



Superintendent
Tyler Ream, Ed. D
324-2001

Business Manager
Janelle Mickelson
324-2040

Board of Trustees Meeting

Due to the response of COVID-19 this meeting was held virtually as well as in person at
Capital High School

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chair Luke Muszkiewicz over the Microsoft Teams platform at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – Present unless otherwise noted

Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair
Siobhan Hathorne, Board Vice Chair
Terry Beaver, Trustee
John McEwen, Trustee
Sarah Sullivan, Trustee
Jennifer McKee, Trustee
Libby Goldes, Trustee, excused
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee
Claire Downing, HHS Student Board Representative
Mariah Mercer, CHS Student Board Representative

Dr. Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh, McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Stacy Collette, Human Resource Administrator
Tim McMahan, Activities Director
Kalli Kind, Director of Support Services

Sean Maharg, Special Education Administrator
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
Sean Morrison, Special Education Administrator
Gary Meyers, Educational Technology Coordinator
Jane Shawn, Helena Education Association President
Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal
Rex Weltz, Rossiter Elementary Principal
Wynn Randall, Project for Alternative Learning Principal
Trish Klock, Bryant Principal
Justine Alberts, Hawthorne Principal
Brian Cummings, Jim Darcy Principal
Lona Carter, Jefferson Elementary Principal

Many Guests of the Helena School District

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Luke Muszkiewicz called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

The agenda item New Business, Section B, Items for Consent, lists 2 items and Section C lists 3 items. Sections B and C should be combined to read B. Consent Action Items with 6 sub-sections listed 1-6.

III. STUDENT & EDUCATOR RECOGNITIONS

- A.** HHS Model UN team won the Small Delegation Award for outstanding group at the 55th annual conference. Advisor Lauren Gustafson spoke first explaining that there were 7 students involved in the competition and all worked very hard in helping the group win. Team: Owen Cleary, Tim Cuddy, Jonathan DeWald, Grace Johnson, Isaac Nehring, Brynja Severtson & Lenny Triem. Each student was given the opportunity to briefly speak on their experience. Students thanked their families and schools for being supportive of them in this win. Students explained how this competition helped to broaden their world view. Trustees asked participants to explain more about what it took to win the competition. This is an imitation of the United Nations. This year these students represented the Dominican Republic and Japan, and it was their job to work within 5 committees to write mock legislation to help both their represented countries, but also the world.
- B.** Capital High Volleyball won the Montana AA Volleyball State Championship for the 3rd year in a row. Head Coach Rebecca Cleveland spoke first explaining that this year was harder with COVID. Both games and practices looked different. Masks and social distancing came into play, making things tougher. She explained that the overall GPA of the volleyball team was 3.88. Team: Audrey

Hofer, Kennedy Pocha, Noel Teders, Addy Meredith, Katie LaFave, Rachael Stacey, Nyeala Herndon, Parklyn Heller, Dani Bartsch, Paige Bartsch and Kayla Almquist. Each student was given the opportunity to briefly speak on their experience. Students thanked family and school for their support. Students expressed how included they felt in the team effort and each said they enjoyed their experience. Trustees commented that they appreciated Coach Cleveland's focus on grades and sportsmanship as well as the competition.

- C. Capital High educator, Sarah Urban, was awarded the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award (OBTA) for Montana. She spoke briefly on her efforts and administration applauded her accomplishment.
- D. Capital High educator, Heather Parrish, through the MATELA newsletter that she co-edits, was awarded an NCTE Affiliate Newsletter of Excellence Award. She spoke briefly on her efforts and administration applauded her accomplishment.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Action

1. Authorization of Trustees to Advocate for MTSBA's Legislative Platform in the 2021 Legislature. It was explained that when Trustees are authorized to advocate for the school district, they do not have to register as lobbyists. Individual Trustees can advocate for the schools as they see fit and in the best interest of the school district. When MTSBA supports or opposes groups or items during the Legislative session, the schools will have Trustees there to speak in support of MTSBA. MTSBA will pick 10 proposals to focus on to preserve the previous progress. Items can be seen in the packet each member was given.

Motion: Trustee Sullivan makes a motion to approve. Trustee Hawthorne seconds the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 7-0. Motion Carries

2. Authorization of Superintendent and/or Authorized Designees to Advocate in the 2021 Legislature. It is explained that like above, the Superintendent or his Authorized Designee can be approved to advocate for the school districts best interest during the Legislative session. Trustees discussed whether the board had to approve each thing the Superintendent may do, and the answer is no, however he is expected to do only those things that are in the best interest of Helena schools.

Motion: Trustee Hawthorne makes a motion to approve. Trustee McKee seconds the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 7-0. Motion carries.

