

Minutes

SPECIAL 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 27, 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, Martin Balukas and Brandon Hansen. Martin Balukas entered the meeting at 5:39 PM.

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jane Knudsen, District Secretary Jen Cordell.

Principals: Lynsi Morris and Paul Condon. Vice Principals: Trish Klock.

Visitors: Kate Johnson, Veronica Rubio-Pratt, Gary Martin, Marian Davidson, Marty Burckhard, Kari Speicher, Bret Charlton, Shari Northcott, Piper Heath, Megan Surginer, Layla Lawrence, and members of the public.

Review the Agenda

No comments from the Board.

Hear the Public

None.

New Business

Personnel Actions

Recommendation for Hire

Below is a list of new hiring recommendations.

Katherine Brown	-Title 1 Teacher/Radley
Sage Strong	-Teacher/Radley

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the Personnel Actions as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

Point of Information: Board Chair Walter announced that Trustee Tiffany Richardson was elected delegate for Region 11 for the MTSBA and that he was re-elected as Region 11 Director for MTSBA.

Student Disciplinary Hearing

The Board left open session and went to executive session at 5:33 PM.

The Board left executive session and went to open session at 5:36 PM.

Board Chair Walter - the individual has waived their right to privacy and this is now an open meeting. Mr. Walter summarized the process for the disciplinary hearing.

Trustee Martin Balukas entered the meeting at 5:39 PM.

Allegation: Student violated Board Policy 3310, specifically section related to using violence or force.

The Student's Representative was asked if the allegation is denied or admitted to. The representative stated that the student did it.

Evidentiary: The High School Principal and Vice Principal gave evidence including the video of the incident.

The Board Chair called for questions, seeing none, the student representative was given the opportunity to speak.

The Board Chair called for questions for the student representative, there were none.

There were no additional witnesses. Closing statements from the administration and the student representative.

Disciplinary action:

Discussion from Board about length of time for expulsion.

The Board Chair called for a motion.

Vice Chair Murfitt made a motion to expel the student for thirteen (13) months; seconded by Trustee Hansen.

The Board Chair called for comments. The following members of the public spoke about the matter: Kate Johnson, a letter from Ashley Linder, Gary Martin, Marty Burckhard, Shari Northcott, Megan Surginer, Layla Lawrence and Bret Charlton.

Vice Chair Murfitt called for a point of order and asked the motion be reread. The motion is:

Vice Chair Murfitt made a motion to expel the student for thirteen (13) months; seconded by Trustee Hansen.

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Ulmer	Yes
	Trustee Baird	Yes
	Vice Chair Murfitt	Yes
	Trustee Balukas	Yes
	Trustee Hanson	Yes
	Trustee Richardson	Yes
	Board Chair Walter	Yes

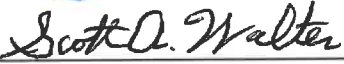
The motion passed 7-0 and the student will be expelled for thirteen (13) months.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Regular Meeting - Monday, June 8th, 2026 at 5:30 PM -East Valley Middle School Library

Submitted by:  Date: 6/8/2026
District Clerk, Jane Knudsen

Approved by:  Date: JUNE 16, 2026
Chairman, EHPS Board of Trustees

