



Superintendent
Tyler Ream, Ed. D
324-2001

Business Manager
Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

Ray Bjork Learning Center
1600 8th Avenue

Tuesday April 9, 2019
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chair Sarah Sullivan at the Ray Bjork Learning Center, 1600 8th Avenue, Helena, Montana at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted.

Sarah Sullivan, Board Chair
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair
Tyler Emmert, Trustee – Excused
Jeff Hindoién, Trustee
Luke Muszkiewicz, Trustee
Elizabeth “Libby” Goldes, Trustee
Sanjay Talwani, Trustee – Excused
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee -Excused
Aurora Boutin, Helena High School Representative - Excused
Mariah Thomas, Capital High School Representative

Dr. Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Pat Boles, Technology Administrator
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Administrator
Kalli Kind, Facilities Administrator
Jilyn Chandler, Data & Assessment Administrator
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator

Sean Morrison, Special Education Administrator
Sean Maharg, Special Education Administrator
Kim Stout, HEA President
Lisa Cordingley, Helena Education Foundation Director
Tim McMahon, Activities Administrator
Gabby Clow, Helena High School Assistant Principal
Brian Cummings, Jim Darcy Elementary School Principal
Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal
Neal Murray, Custodial Services Manager

Guests:
Helena High Lady Bengals

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Sarah Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Personnel Actions were pulled out of the Consent Agenda and will not be voted on tonight. No other changes were made to the agenda.

III. RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Student Recognition

A. Montana AA Basketball Champions - Principal Thennis called on Head Coach Eric Peterson to report on his three-time basketball team. Coach Peterson introduced his student champions and basketball player of the year, Jaime Pickens. He thanked bus driver Chuck for safely driving the students to and from all their events. Over the three-years the seniors went 63 and 8; 11-1 conference and first time win outright title of the regular season. The team was overall 22-2 for the season. Stats in AA 3rd in AA scoring, 1st in team defense, 3rd in rebound, and 1st in forced turnovers. The girls won on defense. This was the best defensive team he has ever coached. Off the floor slogan "deflect criticism with grace." 18 out of 34 received a 3.40, with a 3.96 cumulative GPA. All 11 seniors competed in another sport. The players received certificates from the Board.

B. Montana Gatorade Women's Basketball Player of the Year. Coach Peterson Jaime Pickens (HHS) is the two-time defending Gatorade Player of the Year. The award is based on basketball play, classroom work, community service, and who is the best basketball player in the state. Jamie lead the AA in scoring, rebounding, blocked shots, lead in steals, first in field goals made, 4th in free throws made and 8th in 3 point percentage. Jamie is a four-star recruit by ESPN, nationally ranked 16th at

her position. She broke 10 school records. Jamie was a very integral part of the team. The board congratulated her with a 2nd certificate of achievement.

Board Chair Sarah Sullivan said Dr. Ream received a touching letter from a parent recognizing Coach Peterson for his other qualities besides basketball as stated in a letter. Board Chair Sullivan read aloud the letter.

- C. **Montana Business Professionals of America Awardees.** Terry Norman (CHS) recognized Mariah Thompson first in the event in Billings last month. Mariah has been a member for the past two years going this year to compete in the event. Mariah competes in business law and ethics. She received the Presidential Scholarship at UM next year. Mariah received a certificate of achievement from the board.
- D. **Montana Economics Challenge Awardees.** Nick Zarnowski introduced students. They are in his AP class. Norris Blossom (CHS), Alex Northey, and Mariah Thomas. The trophy will be housed at CHS for the year. The team name was *Watermelon Squid*. Certificates of achievement were given to students.

IV. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Items for Action**

1. 03/12/19 Minutes. Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz recommended a small change to the minutes on page 6 Policy Committee Report to replace the sentence starting with unless to be "Unless the Administration or Committee Trustees request that a policy be revised in a significant way, the Committee will leave the policy as is and consider the next policy. Legal counsel has advised the Committee to add a policy regarding fingerprinting and background checks. This policy is tentatively numbered Policy 5122."

