

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 July 13, 2026. Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:32 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, Assistant Clerk Jen Cordell

Visitors: Camy Dusenberry, Mary Smith and Kate Johnson.

Review the Agenda

No comments from the Board.

Hear the Public

Camy Dusenberry reported on a recent trip to DC with 23 students and 20 adults.

Mary Smith expressed appreciation to board for allowing the trip and to Camy for her leadership.

Reports

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K – 12 Board

No committee meetings. Scott and Dan discussed calling a policy committee meeting.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

Dan stated the City's federal grant to fund Valley drive is moving forward. Dan attended a meeting with Hometown East Helena group.

Debra Silk is waiting to hear back from school about survey.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

The Following Staff Resignations Have Previously Been Accepted:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • Jonathan Cohlhepp | -Special Education Teacher |
| • Shelby Holmes | -EHHS Science Teacher/Head Volleyball Coach |
| • Tyler Murray | -EHHS PE/Health Teacher/Head Football Coach |

Consent Action Items

Board Minutes

Regular Meeting: June 8, 2026

Special Meeting: June 29, 2026

Approval of Former & New Warrants (Claims #52206-52263)

Personnel Actions

Surrounding School District Student Enrollment Approval

Recommended Employment of Staff:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Rylie Schoenfeld | -Summer Maintenance |
|--------------------|---------------------|

• Rori Schoenfeld	-Summer Maintenance
• Bryce Schoenfeld	-Summer Maintenance
• Lucas Olson	-Summer Maintenance
• Emily Dearing	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Sara Dearing	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Heath Galbavy	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Abby Hauck	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Cole Jones	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Kendra Ostberg	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Stormi Lucero	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Tanya Hauck	-Part Time Summer Custodian
• Keira Klock	-Summer Program Paraprofessional
• Jon Moore	-Summer Program Instructor
• John Dollan	-Paraprofessional
• Kayla Groat	-Summer Program Kitchen Aid
• Misty Lockey	-Summer Program Kitchen Aid
• Renee Slocum	-Summer Program Kitchen Aid
• Shane Gapinski	-Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach
• Destry Arntson	-Teacher
• JD Ferris	-Head Football Coach
• Jillian Hayter	-Head Volleyball Coach
• Ken Erdahl	-Substitute Bus Driver
• Laura Davis	-Long-Term Substitute
• Gage Vermillion	-High School CTE Teacher
• Mathias Sletten	-ESports Assistant Coach

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

School Year:

	<u>Helena</u>
9th	1
10th	1
Total:	2

East Helena School District Students Requesting Enrollment in Other School Districts for the **2026 -2027**

School Year:

	<u>Montana City</u>	<u>Clancy</u>
PK	1	2
K	6	
1st	2	
2nd	6	
3rd	2	
4th	1	
5th	2	
6th	2	
7th	2	
8th	1	
Total:	25	2

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

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Richardson to approve the claims as presented. Unanimous vote. Motion carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TA Grant Process Update

The Montana Department of Transportation has issued our TA Contract and the grant is moving forward. The project will encompass sidewalks and pedestrian crossings on East Main Street, South Lane Avenue and Kalispell Avenue. This is a \$700,000 project with our match being about \$106,000. Our matching funds have been reserved and will come from the interlocal agreement fund.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the TA Contract. The motion passed 7-0.

FY26 Budget Update

Superintendent Rispens lead the discussion of what our budget will most likely look like for FY27.

NEW BUSINESS

Student School Board Representative Recommendation

We had 3 outstanding applicants for our student representative position. A committee consisting of Mr. Condon, Trustee Ulmer, and Superintendent Rispens interviewed the applicants. We recommend the Board appoint Abby Bishop as the 2026-27 Student Representative to the Board.

Motion by Trustee Baird seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to appoint Abby Bishop as the Student Representative for FY27. The motion passed 7-0.

First Reading – Policy Revision and Update Considerations

- **Revise Policy #1105** The purpose of the amendment to this model policy is to add optional language for student representation on the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Trustee Baird to approve the revisions to Policy #1105 as discussed; seconded by Trustee Ulmer. The motion passed 7-0.

- **Revise Policy #2050** The amendments to this model policy are intended to make grammatical corrections and improve clarity and organization.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve the revisions to Policy #2050; seconded by Trustee Richardson. The motion passed 7-0.

Recess called at 7:12 PM. Called back to order at 7:21 PM.

