

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 – Policy Committee

Tuesday September 1, 2020 – 12:00pm

This meeting will occur at the May Butler Center and via Microsoft Teams. Maximum capacity at the in-person meeting is six participants - including committee members

To participate remotely, please use this link: https://helenaschools.org/event/board-of-trustees-policy-committee-meeting-2/

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA
- III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.
- IV. REVIEW OF THE AUGUST 4, 2020, POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
- V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHANGES RELATED TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT
- VI. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIRST REVIEW
 - A. Policy 3000: Equal Educational Opportunities
 - B. Policy 3005: Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment, Hazing Prevetion, and Reporting
 - C. Policy 5000: Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Discrimination
 - D. Policy 5005: Sexual Harassment
- VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / BOARD COMMENTS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, October 6, 2020 May Butler Center 12:00pm



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 – Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

MINUTES

Attendees

Committee: Others:

Libby Goldes, Committee Chair Tyler Ream, Superintendent

John McEwen, Committee Member Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent

Jennifer McKee, Committee Member Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff

Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director

Kalli Kind, Facilities Director

Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum & Instruction

Administrator

Tim McMahon, Activities Administrator Janelle Mickelson, Business Services

Administrator

Elizabeth Kaleva, Attorney

١. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by Committee Chair, Libby Goldes.

II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

There were no requested changes to the agenda.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT III.

There was no public comment.

REVIEW OF 05.05.2020 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES IV.

There were no requested changes to the previous meeting's minutes.

٧. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR SECOND READING

A. Policy 9035: Property, Plant and Equipment Records

Ms. Ridgway described a capital asset as tangible in nature, having an estimated useful life of two years, being significant in value, and useful in conducting the business of the district. Ms. Mickelson added capital assets included land, building improvements, and new buildings valued at or over \$25,000 which were 80 years or newer per recommendations by OPI and based on federal standards.

Ms. Goldes asked for clarification that OPI recommendations implied if the asset was not conducive to district purposes and over 80 years old, it should be destroyed. Ms. Mickelson confirmed that was what the recommendations implied.

Ms. Goldes asked who assigned value to the inventory. Ms. Mickelson answered the value was based on purchase price.

Mr. McEwen requested clarification that building improvements included maintenance projects like reroofing. Ms. Mickelson answered it must increase the lifetime of the asset to be classified as a capital asset.

Ms. Goldes recommended forwarding this policy to the full board for a second reading. The committee agreed.

Policy 9050: School Closure

Ms. Ridgway told the committee Policy 9050 was adopted as a result of the lawsuit following the closure of Ray Bjork Learning Center as a school. The agreement was that the district would adopt a policy outlining a clear process for closing a school that allowed the public to have a voice,

Mr. McEwen asked if the policy applied to the 7th Avenue Gym or the old building at Warren Elementary School. Ms. Kaleva answered the policy applied specifically to an operating school. If a building were not an operating school, the policy wouldn't need to be followed.

Ms. Goldes recommended forwarding this policy to the full board for a second reading. The committee agreed.

PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIRST READING VI.

A. Policy 7060: School Safety

Ms. Ridgway said that although this policy had been adopted in 2014, it needed significant updates to include emergencies like COVID-19.

Ms. Goldes asked if there was a set timeline for reviewing and updating this policy – every six years, every three years, etc. Ms. Ridgway answered the law said "periodically."

Ms. Ridgway recommended removing the last line under school closure since it was stated above

that the board would periodically review the policy. The committee agreed.

Ms. Ridgway asked for clarification from Ms. Kaleva on whether the eight required disaster drills civil defense, tornado, earthquake, and fire - were per ARM. Ms. Kaleva confirmed though the eight

disaster drills were statutory, they need not be listed in detail in the policy.

Mr. McKay provided the committee with an overview of the district's Safety Committee, which meets monthly and is comprised of teachers and administrators who review the crisis manual, safety

issues, recommendations from buildings, issues from our insurance provider and worker's compensation. They also plan how to be safe initiatives. Ms. Goldes asked if the committee

interacted with the contractor of the new schools. Ms. Kind answered contractors have OSHA and

other requirements with which they must comply.

Ms. Ridgway confirmed she would revise the policy to read "at least eight disaster drills." Mr. McKay

added the schools already practice more drills than just for fire. The district keeps a record of all the

drills in which each school participates.

Mr. McEwen asked if the district was liable if someone got sick on property. Ms. Kaleva answered

the district would not be liable if it were following restrictions; the district would only be responsible

if it were negligent in some way.

