesa

Rivers, Caitlin

From: Gus Somerfeld, Radley Elementary Principal
Re: 2025-26 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2025-26

I recommend the following **tenured** staff members be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Bright, Rachel	Clement, Carrie	Cloeren, Michael
Countryman, Heather	Dusenberry, Camilla	Ferro, Ashley
Finstad, Erin	Haines, Tricia	Jones, KD
Mazanec, Traci	McLean, Patti	Metzger, Kim
Olson, Karly	Penner, Julie	Reiff, Anna
Scoles, Jennifer	Senecal, Katherine	Speicher, Kari
Teders, Vashti		

I recommend the following **non-tenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Cathcart, Bethany

I recommend the following **non-tenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Rubio-Pratt, Veronica

Snarr, Karley

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2025-26

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Case, Rachel	Cejka, Angie	Cranmore, Sarah
Dunlap, Debbie	Ereth, Trina	Hayes, Taylor
Hogue, Abby	Lashway, Michelle	Meeker, Jacquelyn
Smith, Emily	Super, Mary	Terry, MaryAnn
Yeary, Melinda		

From: Lynsi Morris, EVMS Principal
Re: 2025-26 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2025-26

I recommend the following **tenured** staff members be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Arntson, Troy	Brown, Bryanna	Cobb, Jason
Gates, Carolyn	Horne, Cory	McLaughlin, Whitney
Metzger, Kimberly	Murphree, Kaitlyn	Pritchard, Erik
Schoppe, Tamika	Somerfeld, Holly	VanNice, Kevin
Walsh, Beth	Wigen, Jodi	

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Davis, Lucy	Sebestyen, Ray	Purcell, Brooklyn
Cooney, Alexis	Kraft, Duncan	Ramirez, Rosie
Yackley, Jaden	Brus, Olivia	Wigen, Samantha

Wallis, Caleb

Pendergast, Tess

Solan, Kara

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Lance, Sophia	Elliott, Andrew
Cantrell, Jonathan	Berg, Christina

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2025-26

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2025-26 school year:

Hines, Jennifer	Palmer, Summer
Broadhurst, Christina	

From: Paul Condon, EHHS Principal; Trish Klock, EHHS Vice Principal

Re: 2025-26 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2025-2026

I recommend the following **tenured** staff members be rehired for the 2025-2026 school year:

Ty Ridgeway	Carson Bender	Jana Nygaard
Cole Bass	Tamika Schoppe	Ashley Torgerson
Sarah Cobb	Victoria Curtiss	Whitney Mitchell
Casey Harris	Jon Moore	Christa Schoenfeld
Marne Bender	Nicole Hash	Bret Charlton
JD Ferris	Shelby Holmes	Ty Murray
Brad Paskey	Riley Sampson	Kelli Kerpa
Katie VanderZanden		

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-2026 school year:

Cody Tofflemire	Breanna Humphrey-Gilbert	Trinity Nelson	Samantha Wigen
Alex Reid	Hanna Carey		

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2025-2026 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Tabitha Smail	Alex Johnson	Amanda Countryman	Andrew Boedecker
Ethan Hoffman	Rebecca Bergman	Andrew Elliott	

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2025-2026

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2025-2026 school year.

Tammi Daum	Tonya Hauck	Alex Reid
Janie Taylor	Stormi Lucero	Bridget Guerin

From: Michelle Olds, Food Service Supervisor

Re: 2025-26 Food Service Classified Staff Hiring Recommendations

I recommend that following FOOD SERVICE STAFF be rehired for the 2025-26 school year

Aaron Strong	Dicee Harrison	Joan Lizar	Izabella TwoTeeth	Arlee Hutchinson
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Joe Guerin	Karen Chaffins	Blanca Saur	Renee Slocum	Kaydee Strum
Kayla Groat	Kathy Cook	Misty Lockey	Miriam Horner	

From: Steve Skains, Maintenance/Custodian Supervisor
Re: 2025-26 Classified Staff Hiring Recommendations

Maintenance/Custodial Staff

Liam Gallups	Michael Sloan	Cason Greg	Rick Krause
<u>Mason Skains</u>	Ken Leistiko	Dennis Briggs	Laurie Leistiko
Mathew Shields			

From: Nick Turner Transportation Supervisor
Re: 2025-26 Classified Staff Hiring Recommendations

Bus Drivers

Hank Flatow	Lester White	Tom Stevison	Steve Allen
Kelly Allen	Stuart Beagles	Ralph White	Doug Hollingshead
Carl Moore	Joseph Krall	Randy Siemers	Ralph White
Sherylle Pellen	Casey Crawford		

From: Dan Rispens, Superintendent
Re: 2025-26 Hiring Recommendations

Administrative Staff recommended for contract renewals:

Gus Somerfeld	Brandon Crusat	Eric Power	Jill Hoogerheide
Jennifer Wiedbusch	Steve Skains	Michelle Olds	Jennifer Cordell
Shaun Murgel	Michael Kemper	Kaylee May	Lynsi Morris
Janice Osborne	Paul Condon	Nick Turner	Trish Klock
Denise Linton	Kaylee May	Oliver Atkinson	

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			
2 nd grade				
3 rd grade	1			
4 th grade	2			
5 th grade				
6 th grade				
7 th grade				
8 th grade				
9 th grade				

10th grade
11th grade
12th grade

Total: 5

East Helena School District Students Requesting Enrollment in Other School Districts for the 2025-2026 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				1
4 th grade				
5 th grade				
6 th grade				2
7 th grade				
8 th grade				
9 th grade				
10th grade				
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

Second Reading Board Policy #8210

- 8210 – Procurement Policy for School Food Purchases and Use of Federal Funds

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve policy 8210 on second reading. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

New Business

Out of State Travel Request – EHHS E-Sports

Members of the EHHS E-Sports team requested permission to travel out of state to attend the Nationals Competition in St. Louis, MS.

Coach Mason Skains, Kaylee Peterson and Aidan Dess came to represent the team. Mason showed a slideshow with the teams and spoke about how important and valuable the program is for the students. East Helena was the only school to place in every game.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the travel request for EHHS E-Sports to attend the out of state competition. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Health Insurance Renewal Update

Clerk Hoogerheide updated the Board regarding our health insurance rates for 2025-26.

Setting Administrative Staff Salaries

Superintendent Rispens submitted his proposed salary adjustments for staff not covered by collective bargaining.

Motion by Trustee Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the recommendations for administrative salaries as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Appointment of District Clerk

Superintendent Rispens reported that the Board must officially declare the appointment for District Clerk for the 25-26 school year.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to accept the recommendation to appoint Jill Hoogerheide as District Clerk for the 2025-26 school year. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

MTSBA Trainings and Opportunities

Board Chair Walter shared information for Trustees to consider the upcoming training opportunities through Montana School Boards Association.

Non-Resident Student Application Consideration

The Board was asked to consider the applications for returning non-resident students for the 2025-26 school year.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve the non-resident applications currently presented for the 2025-26 school year. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

Special Meeting, Board Reorganization – Monday, May 19th, 2025 @5:30 EVMS

Special Meeting, Non-resident consideration under policy 3141, dated May 20, 2025 @EVMS

The next regular meeting will be held on June 9th, 2025 @ 5:30 EVMS

Submitted by: _____

Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide

Date

Approved by: _____

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Date