

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EAST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
Monday, May 11, 2026

EAST VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Reception for the District Retirees at 5:00
Meeting Starts at 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW OF AGENDA

HEAR THE PUBLIC

REPORTS

1. Student Report
2. Administrator Reports
3. Trustee and Committee Reports of the K – 12 Board
4. Strategic Planning- Scan for Future Needs
5. Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting April 13, 2026; Infrastructure & Transportation Committee April 23, 2026; Long Term Infrastructure Committee April 27, 2026; Personnel Committee May 1, 2026.
- B. Approval of Former & New Warrants
- C. Personnel Actions
- D. Surrounding School District Student Enrollment Approval

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Baseball Facility Booster Fundraiser Consideration
2. EHPS School Board Self Evaluation and Professional Reading

NEW BUSINESS

1. Oath of Office for Newly Elected Trustees
2. Reorganization of the Board
3. Board Committee Appointments
4. Appointment of District Clerk
5. Out of State Travel Request; EHHS E-Sports
6. Health Insurance Renewal Update
7. Setting Administrative Staff Salaries
8. Trustee Resolution #246 Requesting County Conduct Elections
9. MTSBA Trainings and Opportunities
10. Non-Resident Student Application Consideration
11. Consideration of School Resource Officer Contract with Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office.
12. Charter School Annual Performance Report Review.
13. Non-renewal of Temporary Certified Staff for no Cause, M. C., J. C.

ADJOURN

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Special Meetings – Wednesday, May 20 and May 27, 2026 5:30 @ East Valley Middle School
Regular Meeting - Monday, June 8th, 2026 at 5:30 PM - East Valley Middle School Library

Citizen Participation

All citizens are welcome and are encouraged to attend all meetings of the Board. In accordance with Montana Open Meeting Law (2-3-203, MCA) it is required that citizens have an opportunity to address the Board. All Board of Trustees meetings in which a quorum is present shall include an agenda item called 'Hear the Public.' The Board shall adopt the following guidelines for this agenda item.

Hear the Public:

Persons wanting to address the Board of Trustees on items not on the agenda can do so at this time.

- a. Each person may address the Board at the time designated in the agenda by stepping to the front of the room or the podium, giving their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record. Each individual shall limit his/her comments to the Board to three (3) minutes.
- b. All remarks shall be addressed to the Board only and NOT to any member of the Board, staff or audience.
- c. No person, other than the Board and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion either directly or through a member of the Board, without the permission of the Presiding Officer.
- d. No questions shall be directed towards any individuals except through the Presiding Officer.
- e. Under Rules of Order, questions cannot be answered by the Board, only heard. The Board is not under any obligation to respond. It is illegal for the Board to take any action on the comments.
- f. Speakers will not mention specific names of individuals in a public forum due to rights of privacy. Individual attacks will NOT be tolerated.
- g. Comments made by the person addressing the Board do not represent the opinions of the Board, or staff and are only the expressed opinion of the speaker.

MONDAY, MAY 11th, 2026 BOARD MEETING
TRUSTEE INFORMATION PACKET
East Valley Middle School
5:30 P.M.

HEAR THE PUBLIC

COMMENTARY: We will Adhere to the Board Guidelines as Noted on the Back of the Agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Strictly an Information Item.

REPORTS

1. Student Report

- a. Xavier Nunn will Report To The Board. This will mark the end of Xavier's term, with the Board.

2. Administrator Reports

- a. The Building Administrator Reports are in the Supporting Documents.

3. Trustee and Committee Reports of the K-12 Board

- a. The Board Chair will Solicit Reports from Trustees or Committees.

4. Strategic Planning - Scan for Future Needs

- a. The Board Chair will Solicit Comments or Observations Regarding our Current Strategic Plan and Planning Needs..

5. Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

- a. The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Olivia Brus | -EVMS Special Education |
| • Philesha Merriman | -PPE Tutor |
| • Lindsey McGill | -Radley Tutor |
| • Teri Valvoda | -Radley Para |
| • Tom Stevison | -Bus Driver |

CONSENT AGENDA

COMMENTARY: There are Board Documents Presented that Reflect the Minutes of the Last Board Meeting(s), the Warrants to be Paid, and Personnel Actions which Include Recommendations of Personnel to Employ.

