



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees – Executive Committee Meeting

May Butler Center | 55 S. Rodney Ave

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair	Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Sullivan, Past Board Chair	Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:08am by Chair, Luke Muszkiewicz.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public was present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No changes were requested.

IV. REVIEW OF THE January 28, 2020, BOARD AGENDA

Dr. Ream provided an overview of the evening's events, which included a tour beginning in the lobby of Ray Bjork Learning Center, followed by a 45-minute presentation by the school in the gym, then the work session in the board room.

Dr. Ream noted the approval of the 2020-2021 calendar as the only action item on the agenda. Mr. McKay said he would provide comments on the calendar along with feedback he had received from employees and the community.

Dr. Ream addressed the budget presentation and said he would provide a few introductory comments prior to the presentation. Those comments would include a description the district's current status compared to last year, how this year's process included involving trustees and educators, and how Mr. Watkins's work will be applied next to cost analysis. He said Helena Education Association's (HEA)

budget representative would meet with the district the following Thursday and Friday, and Ms. Collette added she believed the Montana Federation of Public Employees' (MFPE) representatives would attend the Work Session. Ms. Collette added Mr. Watkins would provide background information to provide context for the audience.

Dr. Ream said district leadership sat down with a local reporter to answer any questions he had on the report's recommendations.

Mr. Muszkiewicz noted the report referenced data for each group was provided in an appendix and asked where the appendix was available. Dr. Ream said the appendix was available upon request to the Business Department.

Mr. Muszkiewicz said he planned on asking Mr. Watkins how the district can separate the impact of PCAP vs. the impact of losing students to the East Helena High School on forecast deficit. Dr. Ream said that while the two impacts were simultaneously occurring, they were not interrelated. He anticipated Mr. Watkins would address the separation during his presentation. Dr. Ream continued that the district was trying to determine – through the budget analysis – if there was a structural issue driving a more complex challenge associated with the budget.

Mr. Muszkiewicz asked for confirmation that the report shows the deficit disappears in 2023-2024. Dr. Ream clarified the budget will right-side when declining enrollment stops, but there will still be a \$2 million deficit until 2027. Mr. Muszkiewicz said a question should be anticipated that if the budget is a temporary problem correlating to the end of loss of students to East Helena, shouldn't building reserves be used to cover it opposed to structurally adjusting salary structure. Ms. Collette addressed the question by stating salaries will continue to increase under the current structure, and those anticipated increases needed to be compared to anticipated revenues. She said this follow up will be the next step in the process.

Dr. Ream referenced the budget summit with HEA the next Thursday and Friday and said the group will walk through each section of the report and be able to add in curriculum costs, and other costs associated with education. The group will also model different scenarios association with negotiations and part of the problem-solving process.

Mr. Muszkiewicz stated the multi-year budget was incredibly valuable because it hadn't been done before. He added the importance of prioritizing questions throughout the process and voiced his appreciation to district administration for continuing the prioritization.

V. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Beaver referenced the calendar and asked if the day prior to the Vigilante Parade was a standard curriculum day. Mr. McKay said it was.

Mr. Beaver asked for an ANB costs breakdown between elementary and high school levels. Dr. Ream answered that Ms. Mickelson would have that breakdown.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:43am by Mr. Muszkiewicz. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be February 11, 2020.