

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 April 13, 2026. Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

In Attendance

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Vice Chair Tyrel Murfitt, Stacy Baird, Tiffany Richardson, Tristan Ulmer and Martin Balukas. Absent: Mark Diehl.

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jane Knudsen and Technology Coordinator Eric Power.

Principals: Brandon Crusat, Gus Somerfeld and Lynsi Morris. Vice Principals: Michael Kemper and Trish Klock.

Visitors: Kate Johnson, Julie Pritchard, Marne Bender, Mary Smith and other members of the public.

Review the Agenda

No comments from the board.

Hear the Public

Julie Pritchard read a statement.

Reports

Student Report

No report.

Administrator Reports

The individual principals, the Athletic Director and Technology Coordinator provided their reports as part of the board packet.

Marne Bender received the Innovative Librarian Award from NCCE.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K – 12 Board

Strategic planning met. See below.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

Two strategic planning meetings were held aided by Debra Silk from the MTSBA. The sessions were productive and Debra Silk will provide the District with a report.

A long-term infrastructure committee meeting is planned for April 27, 2026 in the High School Library.

Chairman Walter attended the COSSBA national conference where strategic planning was a hot topic. He is pleased with how far ahead our District is on our strategic plan compared to what he learned at the conference.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

Thomas Julian	-Kitchen Aid
Andrew Boedecker	-SS Teacher/Assistant Football Coach
Tristin Fuller	-Paraprofessional/Radley
Brad Paskey	-EHHS Industrial Education Teacher

Consent Action Items

Board Minutes:

Regular Meeting March 9, 2026
Strategic Planning Work Session February 24, 2026
Special Meeting April 1, 2026
Strategic Planning Work Session April 7, 2026

Approval of Former and New Warrants (Claims #51888-51941)
Surrounding School District Student Enrollment Approval

Recommended Employment of Staff:

- Karly Olson -Summer Program Teacher
- Veronica Rubio-Pratt -Summer Program Teacher

East Helena School District Students Requesting Enrollment in Other School Districts for the 2025 -2026
School Year: Helena School District-8th Grade -1

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the Consent Action Items as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion. Motion carries.

Unfinished Business

Levy Update and Discussion

Ballots will be mailed April 17. Information school funding night is planned for April 21 which will be comprised of a short presentation and a question and answer session.

Non-resident Application Update

Reviewed current and expected non-resident students.

New Business

Booster Club Presentation Regarding a Baseball Facility Fundraiser

Juliet Hahn from the EH Booster Club presented a slide show for fundraising monies for a baseball facility. After the slide show, discussion centered on the cost, plans for inflation and contingencies, plan drawings, maintenance, location, responsibility for construction and any potential Title IX issues.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to table and refer to the Infrastructure Committee. Unanimous vote for the motion. Motion carries.

Advanced Opportunity Update and Presentation

Our Advanced Opportunity Facilitator, Jill Hayter presented information about progress that has been made this year in developing relationships and creating opportunities for students to advance their learning through work-based learning, internships, dual credit and dual enrollment. Two students spoke of their experience with the program and potential careers.

Extension of Advanced Opportunity Coordinator Position

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Baird to establish the position of Advanced Opportunity Facilitator as an ongoing position in the District. Unanimous vote for the motion. Motion carries.

Consideration of Transportation Shop Space Lease

Superintendent Rispens presented a lease agreement to rent transportation shop space. The lease is one year at \$2,000 per month. He would like permission to enter into the agreement provided we can establish favorable terms with the landlord.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Richardson to approve the lease pending successful negotiation of key issues identified. Unanimous vote for the motion. Motion carries.

Hunters Education Program Request

This is an annual request for the Volunteer FWP Hunters Education instructors to utilize demonstration firearms on our campuses as part of their safety instruction.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the Hunter Education request to use school facilities and authorize them to utilize demonstration firearms as part of their instruction. Unanimous vote for the motion. Motion carries.

Closing Inactive Student Activity Accounts

This is a request to close inactive Student Activity Accounts. Per the MASBO Student Activity Accounting Manual, Board Approval is required to open or close any Student Activity accounts. Accounts no longer being used:

- EVMS Book Order → EVMS Library \$31.54
- EVMS Home Economics → EVMS Foods \$460.19
- EVMS MiniCamp → EVMS Field Trip \$985.83
- EVMS Photo → EVMS Yearbook \$266.22
- Radley Enrichment → Radley Field Trip \$249.67
- Radley Pop → Radley Field Trip \$32.14
- Community Garden → EVMS Foods \$11.30 and
- EHHS JROTC → National Honor Society \$1.06

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Baird to close the inactive Student Activity Accounts and directing the Superintendent to disperse any monies left as listed above. Unanimous vote for the motion. Motion carries.

Prickly Pear Cooperative Representative Appointment

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to appoint the Superintendent to serve on the PPC Board to represent EHPS. Unanimous vote for the motion. Motion carries.

Board Discussion About Self Evaluation or 360 Degree Evaluation

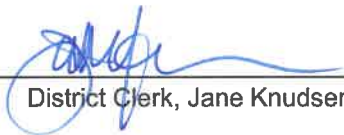
Discussion about a process for the Board to do a self-evaluation as a learning tool for growth.
Scott will research evaluation tools and board development training.

No action taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 11, 2026 at the EVMS Library

Submitted by:  Date: May 11, 2026
District Clerk, Jane Knudsen

Approved by:  Date: MAY 11, 2026
Chairman, EHPS Board of Trustees