- A. Board Minutes of Regular Meeting April 13, 2026; Infrastructure & Transportation Committee April 23, 2026; Long Term Infrastructure Committee April 27, 2026; Personnel Committee May 1, 2026
- B. Pay Warrants
- C. Personnel Action
- D. Surrounding School District Student Enrollment Approval
- E. Recommended Employment of Staff:

- Heather Countryman -Summer Program Instructor
- Josh Jones -Summer Program Instructor
- Tyler Patrick -EVMS Teacher
- Richard Donofrio -Boys Head Soccer Coach
- Ray Sebestyn -Assistant Football Coach
- Dante Vallance -Assistant Football Coach
- Duncan Kraft -Assistant Football Coach
- Bret Charlton -EHHS Summer Program Instructor
- Riley Samson -EHHS Summer Program Instructor
- Alex Reid -EHHS Summer Program Instructor
- Shelby Holmes -EHHS Summer Program Instructor
- Ty Murray -EHHS Summer Program Instructor
- Derek Bonogofsky -Bus Driver
- Cody Criner -Substitute
- Janie Barfuss -Substitute
- Jillian Hayter -Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Bill Casey -Assistant Golf Coach
- Gunner Gleasman -EHHS Social Studies Teacher
- Kira Kuhlman -Radley Special Education Teacher
- Preston Dешner -Summer Program Paraprofessional
- Olivia Nett -PPE Instructional Tutor
- Kayleigh Neal -EHHS Social Studies

To: Dan Rispens, District #9 Superintendent and Board of Trustees
 Fr: Brandon Crusat, Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal
 Re: 2026-27 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2026-27

I recommend the following **tenured** staff members be rehired for the 2026-27 school year:

Beck, Camryn	Bender, Marne	Dachs, Shana
Fetherston, Tana	Graham, Kayla	Griffiths, Katie
Haas, Jollette	Hansen, Catherine	Hager, Jen
Heidinger, McKenzie	Johnson, Kate	Krantz, Matthew
Krause, Jenni	Lunday, Nancy	Mikesell, Ashlee
Odegard, Nikki	Diehl, Jannice	Ophus, Kristin
Petersen, Kara	Phelps, Kelsey	Pollington, Amy
Salerno, Alyssa	Sandau, Sarah	Shaul, Alyssa

Simonson, Adrienne
Wilson, Jillian

Vetsch, Erin

Warner, Jenn

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year:

Jones, Joshua

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Beveridge, Rachel
Power, Christina

Burke, Samantha

Lehman, Eric

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2026-27

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year.

Boltz, Laura
Combs, Kayla
Kalous, Bethany
Madsen, Erika
Mergenthaler, Hillary
Terry, Alyssa
Umsted, Kerstie

Burgess, Nicole
Elgen, Kendra
Kalous, Kari
Cole -McLaughlin, Connie
Menius, Alicia
Tyler, Lew

Clark, Natalie
Foster, Monica
Kuhl, Joseph
Rivers, Caitlin

To: Dan Rispens, District #9 Superintendent and Board of Trustees
Fr: Gus Somerfeld, Radley Elementary Principal
Re: 2026-27 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2026-27

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

Bright, Rachel
Countryman, Heather
Haines, Tricia
Mazanec, Traci
Penner, Julie
Senecal, Katherine
Teders, Vashti

Clement, Carrie
Dusenberry, Camilla
Krantz, Matt
Metzger, Kim
Rubio-Pratt, Veronica
Snarr, Karley

Cloeren, Michael
Finstad, Erin
Linder, Ashley
Olson, Karly
Scoles, Jennifer
Speicher, Kari

I recommend the following **non-tenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year:

Arnold, Mekenzie
Lesofski, Caitlyn

Countryman, Amber

Harrington, Tara

I recommend the following **non-tenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Cathcart, Bethany

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2026-27

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year:

Baker, Savannah	Cavalli, Rachel	Deshner, Preston
Hansen, Isabella	Heigh, Alex	Hogue, Abby
Jatkowski, Darlene	Lashway, Michelle	Owens, Megan
Ryan, Debra	Smith, Emily	Terry, MaryAnn
Yeary, Melinda		

To: Dan Rispens, District #9 Superintendent and Board of Trustees
Fr: Lynsi Morris, EVMS Principal
Re: 2026-27 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2026-27

I recommend the following **tenured** staff members be rehired for the 2026-27 school year:

