



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 November 12, 2019

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chair Luke Muszkiewicz at the Ray Bjork Learning Center, 1600 8th Avenue, Helena, Montana at 5:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair
Sarah Sullivan, Trustee
Jeff Hindoien, Trustee
Elizabeth “Libby” Goldes, Trustee
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee
John McEwen, Trustee
Hannah Muszkiewicz, Helena High School Representative
Zyanne Cervantes, Capital High School Representative

Dr. Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Administrator
Sean Maharg, Special Education Administrator
Sean Morrison, Special Education Administrator
Tim McMahan, Activities Administrator
Kalli Kind, Director of Support Services
Pat Boles, Technology Administrator

Jane Shawn, Helena Education Association President

Guests:

Lisa Cordingley, Helena Education Foundation

Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal

Steve Thennis, Helena High School Principal

Bill Kaiser, Helena Public Schools Teacher

Tyler Manning, Helena Independent Record

Lisa Lee, No Kid Hungry

Ann Waickman, No Kid Hungry

Tim Meldrum, SMA Architects

Robert Worthy, Sodexo

Linda Paul, HHS Cross Country Coach

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes.

III. EDUCATOR & STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

- A. Claire Pichette, Helena High School teacher, was unable to attend the meeting. She was selected as a 2017 national award winner for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is the nation's highest honor for U.S. math and science teachers in grades K-12.
- B. Hayden Ferguson, Helena High School student, was introduced by Helena High School Principal, Steve Thennis. Hayden is a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship.
- C. Lea Hohenlohe, Capital High School student, was introduced by Capital High School Principal, Brett Zanto. Lea is a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship.
- D. Caroline Southworth, Capital High School student, was unable to make the meeting. Caroline semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship.
- E. Kylie Hartnett, Helena High School student, was introduced by Helena High School Principal Steve Thennis and Coach Linda Paull. Kylie is a State Girls Cross Country Champion.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Information

- 1. Annual Sodexo Report: Robert Worthy and his team served a wonderful meal to the trustees before the meeting. During his presentation Mr. Worthy

introduced the staff members that accompanied him to the meeting and presented his presentation to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Worthy spoke on locally made products that are within the school breakfast and lunch selections. These products are locally grown within 500 miles of Helena, ranging from milk to apples to grains. Mr. Worthy spoke on the “Future Chefs” program that allows children to compete with their own recipes on a national level. Mr. Worthy spoke about the breakfast program changes, expressing the reduction of waste and making fresh food on site. Sodexo has salad bars and offers an all you can eat fresh fruits and veggies selection. They run a Try it Tuesday program, adding new and different things for children to try. Mr. Worthy spoke about the design of the cafeterias and how to appeal to the children more at the high school level. Amongst those changes they have offered new a la carte areas, hand made pizzas, deli sandwiches made to order, Asian and Mexican service bars, amongst many other things. Sodexo creates 3-5 main event meals at the base kitchen, from scratch soups, and new breakfast bars on site. Sodexo is going green by using washable trays and silverware at all Elementary Schools, using foam plates at the High Schools, and new washable bowls at the new schools. Mr. Worthy teaches on a variety of levels to include ServSafe certification for district and Sodexo staff, Ag Day at Jim Darcy Elementary, college, DECA, and Culinary classes. Mr. Worthy explained the impact that the “Munchtana” food truck had on the community with serving over 24,000 meals to children over the summer. They had 9 sites and were visited by Governor Bullock to help serve the kids. Mr. Worthy spoke on the needs of Sodexo, expressing need for more freezer space. They had to turn down commodities due to it surpassing the available room. With less room, comes more risk to injury to staff members. Sodexo has donated over \$100,000 to the Helena district in equipment over a 5-year span.

Libby Goldes, Trustee, asked how the kitchens at the new schools are working. Mr. Worthy expressed that the kitchens are great, it’s a bit of an adjustment because the space is huge, and cleanup becomes tougher.

Hannah Muszkiewicz, Student Representative, asked how to rid the stigma of eating in the cafeteria. Mr. Worthy explained that this is something that has gone on for years and Sodexo is trying to do anything they can to lessen the stigma.

Siobhan Hathorn, Trustee, asked about comfort foods and not offering the items that are less healthy. Mr. Worthy explained that those comfort items are actually becoming healthier and they have also reduced how often that item is served.

2. Wellness Committee Report on School Nutrition: Presented by Lisa Lee with the district’s wellness committee. Ms. Lee presented that nutrition is just as important as food access. She talked about data points and the district getting

on board with healthy, wholesome, food changes. The number one death of heart disease is tied to food. With funding availability, it can help with central kitchen in order to make these changes, as well as providing better education with these healthier food options.

Siobhan Hathorn, Trustee, asked about moving towards an exercise program. Ms. Lee explained that the committee will be making a subset group for physical activity.