Ms. Ridgway said the only other changes to the policy were citations.

Ms. Goldes recommended forwarding this policy to the full board for a first reading. The committee

agreed.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / BOARD COMMENTS

There was no Superintendent's Report nor additional board comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair, Ms. Goldes, adjourned the meeting at 12:35pm.

Next Meeting: September 1, 2020

Helena Public Schools

STUDENTS

Equal Educational Opportunities

 Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religious beliefs, physical and mental handicap or disability, or actual or potential marital or parental status. The District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status. Any student may file a discrimination grievance complaint by using the Title IX and Section 504 [and ADA] Grievance Procedures for claims relating to sex or disability discrimination, the Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure for claims of sexual harassment, or the Uniform Grievance Procedure for all other

14 claims.

No student shall, on the basis of sex, be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities **pursuant to Title IX and its regulations**. Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using the District's **Title IX Uniform** Grievance Procedures.

Inquiries regarding discrimination of any kind should be directed to the building administrator or District's Title IX Coordinator, who shall provide information and, if necessary, direct the individual to the appropriate grievance procedures. Inquiries regarding sex discrimination <u>or sexual harassment</u> may also be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator, <u>the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education</u>, or both. The District will annually publish notice of these rights to students and parents.

27	Legal References:	§ 49-2-307, MCA	Discrimination in education
28	_	§ 49-3-201, MCA et seq	Governmental Code of Fair Practices
29		20 USC 1681 et seq	Title IX
30		42 USC § 12111 et seq.	Americans with Disabilities Act
31		29 USC § 791 et seq.	Rehabilitation Act of 1973
32		28 CFR 35.107	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State
33			and Local Government Services
34		34 CFR 104.7	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in
35			Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial
36			Assistance
37		34 CFR Part 106	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education
38		10.55.701, ARM	Board of Trustees
39			

2.10.2015

Cross References:

42 <u>Policy History</u>:

43 Adopted on:

44 Revised on:

Helena Public Schools

STUDENTS

Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment & Hazing Prevention and Reporting Policy

The Board is committed to providing students with a safe and civil school environment free from harassment, intimidation and bullying. The Board and District will not tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying in any form at school, school-related events (including off campus events), school sponsored activities, school buses or any event related to school business. Bullying, harassment, intimidation or hazing by students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated. Inciting, aiding, encouraging, coercing or directing others to commit acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying is prohibited under this policy.

 The District expressly prohibits any form of intimidation, hazing, bullying or harassment including but not limited to the following: any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, culture, social origin or condition, marital status, political affiliation or a mental, physical or sensory handicap, or by any other distinguishing characteristic.

 Intimidation, bullying and harassment include acts that a reasonable person knew or should have known, under the circumstances the gesture or written or physical act (a) will have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's property; or (b) will place a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property; or (3) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student.

Definitions:

1. "Third parties" include but are not limited to coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or others engaged in District business, such as employees of businesses or organizations participating in cooperative work program with the District, and others not directly subject to District control at inter-district and intra-District athletic competitions or other school events.

2. "Hazing" includes but is not limited to any act that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or as a condition or precondition of attaining membership in or affiliation with any District sponsored activity or grade-level attainment, including but not limited to forced consumption of any drink, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance, forced exposure to the elements, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, sleep deprivation, or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of a student; requires, encourages, authorizes or permits another to be subject to wearing or carrying any obscene or physically burdensome article, assignment of pranks to be performed, or other such activities intended to degrade or humiliate.

- 3. "Bullying" means any harassment, intimidation, hazing, or threatening, insulting, or demeaning gesture or physical contact, including any intentional written, verbal, or electronic communication (cyberbullying) or threat directed against a student that is persistent, severe, or repeated, and that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, that take place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, at any official school bus stop, or anywhere conduct may be reasonable be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a student or staff member or an interference with school purposes or an educational function, that has the effect of:
 - a. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;
 - b. Knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
 - c. Creating a hostile educational environment, or;
 - d. Substantially and materially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.
- 4. "Electronic communication device" means any mode of electronic communication, including but not limited to computers, cell phones, PDAs, or the internet.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

<u>Sexual harassment of students is prohibited.</u> <u>Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:</u>

- (1) An employee of the District conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) <u>Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or</u>
- (3) "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30).

Reporting

All complaints about behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. Any student, employee, or third party who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she has been a victim of hazing, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns to the building principal or the District Administrator, who have overall responsibility for such investigations. A student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor, who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate District official.