Arntson, Troy	Brown, Bryanna	Senecal, Katherine
Gates, Carolyn	Horne, Cory	McLaughlin, Whitney
Metzger, Kimberly	Murphree, Kaitlyn	Walsh, Beth
Schoppe, Tamika	Somerfeld, Holly	VanNice, Kevin
Wigen, Jodi	Lance, Sophia	Cantrell, Jonathan
Berg, Christina	Jones, KD	

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year:

Kraft, Duncan	Kraft, Rosie	Martinez, Melanie
Yackley, Jaden	Wigen, Samantha	Patrick, Tyler
Wallis, Caleb	Pendergast, Tess	Guenzel, Maya
Cooney, Alexis		

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Vermillion, Kara	Davis, Lucy	Sebestyen, Ray	Purcell, Brooklyn
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Classified Staff Recommendation for 2026-27

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2026-27 school year.

Hines, Jennifer	Palmer, Summer	Mullen, Rachel
Dunlap, Debbie	Maness, Cody	Olds, Gracie

To: Dan Rispens, District #9 Superintendent and Board of Trustees
Fr: Paul Condon, EHHS Principal; Trish Klock, EHHS Vice Principal
Re: 2026-27 Hiring Recommendations

Certified Staff Recommendation for 2026-2027

I recommend the following **tenured staff** members be rehired for the 2026-2027 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
Tabitha Smail	Riley Sampson	Kelli Kerpa
Alex Johnson	Amanda Countryman	Ethan Hoffman
Rebecca Bergman	Andrew Elliott	Brandy Gallups

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-2027 school year:

Trinity Nelson Samantha Wigen Hanna Carey Nick Edlund

I recommend the following **nontenured** staff be rehired for the 2026-2027 school year and be awarded the status of tenure:

Cody Tofflemire Breanna Humphrey-Gilbert Patrica Gillett Alex Reid

Classified Staff Recommendation for 2026-2027

I recommend the following **classified** staff be rehired for the 2026-2027 school year.

Tammi Daum	Tonya Hauck	Janie Taylor
Stormi Lucero	Bridget Guerin	Randall Gillett

To: Dan Rispens, District #9 Superintendent and Board of Trustees
From: Michelle Olds, Food Service Supervisor
Re: 2026-27 Food Service Classified Staff Hiring Recommendations

I recommend that following FOOD SERVICE STAFF be rehired for the 2026-27 school year

Aaron Strong	Dicee Harrison	Izabella TwoTeeth	Leslie Plettenberg	Kat Salisbury
Joe Guerin	Blanca Saur	Renee Slocum	Kayla Groat	Lauren Dotson
Misty Lockey				

To: Dan Rispens, District #9 Superintendent and Board of Trustees
From: Steve Skains, Maintenance/Custodian Supervisor
Re: 2026-27 Classified Staff Hiring Recommendations

Maintenance/Custodial Staff

Mason Skains	Liam Gallups	Michael Sloan	Cason Greg
Rick Krause	Ken Leistiko	Laurie Leistiko	Dwain Hoover
Rainier Murgel	Rick Leistiko	Harold Olson	

Thank you for your consideration.

To: Dan Rispens, District #9 Superintendent and Board of Trustees
From: Kirk Hedrick Transportation Supervisor
Re: 2025-26 Classified Staff Hiring Recommendations

Bus Drivers

Hank Flatow	Steve Allen	
Kelly Allen	Stuart Beagles	Doug Hollingshead
Carl Moore	Joseph Krall	Randy Siemers
Sherylle Pellen	Nick Turner	Thomas Holdforth
Lane Erdahl	Ray Rutherford	Derek Bonogofsky
Byron Staten	Teresa Johnson	Holden Stagg

Thank you for your consideration.

To: East Helena Board of Trustees
Re: 2026-27 Hiring Recommendations

Administrative Staff recommended for contract renewals:

Gus Somerfeld	Brandon Crusat	Eric Power	Jane Knudsen
Jennifer Wiedbusch	Steve Skains	Michelle Olds	Jen Cordell
Shaun Murgel	Michael Kemper	Kaylee May	Lynsi Morris
Janice Osborne	Paul Condon	Kirk Hedrick	Jillian Hayter
Denise Linton	Kaylee May	Trance Koch	Trish Klock

Submitted by Dan Rispens, Superintendent

Commonly no debate is allowed when using a consent agenda on any item on the agenda and the motion to approve the consent agenda items is passed with a single motion. If any Trustee wishes to discuss an item on the consent agenda, it should be removed from the Consent Agenda Motion and debated separately.

