

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 August 10, 2026. Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:33 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 and Athletic Director Shaun Murgel.

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

Visitors: Cole Bass, Abigail Beck, Mikayla Meio and Kate Johnson.

Review the Agenda

No comments from the Board.

Hear the Public

None.

Reports

Student Report

Student Representative Abby Bishop updated the Board on start of school events for sports and activities.

Administrator Reports

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

Trustee and Committee Reports of the K – 12 Board

A policy committee meeting was held on August 6, 2026. The committee reviewed the policies and charged the Superintendent with updating the changes as discussed. One additional committee meeting is anticipated before placing the policies on the September Board agenda for first reading.

Strategic Planning – Scan for Future Needs

There are additional funds available for the innovative tax credit which allows taxpayers the opportunity to donate to the school and receive a tax break.

Continuing to work on the survey with Debra Silk.

Discussion on replacement strategies and a succession plan for key positions in the district.

Notifications of Retirements and Resignations

None.

Consent Action Items

Board Minutes

Regular Meeting: July 13, 2026

Approval of Former & New Warrants (Claims #52264-52338)

Personnel Actions

Surrounding School District Student Enrollment Approval

Recommended Employment of Staff:

- Nora Klick -EHHS PE/Health Teacher
- Hanna Holley -Paraprofessional
- Jordan Zoekler -EVMS Counselor
- Kevin VanNice -EVMS Dean of Students
- Jean Graham -Bus Paraprofessional

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

	<u>Helena</u>
MM (PreK)	1
K	4
1st	1
2nd	
3rd	
4th	
5th	
6th	4
7th	1
8th	
9th	4
10th	6
11th	5
12th	2
<u>Total:</u>	<u>28</u>

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Richardson to approve the Consent Action Items as presented. The motion passed 7-0 with all present voting AYE.

Unfinished Business

Second Reading Policies #1105, #2050, #2100, #2151, #3110, #3120 and #5321

These Policies were approved last month on First Reading and are back for consideration on Second Reading.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt to approve Policies #1105, 2050, 2100, 2151, 3110, 3120, and 5321 as presented on second reading, seconded by Trustee Hansen. The motion passed 7-0 with all present voting AYE.

MCEL Update

Notify Jen Cordell if you plan on attending MCEL by the end of August so we can take advantage of the early bird registration.

New Business

Non-Resident Application Consideration - New Kindergarten Applications 26-27.

Applications #48, #51, #66, #102, #133, #148, #186 and #198.

Motion by Trustee Hansen, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the new nonresident applications #48, 51, 66, 102, 133, 148, 186 and 198. The motion passed 7-0 with all members present voting AYE.

Consideration of Out of State Travel Request for EHHS Band

The EHHS Band Program is requesting Board approval for an out of state trip to San Francisco March 31-April 4, 2027. Mr. Bass will be coordinating the trip through Educational Discovery Tours.

Motion by Trustee Balukas, seconded by Trustee Baird to approve the out of State travel for EHHS Band. The motion passed 7-0 with all members present voting AYE.

TFS Report Review and Approval

The Trustee Financial Summary was published on the school website less than 48 hours before the meeting. Due to the lack of adequate notice, the board tabled the agenda item.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Richardson to table the TFS Report Review and Approval until August 17, 2026. The motion passed 7-0 with all members present voting AYE.

Final FY2027 Budget Review and Approval

The FY2027 Budget was available just before the meeting. Because the document was not available to the public with adequate notice, the board tabled the item.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Richardson to table the FY2027 Budget Review and Approval until August 17, 2026. The motion passed 7-0 with all members present voting AYE.

Consideration of RBHI MOU For Suicide Screening

This is a renewal of our ongoing agreement for suicide prevention screening and partnership with Rural Behavioral Health.

Motion by Vice Chair Murfitt, seconded by Trustee Hansen to approve the MOU as presented. The motion passed 7-0 with all members present voting AYE.

Document Shredding Request

There are documents that are past the statutory record retention timeframe and need to be shredded.

Motion by Trustee Ulmer, seconded by Vice Chair Murfitt to grant permission to shred documents in storage that are outside the statutory requirements. The motion passed 7-0 with all members present voting AYE.

Board Team Building

The Essential School Board Book - Intro and Ch 1 Discussion
Discussion of the introduction and Chapter 1.

School Board Self Evaluation

Board Chair Walter is gathering self-evaluation materials and hopes to have something to review at the September board meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Future Meeting Dates: Special meeting Monday, August 17, 2026 @ EHHS
Regular Meeting Monday, September 14, 2026 @ EHHS

Submitted by: _____

District Clerk, Jane Knudsen

Date: _____

9/14/26

Approved by: _____

Chairman, EHPS Board of Trustees

Date: _____

SEPT. 14, 2026