John McEwen, Trustee, asked if there was a way for parents to come in to eat the food that is offered. Sodexo runs a program that does offer the parents to come in what their children are eating.

3. 7th Avenue Gymnasium Feasibility Study: Tim Meldrum with SMA Architects presented the possibility future of 7th Avenue Gym. Mr. Meldrum pointed out that the report is very lengthy, however, it is very thorough. The building is behind on code, but functionally sound. The smokestack needs addressed and needs to be reinforced. It is functioning and safe, but it is at the end of its serviceable life. Mr. Meldrum explained that the alternatives for this building are use as is, demolition, partnership, or ownership. Page 96 of the report named, “Conclusions and Recommendations” is the page of the report that is most useful in understanding the alternatives. The report can be found at helenaschools.org/district-facility/.

A short break was called at 8:05p.m. The meeting was called back to order by Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz at 8:12p.m.

B. Consent Action Items

1. Board of Trustee Meeting – October 8, 2019 minutes
2. Approval of Personnel Actions
3. Approval of Warrants

Motion: Sarah Sullivan moved to approve the Consent Action Items. Libby Goldes seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 9-0 The motion carried.

C. Reports

1. **Budget & Program Committee Report**

Trustee Jeff Hindoien reported the committee is reviewing staffing structures and retirement status. Beginning to run the finances on the retirement program. The committee is projecting things differently than last year amongst trends and enrollment numbers. We are seeing a significant impact at the High School level. Todd Watkins will also continue working on the budget projections. The next meeting is December 6, 2019.

2. **Policy Committee Report**

Trustee Libby Goldes reported that the committee did not meet.

3. **Facilities & Maintenance Report**

Board Vice Chair Terry Beaver reported that the committee did meet. The bond update was delivered by Kalli. The committee was able to make contact about the demographics. Dr. Ream found, with contact, there is a follow up report that we have not taken advantage of that was included with the first report. They are willing to take on the additional contract and present it mid-January.

4. **Teaching & Learning Committee Report (TLC)**

Trustee Sarah Sullivan reported that the final demographic metrics will be ready to present at the December meetings. Dr. Ream identified a company that will help with surveys amongst the students. At the next meeting we will speak about the options and bring it to the board for approval.

5. **Health Benefits Committee Report**

Trustee Libby Goldes reported that there is no new information to report.

6. **Montana School Boards Association Report**

Board Chair Luke Muszkiewicz reported that MTSBA opposed transferring district funds to a non-profit. The AA caucus meeting will be hosted by Dr. Ream at the district and offered to provide lunch to those Superintendents in attendance.

7. **Helena Education Association Report**

Jane Shawn, HEA President, reported that three Helena Educators, Maria Foot, Holly Goody, Laura Ortman were given the Teacher Leadership Institute award at the MFPE conference in Belgrade. Jim McArby Scholarship program awardees were Severena Samuelson (4Gs), Jonna Schwarts (adult Ed), Glen Wall (CR)

8. **Student Representative Reports**

Hannah Muszkiewicz, Helena High School Representative, reported that they have a new spirit club and had a fun run that was very successful. They took a spirit bus to the playoff game in Bozeman. Touched on all of the athletic events, choir, and speech and debate events that are going on. HHS student council is planning a basket program to donate to families in needs and they are also planning the winter formal event. Counseling concern with too many students to student counselors. Question of an implementation of an advisory committee to help with the overall well being of the student body.

Zyanne Cervantes, Capital High School Representative, reported that Jeremy Robinson and Jake Warner were recently named to participate in HEF's Great Conversations. Reported on CHS choir, speech and debate, and sporting

events. The Green Club is looking to implement a district wide recycling program. A needs drive for those in needs including basic human needs to deliver to the Friendship Center or any other places that could have people in need. Vaping awareness was brought up in hopes to help students understand the impacts of vaping. Feminine product resolution was presented by Kalli Kind. The product dispensers will be placed in the restrooms.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Tyler Ream spoke about the Rossiter situation. Dr. Ream and Assistant Superintendent Josh McKay met with Lewis and Clark Sheriff’s department to go over the after-action review. Dr. Ream thanked the response of law enforcement, First Student, and parents. The district learned a lot about the communication and the staging process at the evacuation process. Dr. Ream introduced Stacy Collette, Human Resources to present on the retirement incentive. Ms. Collette stated that 40 retirement incentives were offered, 55 applied. The ones selected are spread out amongst the buildings. We are looking at internal staffing opportunities for movement that will produce great professional development opportunities for staff members. There are some hard to fill positions with four of those positions in resource and six in Physical Education. There were different factors to include seniority, placement on salary matrix, TRS eligibility, and when the application was submitted. The majority of the folks that applied were higher on the seniority list. There were also some people who did not apply.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other topics for future meetings and no public comment on issues not on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on December 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair

Jessica Evans, Recording Secretary

Date