



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 February 11, 2020
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 5:34 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
Terry Beaver, Board Vice Chair
Sarah Sullivan, Trustee
Jeff Hindoién, 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 Morrison, Special Education Administrator
Kalli Kind, Director of Support Services
Jane Shawn, Helena Education Association President
Pat Boles, IT Administrator

Guests:

Steve Thennis, Helena High School Principal

Lona Carter, Jefferson Elementary School Principal

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes.

III. EDUCATOR & STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

A. Kylie Hartnett, Helena High School student, was introduced by Coach Linda Paul, who was introduced by HHS Principal Steve Thennis. Kylie was selected as Montana Gatorade Cross Country Runner of the Year.

B. Hannah Muszkiewicz, Helena High School student, was introduced by Coach Jennifer Hermanson, who was introduced by HHS Principal Steve Thennis. Hannah was the Speech and Debate State Champion in the area of Extemporaneous Speaking.

C. Eric Peterson, Helena High School Teacher and Coach, was introduced by HHS Principal Steve Thennis. Coach Peterson was nominated for National Girls Basketball Coach of the year.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Claire Pichette is a board member for the Myrna Loy Center. She brought forth programs that the Myrna Loy is offering and putting on throughout the district. Claire invited the board to come out on February 28th from noon to 2pm to watch a program that the PEAK students have been working on.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Action

1. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Presented by Chair Muszkiewicz, Superintendent Ream submitted a self-evaluation in January, a summary that will be included in his personnel file. As a result of his positive evaluation, Chair Muszkiewicz and Vice Chair Beaver negotiated a contract with Dr. Ream effective July 1, 2020. For the second year in a row, Dr. Ream refused any increase in his base salary to include an inflationary or performance increase that is in-line with what every employee in the district receive. The Board respect's his decision, however, this lack of increase should not construe as a lack of support from this board. His commitment to this District is incredible. Fortunately, Dr. Ream has expressed a strong desire to continue to lead this district and the contract has been extended to June 30, 2023. Trustee Hindoien added that Dr. Ream has vigorously fought to not have a raise, but this absolutely does not reflect on

his performance as Superintendent. Dr. Ream is an individual who wants to serve the students of the district.

Motion: John McEwen moved to approve the Superintendent's Contract. Sarah Sullivan seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 8-0 The motion carried

2. Approval of Jefferson Safety and Security Project Award

Kalli Kind presented the information to the board. Although only one bid was received, it has been thoroughly vetted. The recommendation was to award the bid to Abraham Construction Services in the amount of \$646,800. The bid is for the safety and security work to be completed at Jefferson Elementary School this summer. The base project bid includes controlled public access, keyless entry, exterior cameras and speakers, electronic reader boards and integrated communications.

Motion: John McEwen moved to approve the award of the bid for Jefferson Safety and Security Project. Sarah Sullivan seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 8-0 The motion carried.

3. Approval of the Kessler Safety and Security Project Award

Kalli Kind presented the bid to the board. The two bids were thoroughly vetted, and the recommendation is to award Abraham Construction Services in the amount of \$699,900. The bid is for the safety and security work to be completed at Kessler Elementary School this summer. The base project bid includes controlled public access, keyless entry, exterior cameras and speakers, electronic reader boards and integrated communications.

Motion: John McEwen moved to approve the award of the bid for Jefferson Safety and Security Project. Libby Goldes seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 8-0 The motion carried

B. Consent Action Items

1. January 14, 2020 Board of Trustees Minutes
2. January 21, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes (Closed Session)
3. Approval of Personnel Actions
4. Approval of Warrants
5. Acknowledge Discretionary Out-of-District Tuition Agreements
6. Approval of Out-of-District Attendance Agreements

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

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 8-0 The motion carried.

C. Items for Information

1. 7th Avenue Gymnasium RFP Process

Dr. Tyler Ream and Kalli Kind presented this information. The purpose of this presentation and discussion is to generate feedback to help inform the final design of this request for proposal (RFP) process.

An RFP process was designed that specifically relates to the Helena Public Schools 7th Avenue Gymnasium property. Once the feedback of Trustees has been incorporated, a formal RFP document will be created and publicly posted. The expected deadline for proposals will be Monday August 31, 2020.