Students who have concerns about bullying or harassment from staff members are encouraged to report their concerns to the building principal. Complaints against the building principal shall be

93 filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent or District Administrator
 94 shall be filed with the Board.

Students who believe they are victims of sexual harassment are encouraged to discuss the matter, including the formal complaint process, with the Title IX Coordinator. or Students who believe they are victims of harassment based upon a disability or have witnessed sexual harassment

or harassment based upon a disability are encouraged to report the matter to the Title IX

Coordinator/Section 504 Coordinator or Principal. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex if alleging a violation of Title IX. Complaints will be kept confidential to the

extent possible given the need to investigate.

Any adult school employee, adult volunteer, district contractor or agent who witnesses, overhears or receives a report, formal or informal, written or oral, of bullying, harassment, or intimidation shall report it in accordance with procedures developed under this policy. Any adult school employee who has notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment shall make a report to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

- Formal complaints alleging sexual discrimination or harassment shall be addressed through the
- District's Title IX Grievance Procedures. Complaints alleging disability discrimination or
- harassment shall be addressed through the District's Section 504 [and ADA if applicable] Grievance
- Procedures. All other complaints alleging bullying, discrimination, or harassment shall be addressed through the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure.

The Title IX Coordinator, Section 504 [and ADA if applicable], and/or administrator are responsible for taking the following actions in conformance with the applicable grievance procedure:

- 1. <u>Taking prompt action to investigate/report complaints of harassment, intimidation and bullying.</u>
- 2. <u>Promptly notifying the alleged victims complainants and alleged perpetrators respondents and their parents/guardians regarding the outcome;</u>
- 3. Taking supportive or remedial measures to ensure continued access to the District's programs or activities while the grievance process is pending; and
- 4. <u>Taking disciplinary action as appropriate and any other actions appropriate to address the harassment, intimidation, and bullying.</u>

In the event that a staff member or administrator knows or reasonably believes that the alleged behavior constitutes criminal activity or child abuse or neglect, the staff member or administrator shall report such activity to law enforcement and/or the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Nothing herein prohibits other individuals from reporting complaints to law enforcement. If it is determined that the alleged harassment, intimidation, or bullying did not occur at school or school-related activity or does not materially or substantially disrupt the orderly operation of the District, an administrator shall refer the matter, as appropriate, to other persons or entities with appropriate jurisdiction, including but not limited to law enforcement or the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

All staff are obligated to address bullying, harassment, hazing and intimidation as described in Board Policy 5015, administrative procedures and / or staff and student handbooks.

Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies

A person alleging violation of any form of harassment, intimidation, hazing, or threatening, insulting, or demeaning gesture or physical contact, including any intentional written, verbal, or electronic communication, as stated above, may seek redress under any available law, either civil or criminal, after exhausting all administrative remedies.

Responsibilities

The District Administration shall be responsible for ensuring that notice of this policy is provided to staff and third parties and for the development of administrative regulations, including reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. Consequences Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Staff whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal. Third parties who behavior is found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as determine and imposed by the District Administrator or the Board. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

Retaliation and Reprisal

Retaliation is prohibited against any person who reports or is thought to have reported a violation, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, whether or not a complaint is substantiated. False charges shall also be regarded as a serious offense and will result in disciplinary action or other appropriate sanctions.

Cross Reference: 5015 PERSONNEL: Harassment / Intimidation / Bullying

Legal Reference: 34 C.F.R. Part 106 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education

§ 20-5-207, MCA "Bully-Free Montana Act"

§ 20-5-208, MCA Definition

§ 20-5-209, MCA Bullying of student prohibited

§ 20-5-210, MCA Enforcement – exhaustion of administrative remedies

§ 49-2-307, MCA Discrimination in education

§ 49-3-101 et seq. Governmental Code of Fair Practices

10.55.701(2)(f), ARM Board of Trustees

10.55.719, ARM Student Protection Procedures

10.55.801(1)(d), ARM School Climate

181 Policy History:182 Adopted on:

183 Revised on: 12.11.1990, 6.10.2003, 2.12.2019

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PERSONNEL

Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

As required by federal law, including but not limited to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX, and Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act and their regulations The District shall will provide equal employment opportunities and will not discriminate in its educational programs or activities, including in the area of employment, with respect to all persons, regardless of their race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age, ancestry, marital status, military status, citizenship status, use of lawful products while not at work, physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform essential functions of a job with reasonable accommodations, and other legally protected categories. For purposes of this policy, "sex" includes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

The District shall not retaliate against any employee for complaining about not receiving equal employment opportunities or other unlawful discriminatory practices, participating in a proceeding regarding the denial of equal employment opportunities, or otherwise opposing discrimination.

