

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 regular meeting on June 8, 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, Brandon Hansen and Martin Balukas.

Superintendent Dan Rispens, Clerk Jane Knudsen, Athletic Director Shaun Murgel, Technology Coordinator Eric Power

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

Visitors: Kate Johnson, Karly Olson. Ryan Fetherston, David Nunn, Ty Walker, Ethan Hoffman and KD Jones.

Review the Agenda

No comments from the Board.

Hear the Public

None.

Personnel Action

EHHS Wrestling Coach - Nepotism Rules Apply (MCA requires full vote of Board)

Recommendation to hire Tim Baird, husband of Trustee Stacy Baird, as the Girls Head Wrestling Coach.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt, to hire Tim Baird as the Girls Head Wrestling Coach. The motion passed 6-0 with Trustees Walter, Murfitt, Richardson, Ulmer, Hansen and Balukas voting AYE. Trustee Baird abstained.

Reports

Administrator Reports

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

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K – 12 Board

No committee meetings.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

Waiting for official notice of the Transportation Alternatives grant funding.
The City of East Helena received the federal grant for Valley Drive.
Need to contact Debra Silk at MTSBA for the strategic plan.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

Savannah Baker	-Paraprofessional/Radley
Rachel Mullen	-Paraprofessional/EVMS
Rachel Cavalli	-Paraprofessional/Radley
Vashti Teders	-Teacher/Radley Elementary
Joe Geurin	-Kitchen Aid
Kathleen Cook	-Kitchen Aid
Sophia Lance	-Math Teacher/EVMS
Alex Johnson	-Math Teacher/EHHS
Isabella Hansen	-Paraprofessional/ Radley

Consent Action Items

Board Minutes

Regular Meeting: May 11, 2026

Special Meeting: May 20, 2026

Special Meeting: May 27, 2026

Special Meeting: May 28, 2026

Approval of Former & New Warrants (Claims #52034-52040, 52053-52100, 52102-52131)

Personnel Actions

Surrounding School District Student Enrollment Approval

Recommended Employment of Staff:

Trinity Nelson	-Summer School Instructor
Destry Arntson	-Instructional Tutor/Radley
Samantha Jones	-Instructional Tutor/PPE
Jonathan Cohlhepp	-Special Education/ EVMS
Jessica Clanin	-Paraprofessional/Radley
Jennifer McVay	-Paraprofessional/Radley
Ryan Fetherston	-EHHS Boys Wrestling Coach

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

	<u>Helena</u>
6th	2
8th	1
12th	1

Total: 4

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Baseball/Booster Fundraiser - Timeline and Maintenance Costs

The Boosters have submitted a fundraising timeline of two years and Superintendent Rispens provided estimates for additional maintenance costs associated with a grass field.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Balukas to support the booster club for a baseball field to be located at the high school campus pending funding, feasibility and final design. The motion passed 7-0.

Denial of Non-resident Applications

Several applications for non-resident students who were recommended for denial have been withdrawn. The remaining ones who did not request hearings with the Board need this final action to deny non-resident status. These are applications #49, #66, #76, #77, #103B, #176B, #200, #206.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to deny applications 49, 66, 76, 77, 103B, 176B, 200 and 206. The motion passed 7-0.

Transportation Lease Agreement Update

The Superintendent gave an update to the Board about our lease and transportation shop facility on Wylie Drive.

NEW BUSINESS

21st Century After School Program Report

Karly Olsen, TIGER Program Director gave an update about the TIGER program's successes and challenges this past year. The program is funded by a five year grant.

Tyrel Murfitt left the meeting at 6:42 PM.

Out of State Travel Request for EHHS Boys Basketball

The EHHS Vigilantes Boys Basketball Program is requesting Board approval for an out of state trip to Gonzaga for a summer camp at the end of June. The team will be using district vehicles for transportation.

Motion by Trustee Baird, seconded by Trustee Ulmer to approve the out of state travel for the EHHS Boys Basketball Program to Gonzaga University, Spokane Washington. The motion passed 6-0.

Summer School Program Update

Plans for the summer school program were presented by Gus Somerfeld and Lynsi Morris.

26-27 School Year Bus Route Approval

The Transportation Supervisor has submitted the proposed routes for 26-27. These will be brought to the County Transportation Committee with Board approval.

Motion by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the proposed school bus routes for 2026-2027. The motion passed 6-0.

Setting of Fees for 26-27

The fee schedule was presented with recommended changes for the 2026-2027 year.

Motion by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Hansen to approve the fee schedule with the recommended changes. The motion passed 6-0.

Consideration of Debit Card Agreement - Independence Bank

Independence Bank has requested our participation in their school Debit Card Program. The agreement provides an annual payment to the district of a per swipe fee as a fundraising program.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve the Independence Bank agreement. The motion passed 6-0.

Consideration of Natural Gas Supply Contract Agreement - Commercial Energy

We have received our renewal with Commercial Energy. We can expect about a 25% savings from the previous year.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the Commercial Energy Contract Agreement for one year. The motion passed 6-0.

Consideration of Mental Health (HSS, CSCT, and SBOT) Service Contracts with ICH

These are annual renewals of service agreements with Intermountain Children's Home to provide mental health services to students at Radley and EVMS. Two contracts were presented: HSS (Home Support Services) and SBOT (School Based Outpatient Therapist).

Motion by Trustee Hansen, seconded by Trustee Balukas to approve the service agreements with Intermountain Children's Home for the HSS and SBOT programs. The motion passed 6-0.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM

Future Meeting Dates:

Special Fiscal Year Close-Out Meeting - Monday, June 29 at 7:30 AM at Central Office.

Regular Meeting - Monday, July 13th, 2026 at 5:30 PM - East Helena High School

Submitted by: _____

District Clerk, Jane Knudsen

Date: _____

7-13-2026

Approved by: _____

Chairman, EHPS Board of Trustees

Date: _____

JULY 13, 2026