D. East Helena School District Students Requesting Enrollment in Other School Districts for the 2026 -2027 School Year:

Clancy

2nd	1
4th	2
7th	1

Total: 4

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action Item. A motion should be made to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Baseball Facility Booster Fundraiser Consideration

COMMENTARY: This is a continuing discussion of the fundraising plans that the EHHS Booster Club is pursuing with EHHS Baseball.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Information/Action item. The Board may be asked to support or approve the plan presented.

2. EHPS School Board Self Evaluation and Professional Reading

COMMENTARY: The Board Chair will discuss options for self evaluation and book study with the full Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Information/Action item. The Board may be asked to make a decision about evaluation tools or reading titles. The Board Chair may also opt to survey Trustees at another time

NEW BUSINESS

1. Oath of Office for Newly Elected Trustees

COMMENTARY: Three Trustees will need to be sworn in. The Oath of Office for Martin Balukas, Tristan Ulmer, and Brandon Hansen will be administered at the meeting. Susie Hedalen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction, will attend the meeting to administer the Oath of Office.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action Item - The Trustees will be sworn in to begin their new 3 year terms.

2. Reorganization of the Board

COMMENTARY: The Board will be tasked with electing a Board Chair and Vice Chair to serve a one year term. The Trustees will make nominations for Chair and following the nominations for Chair, the Trustees will vote by roll call vote to affirm their selection of a Board Chair. The School Board Chair will be elected through a majority of votes. After the Chair has been duly elected, the Vice Chair should be elected by that same process.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action item.

3. Board Committee Appointments

COMMENTARY: The Board Chair can discuss committee assignments for the 26-27 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Information Item

4. Appointment of District Clerk

COMMENTARY: The Board must officially declare their appointment for a District Clerk for the 26-27 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action Item - recommend that the Board make a motion to appoint Jane Knudsen, District Clerk for the 26-27 school year.

5. Out of State Travel Request; EHHS E-Sports

COMMENTARY: Members of the EHHS E Sports Team have qualified for Nationals. A representative from E-Sports will be at the meeting to request permission for out of state travel to attend the competition.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action item. I recommend that a motion be made to approve the travel request.

6. Health Insurance Renewal Update

COMMENTARY: The Superintendent and Business Manager will report to the Board about our annual health insurance renewal and premium costs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Information Item -

7. Setting Administrative Staff Salaries

COMMENTARY: The Superintendent will submit a proposal to adjust salaries for staff not covered by collective bargaining.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action Item - recommend that the Board make a motion to approve the recommendation.

8. Trustee Resolution #246 Requesting County Conduct Elections

COMMENTARY: This is a resolution notifying the Lewis and Clark County Elections Office that we will be having them administer our school elections in 2027.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action item. After discussion, I recommend that a motion be made to approve the resolution.

9. MTSBA Trainings and Opportunities

COMMENTARY: Scott will share information for Trustees to consider training upcoming opportunities through Montana School Boards Association.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Information Item -

10. Non-Resident Student Application Consideration

COMMENTARY: The Board will be asked to consider the applications for non-resident status for the 2026-27 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action Item - I recommend that the Board approve the non-resident applications as presented.

11. Consideration of School Resource Officer Contract with Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office.

COMMENTARY: It is time to consider renewing our 3 year agreement with the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office for SRO services. The revised agreement is in the supporting documents.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action item. I recommend that a motion be made to approve the agreement after Board discussion.

12. Charter School Annual Performance report Review.

COMMENTARY: The Performance Review for the 227 Academy is in the supporting documents. The Board needs to approve the review and staff responses so the Board Chair can sign it and it can be returned to the Board of Public Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action item. I recommend that a motion be made to approve the Performance Review for the 227 Academy.

13. Non-renewal of Temporary Certified Staff for no Cause, M. C., J. C.

COMMENTARY: Jessica Clanin and Mariah Chambers were hired for temporary positions and must re-apply for consideration for the 26-27 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Action Item - I recommend that the Board make a motion to non renew these teacher contacts - This will need to be done in two separate motions.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Special Meetings – Wednesday, May 20 and May 27, 2026 5:30 @ East Valley Middle School
Regular Meeting - Monday, June 8th, 2026 at 5:30 PM - East Valley Middle School Library