Motion: Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz moved to approve the minutes as amended. Trustee Libby Goldes seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 The motion carried.

2. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Remaining Bonds
This is the resolution to issue the remaining 8 million dollars in bonds. It is recommended issuing the 8 million dollars. May 16 is the date to sell the bonds. The bond rating is May 1st. Page 2 shows 5 conditions - Luke stated with the exception of costs because the market has changed slightly.

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz stated we have 3 years and asked how we buy these bonds. Janelle Michelson stated the bonds are bought at a private sale and that is the board's decision. In addition, there is a public notice.

Motion: Trustee Jeff Hindoiien moved to adopt the resolution as presented in the agenda materials. Trustee Libby Goldes seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 The motion carried.

B. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Personnel Actions – Remove from the agenda at this time.
 2. Approval of Warrants
 3. Approval of Out-of-District Attendance Agreements – Incoming Students
- The board removed Personnel Approval Actions.

Motion: Trustee Libby Goldes moved approval of the agenda items as amended. Trustee Terry Beaver seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: 5-0 The motion carried.

C. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. HSD Policy 2333 Participation in Commencement Exercises
2. HSD Policy 5122 Criminal Background Investigations

Barb Ridgeway presented two policies for first reading.

Policy 2333. The policy has been recommended by the Montana School Board Association and who participates in commencement exercises and addresses some of the issues around native America regalia and what is prohibited. The final paragraph is the district's practice. Both principals have looked at this. This policy will come back to the board next month.

Policy 5122. This is a required policy on criminal background investigations on how we handle those and who goes through a background check, including volunteers with some minor exceptions, but for the most part, everyone. To date, the district has background checked 66 staff, 21 Sodexo employees, 24 first student employees, 110 volunteers, 200 contractors, 95 guest teachers, and 24 para and custodian subs.

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz stated we realized there are other policies that pertain to that overall hiring process we should look at and make sure they are in line with what our current procedures are.

Trustee Libby Goldes thanked the Policy Committee for their hard work to increase security of students and staff.

D. Reports

a. Budget & Program Committee Report

Cancelled because of a special meeting three days prior.

b. Policy Committee Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz reported that the committee reviewed the policy on background checks. The Committee recognized that the contractors have been background checked and appreciates HR's diligence on that. The bottom line is we felt if there is an opportunity for a volunteer to be one-on-one with a student, we owe it to our students to follow that procedure with rigor even though it seems like an undue inconvenience. We would rather be too careful as opposed to not careful enough. We will revisit both of those policies at the next policy committee.

The Committee is going to see if there is any other policy around the hiring process that we should revisit given the background check policy. The 1015 goals mission and vision need to come before the board as a second reading and hopefully action. We will continue to review the 2000 and 3000 policies as we go forward depending on a court case getting decided one way, we will continue proceeding with that.

c. Facilities & Maintenance Report

Trustee Terry Beaver reported that the Committee has not met. Kallie Kind described the status of the failure of the retaining wall at Hawthorne. Kallie stated we are moving forward with Helena Sand & Gravel to complete the work on the east wall of the school site, start with fencing then demo next week. We will insure we are getting best pricing. There are a lot of unknowns, and more time and material until ground is broken. Work will start later this week with securing the site. Additionally, we are putting out the Helena High water line bid which will be replaced this summer. Stahly Engineering is working on that bid project to replace the failed water line earlier this year. Our focus right now is on the east retaining wall. We are working with a mason who will come in the summer to realign the east stairs to the building that are in bad shape. He will realign and re-grout, and the top of the south set of stairs will be smoothed out and spot repair the north wall where rocks have separated in the areas that are needed.

d. Health Benefits Committee Report

Trustee Libby Goldes reported that the wellness committee met on April 4. The Wellness Budget for the 2019-2020 plan year was approved with no significant changes. At the Wellness sub-committee meeting having flu shot clinics before the wellness screenings was discussed as some staff didn't get their shots until well into October of last year. An improved website for the plan was discussed and this would be included as part of the contract with Allegiance, and the possibility of having an app was mentioned.

e. Montana School Boards Association Report

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz distributed the latest legislative update of the school board association. He reported that the most significant update is HB159, the large funding bill, which has passed and signed by the Governor.