- **Revise Policy #2100** The amendment to this model policy is to provide clarification regarding professional development days.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer to approve the revisions to Policy #2100; seconded by Trustee Hanson. The motion passed 7-0.

- **Revise Policy #2151** The amendment to this model policy corrects the assumption of risk

language included in the policy. Districts cannot transfer to parents through policy "all risks for injuries resulting from participation" in interscholastic activities.

Motion by Trustee Baird to approve the revisions to Policy #2151; seconded by Trustee Ulmer. The motion passed 7-0.

- **Revise Policy #3110** The purpose of the amendments to this model policy are to provide greater consistency with statute.

Motion by Trustee Hanson to approve the revisions to Policy #3110; seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt. The motion passed 7-0.

- **Revise Policy #3120** The amendment to this model policy reduces unnecessary verbiage for the purposes of brevity and clarity.

Motion by Trustee Baird to approve the revisions to Policy #3120; seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt. The motion passed 7-0.

- **Revise Policy #3150** The amendments to this model policy are to eliminate language specific to high school.

Board Chair Walter asked for a motion to approve the revisions to Policy #3150. Board Chair Walter asked a second time. Died for lack of motion.

- **Revise Policy #3231** The amendment to this model policy eliminates the language referring to "pat down" searches of students by district personnel.

Motion by Trustee Baird to table the revisions to Policy #3231; seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt. The motion passed 7-0.

- **Revise Policy #5321** The amendments to this model policy changes the title to "Sick Leave" and eliminates language related to "personal and emergency leave" and "civic duty leave." This language is then moved to two new model policies – 5323 and 5324.

Motion by Trustee Baird to approve the revisions to Policy #5321; seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt. The motion passed 7-0.

- **Revise Policy #5322** The amendments to this model policy are intended to provide better consistency with Montana statute.

Motion by Trustee Baird to table the revisions to Policy #5322; seconded by Trustee Ulmer. The motion passed 7-0.

- **New Policy #5323 Personal and Emergency Leave**

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt to table Policy #5323; seconded by Trustee Baird. The motion passed 7-0.

- **New Policy #5324 Civic Duty Leave**

Motion by Trustee Richardson to table Policy #5324; seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt. The motion passed 7-0.

Consideration of HSS Service Agreement with AWARE

AWARE provides Home Support Services at Eastgate, PPE, and EHHS. This is a renewal of that agreement.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Richardson to accept the HSS Service Agreement. The motion passed 7-0.

School Board Self Evaluation Update

Board Chair Walter stated he is working on collating self-evaluation tools for the board.

Distance Learning Provider

Our administrative staff from EHHS and EVMS have reviewed our current distance learning provider and are recommending a change for the 2026-27 school year. The recommendation is to switch to Edmentum as our provider.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to authorize the superintendent to sign the contract with Edmentum subject to legal revision. The motion passed 7-0.

MTSBA Bylaws, Resolutions and Officers Review and Consideration

The MTSBA did not have a quorum at their annual business meeting in June. The trustees unanimously support #3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10. #5 – Walter, Murfitt, Baird, Richardson, Balukas and Hanson for; Ulmer against. #8 – Walter, Murfitt, Baird, Richardson, Hanson and Ulmer for Tom Billteen with Balukas abstaining.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Trustee Hanson to authorize Board Chair Walter to cast a ballot on behalf of the EHPS School Board. The motion passed 7-0.

Consideration of the Superintendent's Contract

Board Chair Walter made a recommendation to adjust the compensation for the Superintendent's contract. His recommendation is a percentage increase over three years:

Option 1: year 1 – 3%, year 2 – 4.5%, year 3 – 6%.

Option 2: year 1 – 3.5%, year 2 – 4.5%, year 3 – 5.5%.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer to offer Option 1 of 3%, 4.5% and 6%, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve salary adjustment as discussed. The motion passed 7-0.

MCEL Planning – October 2026 in Billings

MCEL will be October 14-16 in Billings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM

Future Meeting Dates:

Regular Meeting - Monday, August 10, 2026 at 5:30 PM - East Helena High School Library

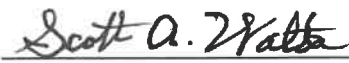
Submitted by:


District Clerk, Jane Knudsen

Date:

August 10, 2026

Approved by:


Chairman, EHPS Board of Trustees

Date:

AUGUST 10, 2026