The general description of the process is broken down into stages as follows:
Phase I: An application packet would become publicly available for interested parties providing information related to both the building and application process.

Phase II: A team of highly qualified internal and external representatives will review and select one proposal for recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Proposals will be weighted. The awarded organization will be provided a mutually agreed upon amount of time needed to satisfy stipulations required for final award.

Phase III: The awarded organization will be provided an agreed upon amount of time to complete full plans. This should not last more than 12 months.

Phase IV: The Board of Trustees will make a final award decision based on whether or not the awarded organization successfully satisfied the agreed upon requirements associated with the funding/design phase.

Phase V: With final award, the receiving organization will be free to begin renovations of the 7th Avenue Gymnasium.

Once the Board of Trustees approve, the RFP process will commence providing interested organizations with several months to consider their proposal. Phase I: Request for Proposals through August 2020. Phase II: Tentative Award September/October 2020. With Phase III-V to be determined.

By design, the initial proposal will require a blend of information related to both the partner organization and their proposed use of the 7th Avenue Gymnasium. In order to ensure an appropriate, wholistic analysis of each submitted proposal, the Helena Public Schools will seek to create a review team of external and internal representatives. Scheduled for fall of 2020, this representative review team would gather to discuss, question, and evaluate each submitted proposal with the aim of recommending one proposal to the Board of Trustees for award.

There are unresolved needs and questions to include assessing the value of the 7th Avenue property, including land-only and land with the existing gymnasium. Also, questions around long-term leasing to ensure that the building/property reverts to the Helena Public Schools, should the leasing organization not uphold the tenants of their proposal.

D. Reports

1. Budget & Program Committee Report

Jeff Hindoien reported that the committee met, and they reviewed where they are and they are seeing that, particularly, the Elementary School Budget is tight this year. There is still ongoing work on multi-year budget projections along with negotiations.

2. Policy Committee Report

Libby Goldes reported that they will meet this week and there is nothing new to report on at this time.

3. Facilities & Maintenance Report

Terry Beaver reported that the committee spoke about the 7th Avenue Gymnasium, which was earlier presented by Kalli Kind and Dr. Ream.

4. Teaching & Learning Committee Report (TLC)

Sarah Sullivan reported that the committee looked at different types of testing and it was interesting to see the variety. It was pointed out that the district doesn't have a lot of testing and assessments compared to different districts across the nation.

5. Health Benefits Committee Report

Libby Goldes reported that the committee had a presentation from the sub-committee found that the high deductible option would not be a good option for employees. The sub-committee is looking into a hearing aid insurance company and they will have more information on that at another time.

6. Montana School Boards Association Report

Luke Muszkiewicz reported that the January meeting was cancelled due to weather. There is a lot of talk around state-level funding for AA, which Billings is doing a great job advocating. He pointed out that Helena students and/or teachers should participate in going before the legislature on these issues, along with the community.

7. Helena Education Association Report

Jane Shaw reported that HEA is working hard on having a good presence at the State Legislature and the State Funding Project. Ms. Shaw also reported that she is happy to hear that Dr. Ream is staying with the district.

8. Student Representative Reports

Zyanne Cervantes reported that registration has started at CHS. During PLC time teachers have been asked to review ACT links. The youth awareness of mental health started last week. There will be an outside therapist that will be coming in to teach.

Hannah Muszkiewicz reported that HHS Library Council gave over 500 books to students. They are continuing to plan for Science Circus – “Into the Wild” is theme and the purpose is to engage students and the community more in science. Students are participating in various state competitions. The weld off between CHS and HHS was a success last week. National Honor Society honored the counselors and para-educators last week.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Tyler Ream thanked the Board for the extension of contract to serve as the Superintendent of Helena Public Schools. The work of CR Anderson Middle School is outstanding and putting children first in result of the tragedy that happened this past weekend. The outreach of the community is amazing. HEA/HEF and others are putting together a breakfast for the staff to appreciate and acknowledge their work during this hard time, to include Principal Dave Thennis.

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 7:42 p.m. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on March 10, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair

Jessica Evans, Recording Secretary

Date