HB638 has resurrected the idea of inflationary increases for special education. It does not change the allocation going to co-ops, and anticipate the Governor signing this bill. Janelle Mickelson stated they are giving us 2 years of inflationary increases. The goal is for it to be self-executing, so it is not something that happens automatically.

SB92 is the Bozeman effort to allow districts to levy for safety and security. It has picked up some momentum again and the prospects are looking good for that bill. Predictably it has faced amendments for the levy to be a voted levy as opposed to a non-voted levy. The efforts so far have not been successful and remains with the permissive levy.

The MT School Board Association has had a difference in opinion on the latest versions of pre-K. We were strong supporters of HB225, the Governor's original pre-K proposal, going into the session. Representative Moore came back with a more modest proposal. The original proposal chooses to provide half-day Pre-K with ANB funding. It has been updated to allow child care providers.

The MT-PEC consortium is concerned about public money going to private schools. We do not want to use formula based funding for private education; it is a complicated issue. Under the current STARS program now, we are the beneficiary with the Montessori Preschool at Hawthorne, and they are private school awardees of that same grant.

There is talk of HB2 amendment to HB62 which is a significant \$22 million for pre-K and would not include private schools. It is still in play and evolving every day.

MTSBA also had board meetings in March and then annual conference and delegate assembly.

Board Chair Sarah Sullivan stated the preschool grant is ending this year.

f. Helena Education Association Report

Kim Stout, HEA President, reported on non-renewal notices this year. Certain schools are receiving more than others. They are getting good evaluations but still getting notices. Educator of the Year is April 12 with 80 nominations, 11 have 3 or more nominations. 29 Paras are nominated. This shows how important Paras are to the district. Next week HEA will interview school board candidates. There will be talk about various contract issues.

Mr. Elder took 26 students to Costa Rica and Panama for spring break. Look at their blog for more exciting information about their trip.

g. Student Representative Reports

Mariah Thomas, Capital High School Representative, reported that all juniors took ACT's Tuesday. District Writing Assessments were given to all students except seniors. Helen Bosch and Tanner Duncan were recognized as CASA volunteers of the year. Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is complete and Principal Zanto is working on the schedule.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Tyler Ream discussed media releases. This is one of the pieces that came out of the 100 day work project. It is to tell our story about how the Helena High boys team received a gift and decided gift should go to the Bryant School Library. The purpose is to better tell our story with more accuracy from a day-to-day standpoint.

Dr. Ream was informed by the new City Manager that the city does not have plans to fund our school resource officers next year. The resource officers will be placed in regular patrol positions. We will need to work through this issue regarding funding. We also have ongoing considerations we are working through.

The General Budget updated model was sent out to all employees and we are continuing site visits every afternoon. We will start next week with the elementary schools.

SROs are a good investment and part of the proactive side of what police officers do for everyone. When a situation is needed, a call is still made.

Board Chair Sarah Sullivan thanked Dr. Ream for his transparencies in his budget work.

Trustee Luke Muszkiewicz stated media releases could also prove beneficial during emergencies. There is incredible value offered by the SROs.

Trustee Jeff Hindoi said the district will continue to pursue the funding for SROs. It is conversation that needs to continue with the City of Helena. He would like to know why the value judgment is being made and by whom and whether the decision is firmly made.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Libby Goldes was invited to a meeting of the Helena Chamber of Commerce program, Helena WINS (Workforce Innovation Networks). This group includes local employers and others, including school district administrators, who work to make sure that area employers will have the workers they need. On May 17th area 5th graders may attend an event highlighting

building trades. There is an effort to match high school students with summer jobs. It is great to have this partnership for our students and community.

Next work session at CHS.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other topics for future meetings and no public comment on issues not on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 14th.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Sullivan, Chair

Carole Byrnes, Interim Recording Secretary Date