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 August 11, 2025. Chairman Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Tristan Ulmer, Tiffany Richardson, Martin Balukas, Stacy Baird, and Mark Diehl (@ 5:33)

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jill Hoogerheide, Athletics Director Shaun Murgel, and IT Help Desk Technician Oliver Atkinson.

Visitors: Kylene Ruth, Nancy Marks, Sonny Tapia, Kate Johnson

Review the Agenda

No comments from the Board.

Hear the Public

No comments

Reports

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

Chairman Walter solicited reports from the Trustees and Committees.

Chairman Walter asked if there were any trustee who would like to be a director position with MREA. Trustee Richardson stated that she would be interested,

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 Valley Drive project, and it is hopefully moving forward. He stated that he would update more after he speaks to the mayor.
He also wanted to let the Board and public know about East Helena's Phoenix Award from the EPA. The city was awarded this for the excellence brownfields redevelopment for the cleanup and revitalization of the old ASARCO smelter site.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- Sarah Weddle Paraprofessional
- Taylor Hayes Paraprofessional
- Kerstie Umsted Paraprofessional

Consent Action Items

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Approval of the former and new warrants (Claims # 51187 -51270) and (Payroll # 68924-69016)

Personnel Actions

- Alex Heigh Paraprofessional
- Juliette Jones Paraprofessional
- Olivia Nett Paraprofessional
- Andrew Useche Paraprofessional
- MaryAnn McMahon Substitute
- Teagan Atkinson Substitute
- April Prescott Special Education Teacher
- Brandy Gallups Special Education Teacher
- Erin Finstad Tiger Robotics Coach
- Peter Callahan - Substitute Bus Driver
- Jessica Clanin Paraprofessional

East Helena School District Students Requesting Enrollment in Other School Districts for the 2025-2026 School Year

	Helena	Jefferson High	Montana City	Clancy
MM (PreK)				
Kindergarten				
1st grade				
2nd grade				
3rd grade				
4th grade				
5th grade				
6th grade				
7th grade				
8th grade				
9th grade				
10th grade		1		
11th grade				
12th grade				

Total: 1

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

Unfinished Business

1st Reading Policies 3141, 3310 and 8560

- Policy 3141 Non-resident Student Enrollment

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Richardson to approve revisions to policy 3141 on first reading.
Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

- Policy 3310 Student Discipline

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve policy 3310 on first reading.
Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

- Policy 8560 Display of Flags and Banners on District Property

Motion Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Richardson to approve the new policy 8560 on first reading. Trustees Diehl, Ulmer, Baird, Richardson, Walter voted Aye. Trustee Balukas voted no. With 5 ayes and 1 no. The motion carries.

Second Reading – Policy Revision and Update Considerations

- Policy 3665 Student Safety
- Policy 5122 Fingerprints and Background Checks
- Policy 2335 Enhancement Human Sexuality Instruction and Identity Instruction
- Policy 5255 Disciplinary Action
- Policy 3416 Administering Medicine to Students
- Policy 2158 Parent and Family Engagement and Educational Involvement
- Policy 2165 Early Targeted Intervention
- Policy 3110 Entrance, Placement, and Transfer
- Policy 3121 Enrollment and Attendance Records
- Policy 3650 Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act
- Policy 5123 Employer Verification of Employee
- Policy 2050 Innovative Student Instruction
- Policy 5252 Notice of Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teacher for Financial Reasons
- Policy 8301 School Safety
- Policy 2334 Release Time for Religious Instruction
- Policy 2600 Work Based Learning
- Policy 2100 School Calendar and Day
- Policy 2450 Indian Education for All
- Policy 2150 Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to accept the policies under second reading. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion passes.

MTSBA Bylaws, Resolutions, and Officers Review and Consideration

Chairman Walter led the discussion about the MTSBA bylaws. There were not a lot of changes in the bylaws but there were some changes in the fee structure.

- Principles and Guidelines
- Foundational Elements
- Dues Structure for FY27
- Officers Rick Cummings and Jennifer Hoffman

Motion by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve the recommendations for the Principles and Guidelines, Foundational Elements, Dues and Structures, and to provide Chairman Walter the authority to enter the Trustees votes into the survey. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

New Business

Non-Resident Application Consideration – Newly Hired Staff

Superintendent Rispens asked the Board to consider a new non-resident application for two children of a new staff member.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the application of the two non-resident students of an approved employee of the District. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Consideration for Audit Services

Superintendent Rispens reported that the business office received a new 3-year proposal from Strom and Associates for our audit services.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the 3-year contract from Strom and Associates for our audit services. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries

TFS Report Review and Approval

The Board members and community had an opportunity to review the Trustees Financial Statement for Fiscal year 2025 to be filed by the District Clerk.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the Trustee Financial Statement for FY25. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

Final FY ’26 Budget Review and Approval

The Board members and community had the opportunity to review the proposed budget amounts for the new fiscal year.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Richardson to approve the proposed FY 26 budget amounts. Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries

Consideration of RBHI MOU for Suicide Screening

Superintendent Rispens stated that this is a renewal of our agreement for suicide prevention screening and partnership with Rural Behavior Health.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Diehl to approve the MOU to continue to partner with RBHI for suicide screening.
Unanimous vote for the motion. The motion carries.

MTSBA Call for Resolutions

The Board had the opportunity to discuss legislative advocacy through MTSBA and ideas for future legislations that should be considered.

Chair Walter gave an example of a resolution in the past that a district had asked for which allowed MTSBA to help with their expansion to a K-12 school district. At the time, it was a very contentious issue, and the help led to them eventually being allowed to expand. He wanted to explain how important the advocacy could be.

He stated that if anyone from the Board would like to throw out a potential resolution, MTSBA has asked that those are passed forward. He mentioned that there is a process that needs to be followed to get it under consideration and he would be more than happy to assist or answer any questions one may have.

There were not questions or suggestions from the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday September 8th, 2025 @ 5:30 EHHS.

Submitted by: _____ _____

Board Clerk, Jill Hoogerheide Date

Approved by: _____ _____

Chairman, Board of Trustees Date