The District will make reasonable accommodation for an individual with a disability known to the District, if the individual is otherwise qualified for the position, unless the accommodation would impose undue hardship on the District.

 Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities or have been retaliated against should report their claims to the Superintendent through the Uniform Grievance Procedure. to the building principal. Inquiries regarding sex discrimination or sexual harassment may also be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, or both. Claims of sexual harassment or disability discrimination will be handled through the District's Title IX and Section 504 and ADA Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures. Claims of disability discrimination will be handled through the District's Section 504 and ADA Grievance Procedure. All other claims will be handled through the Uniform Complaint Procedure.

No employee or applicant will be discriminated against because he or she initiated a complaint, was a witness, supplied information or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding involving an alleged violation of this policy or State or federal laws. The District reserves the right to take action against any individual who knowingly makes false accusations or knowingly provides false information.

Retaliation against an employee who has filed a discrimination complaint, testified or participated in any manner in a discrimination investigation or proceeding is prohibited.

Cross Reference: 1085 Uniform Complaint Procedure

Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure

47 48		Section 504 and ADA Grievance Procedure
49 50 51 52 53	Legal Reference:	29 U.S.C. §§ 621, et seq. Age Discrimination in Employment Act 42 U.S.C. §§ 12111, et seq. Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I 29 U.S.C. § 206(d) Equal Pay Act 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a), et seq. Immigration Reform and Control Act 29 U.S.C. §§ 791, et seq. Rehabilitation Act of 1973
54		20 U.S.C. §§ 1681, et seq.; Title IX of the Education Amendments
55		34 C.F.R. Part 106 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in
56		Education,
57		Montana Constitution, Art. X, § 1 - Educational goals and duties
58		
59		§ 49-2-101, et seq. MCA Human Rights Act
60		§ 49-2-301, MCA Retaliation Prohibited
61		§ 49-1-102, MCA Freedom from discrimination
62		§ 49-2-303, MCA Discrimination in employment
63		§ 49-3-201, MCA et seq Governmental Code of Fair Practices
64		0.40.0.404
65		§ 49-2-101, et seq., MCA Human Rights Act
66		Bostock v. Clayton County, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020)
67	D 1' II' /	
68	Policy History:	0.12.2012
69 70	Adopted on: Revised on:	8.13.2013
70 71	Revised on:	
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Helena School District 5005

PERSONNEL

Sexual Harassment

The District shall provide employees an employment environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct, or communications constituting sexual harassment as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law including Title IX and its implementing regulations, in the educational programs and activities it offers, including the area of employment.

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the District conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) <u>Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or</u>
- (3) "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30).

District employees shall not make unwelcome sexual advances or request sexual favors or engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes verbal or physical conduct. The terms intimidating, hostile, or offensive include, but are not limited to, conduct which has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment or discomfort. Sexual harassment will be evaluated in light of all the circumstances. A violation of this policy may result in discipline, up to and including termination. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Reporting

Employees who believe they are being subjected to sexual harassment by anyone connected with their work should report the matter promptly to their immediate supervisor or to the first level supervisor who is not involved in the alleged harassment or to the Helena Public School's Title IX/EEO officer.

Employees should report claims of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator and/or use the District's Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures. All formal complaints about

47	behavior that may violate this policy shall be addressed through the District's Title IX Sexual					
48	Harassment Grievance Procedures.					
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50	Initiating a complaint of sexual harassment shall not adversely affect the complainant's employment,					
51	compensation, or work assignments					
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54	Legal References:	42 USC § 2000(e) et seq.	Title VII of Civil Rights Act			
55		20 USC 1681 et seq	Title IX			
56		34 C.F.R. Part 106	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in			
57			Education			
58		§ 49-2-101, et seq. MCA	Human Rights Act			
59		§ 49-1-102, MCA	Freedom from discrimination			
60		§ 49-3-201, MCA et seq	Governmental Code of Fair Practices			
61		•				
62						
63	Cross References:	ences: Title IX <u>Sexual Harassment</u> Grievance Procedures				
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66						
67	Policy History:					
68	Adopted on:	8.13.2020				
69	Revised on:					
70						