B. Consent Action Items

1. Approval of 11/10/2020 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Personnel Actions
3. Approval of Warrants
4. Acknowledgement of Out-Of-District Attendance Agreement
5. Approval of Out-Of-District Attendance Agreement
6. Approval of MTSBA FY22 Dues Revenue Estimate

Motion: Trustee Sullivan makes a motion to approve. Trustee McEwan seconds the motion.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

Vote: 7-0. Motion carries.

C. Reports:

1. **Teaching and Learning Committee**

Trustee Sullivan tells the Board that the committee met to learn about Montessori in the schools. They saw how it is functioning within the Public schools and how it is changing. They will meet again the 1st Wednesday in January.

2. **Health Benefits Committee Report**

Trustee McEwan tells the Board that they got a briefing from Allegiance. They were given information on the upcoming COVID vaccines. Vaccines are expected to be covered under Preventative Care. They went over the flex spending deadlines for the year.

3. **Negotiations Update**

Human Resource Administrator, Stacy Collette told the Board that they were continuing to meet with the Helena Education Association. They are expected to change from the PCAP to the Steps and Lanes model that most of the educators across the state are already using. They have been exploring the costs and info to moved towards a complete agreement.

4. **Montana School Boards Association Report**

Board Chair Muszkiewicz told the Board that they can login to mtsba.org and see all education related legislation for the 2021 session. There is a

dashboard and link to all related bills and will update with any changes. Chair Muszkiewicz, along with Dr. Ream attended a meeting with several other educational committees and found that all organizations seemed to be on the same page for the upcoming Legislative session and will of course so what is best for the kids. Overall, the goal will be to preserve previous progress in the funding formula which does include inflation increases. Dr. Ream explained that there are currently close to 1800 draft bills. Trustees also discuss the need for a push to use last year's numbers as opposed to this year's numbers when figuring out future funding because of the COVID decrease.

5. **Helena Education Association Report**

Jane Shaw, Helena Education Association President told the Board that they have several people ready to be contacts and who will be contacting legislatures. The goal will be to keep public education strong. They are still in the bargaining process and when an agreement is reached, a vote will come 7-10 days afterwards. They are also still trying to decide what to do as far as COVID leave in the new year. Unless renewed by Congress, the current leave ran out at the end of 2020. They have been working to come up with a way that staff will not have to burn through all leave time because of a quarantine. It was also brought up that not every building has an AED Defibrillator and that is something that should be brought up to the Safety Committee.

6. **Student Representative Reports**

Mariah Mercer, from Capital High, reported to the Board that Winter sports and Speech and Debate have started. The school also started an Academic Assistance program to assist with credit recovery from the 1st quarter as many students are having trouble with the Distance Learning. This is from 2:30-5:30 Tues, Wed and Thurs, and uses many student volunteers. The school also did a social and emotional assessment to determine the mental health of the student population. The school created a TEAMS page for each class to keep each grade informed as to what is going on in their own class. They did a food drive that was a bit different this year and instead took donations to get Vans gift cards that the counselors handed out for over the holiday break. ACTs have been set for April 6 at the Fairgrounds.

Claire Downing, from Helena High, reported that the students were happy to return after a 2-week shut down. She expressed that the teachers and staff were very supportive to students through that time. She echoed applause of the Model UN team and the volleyball team. The school also did a similar food drive for over the holiday break. The school is still

trying to figure out how to do semester tests that usually take 3 days and do them in the 2 in-person days they have now. She also spoke on the need for career development and talked about the school possibly offering a food handlers certificate to the students through the Culinary Arts Dept.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr Ream spoke about the 2-week shut down that had occurred a few weeks before, mainly because of the lack of staff. The school was ready for this and was able to transition to Phase 0 fairly easy. He explained that there is COVID number data for the county overall, but it is not as easy to find data that is school specific. They expected an influx after Thanksgiving and at the time of this meeting were just starting to see those numbers. The school district did start rapid testing for symptomatic employees. The school nurses have been working with DPHHS and the Public Health Department for that. Dr Ream and Chief of Staff, Barb Ridgway attended a vaccine meeting and were given the information that once the vaccine was available, group 1A would consist of healthcare workers and those living in long term care facilities. After that, group 1B should include educators. Walgreens and CVS will work with St Pete's in that process. St. Pete's has the refrigeration capability to hold all the vaccines. It is undetermined at the time of this meeting if vaccines will ever be mandatory. Dr. Ream also spoke on Sodexo working hard to continuously provide meals for the students, even through breaks.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Sullivan explains that they have delivered trees under their Trustee Tree Campaign, to the area schools. The trees are decorated with notes from the Board Members to let staff at each school know how much they are appreciated.

The Superintendent hiring process is underway. At the time of this meeting there have been 36 people who have started the application process. 12 have fully submitted. They have received several phone calls asking for more information. January 4th is the priority deadline.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other topics for future meetings and no public comments on issues not on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be January 12, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Luke Muszkiewicz, Board Chair

Gretchen George, Recording Secretary Date