



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 – Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 – 11:00am

May Butler Center Conference Room and Microsoft Teams

Notice: In accordance with State and Local health guidance/regulations, physical attendance at this meeting will be limited to six individuals. All in-person attendees must wear a mask/face covering at all times and remain safety distanced from anyone not residing within the same place of residence. All other attendees are encouraged to attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams and/or email your public comment to boardoftrustees@helenaschools.org prior to the start of the meeting.

Members of the public are able to attend remotely by clicking here: <https://helenaschools.org/event/board-of-trustees-executive-committee-meeting-01-26-2021/>. We ask that all participants mute their microphone until called upon by the Board Chair for general and/or specific public comments. Upon completing public comment, please ensure that your microphone is again muted.

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **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.*
- III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**
January 12, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (see attached)
- IV. **REVIEW OF JANUARY 26, 2021, BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA** (see attached)
- V. **BOARD COMMENTS**
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Helena Public Schools Board of Trustees

Luke Muszkiewicz
Board Chair

John E McEwen
Trustee

Siobhan Hathhorn
Board Vice Chair

Jennifer McKee
Trustee

Terry Beaver
Trustee

Sarah Sullivan
Trustee

Libby Goldes
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Board of Trustees – Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

MINUTES - DRAFT

ATTENDEES

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Others</i>
Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair	Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Siobhan Hathhorn, Vice Chair	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
John McEwen, Trustee	Janelle Mickelson, Business Services Director
Terry Beaver, Trustee	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Sarah Sullivan, <i>excused absence</i>	Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director
	Tim McMahon, Activities Director
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Doug Shenkle, member of the public
	Courtney McAdams, member of the public
	Angie Shenkle-Kirkland, member of the public
	Brenda Elias, member of the public

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Luke Muszkiewicz, called the meeting to order at 11:06am.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the committee meeting agenda.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Shenkle, a resident of Helena, requested the 25-person capacity limit for the board meeting exclude the board of trustees and district staff. Ms. McAdams's public comments follow these minutes. Ms. Shenkle-Kirkland, a resident of Helena, told the committee it was the school board's, superintendent's, and school administration's responsibility to oppose the Lewis & Clark County Health Boards 25-person capacity as it pertained to high school activity spectator limits. She

formally requested the lack of the county health board's action on the district's submitted plan be added as an agenda item for the evening's meeting.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting were reviewed.

V. REVIEW OF JANUARY 12, 2021, BOARD MEETING

Mr. Muszkiewicz provided an overview of the format for the board meeting. He confirmed the 25-person limit excluded trustees and district staff. He added, if necessary, members of the public would be allowed individual admission to make public comments.

Ms. Ridgway provided an overview of the policies listed as Items for Information.

Mr. Muszkiewicz explained the Mid-year Strategic Priorities Update would update trustees of the strategic priorities outlined at the board retreat in July.

Mr. Muszkiewicz listed the reports to be given and confirmed there will be no Budget Committee Report since that committee meeting had been postponed to January 22. Mr. McEwen requested the Health Benefits Committee Report be removed from the agenda since the committee had not met in 2021. Dr. Ream agreed to provide an update on the first week of the legislative session as part of the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Muszkiewicz will provide an update on the superintendent search.

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26am.

11:00 AM public comment- 1/12/2021

Good Morning. Thank you to the members of the board for listening to my public comment.

My name is Courtney McAdams. I am a parent to a 3rd grader at Broadwater and a 9th grader at CHS.

I am here today to ask the Board to call a special board meeting for a time of public comment for parents and educators to create a plan to open our schools back up to 5 days a week in person by the end of January. As far as I know there has not been a vote by the board since August about the phase and hybrid model we are in. Bozeman voted Monday to keep elementary schools open full time and bring HS and middle schoolers back 4 days per week starting January 25th and February 4th. Missoula voted Tuesday to bring K-8th back on January 25th and High school back April 5th. Meanwhile Butte (I talked to their superintendent office this morning), Kalispell, Billings, Great Falls and all other small and mid-sized schools in Montana are open for full time education. Why is Helena not open full time? To say I am extremely disappointed in the boards lack of leadership and

preparedness is an understatement. **WE ARE THE ONLY DISTRICT IN MONTANA THAT DOES NOT HAVE OUR KIDS BACK FULL TIME OR A SPECIFIC PLAN TO RETURN THEM TO SCHOOL FT.**

This is detrimental to our community and most especially our kids. Action needs to happen now.

Chairman Luke said to me in a letter 2 nights ago that Helena has more Covid-19 cases than other counties and districts. This is simply not true. Yellowstone reports 14,518 cases, Gallatin reports 10,252 cases, Flathead lists 9,343 cases, Cascade lists 6,954 cases, Missoula lists 6,937 cases, Lewis and Clark county reports 5,357 cases and Silverbow is the lowest with 3,220 cases for AA schools. We do not have more cases than these counties. Meanwhile, most of these other districts are operating 4-5 days per week since September and are successfully managing Covid. They also operated fully open during some of the worst virus peaks our state encountered.

There are so many powerful stories that have not been heard of the real struggles our kids, parents and educators are going through due to the current hybrid model of education. A Facebook post calling for parents to come to tonight's board meeting has 104 comments from parents. People are saying they are at their breaking point and so many kids are failing classes and have given up. We should be doing better for our kids. Do we really have 600 kids failing out of high school? Or 900 classes that kids have failed? This is deplorable and is setting them up to fail as adults applying for college, internships or apprenticeships. A 3rd grade teacher told me this week, 70% of her kids did not progress on the recent I-ready math and reading tests. This is by no fault of her own, as this has never happened to her before. 2 days a week is not enough in person. This teacher is so upset and defeated.

This morning I called E. Helena and Lincoln school superintendent offices to see how they are doing with a full-time schedule. These schools are in our same county, under the same inept health board! All have reported they are operating and educating kids safely and successfully. Lincoln had to shut down from Thanksgiving to Christmas due to cases, but everyone is back as of Jan. 4th. Their district Covid manager told me from a kid's mental health and attitude perspective, they are determined to stay open. Do we think about our kid's wellbeing this way? What is Helena doing? I have a statement from a Kalispell school board member of a K-8 school that has been open since September. I am happy to share this statement to the board in writing. All around the state kids are learning and doing better than our kids. I have even talked to a Plevna school board member and they are open and operating successfully. It is extremely unhealthy mentally, physically and educationally for kids to be home 3 days a week by themselves in many cases, with no contact with kids or their teacher, except thru brief teams meetings, which my 3rd grader hates these meeting.

I am calling for the board to call a special session and take a vote to set a specific date to return our suffering student and educators to full in person learning. I am happy to serve on a return to school committee or focus group. Thank you for listening to my comments today. I hope to see action instead of continuing to do nothing to improve learning for our kids and teachers. Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Courtney Dann McAdams, Helena Parent, resident and taxpayer



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Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Access to Success (Rooms 002/003 at Helena College) and via Microsoft Teams

Tour at 3:30 p.m. / Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Notice: In accordance with State and Local health guidance/regulations, physical attendance at this meeting will be limited to 14 attendees. All in-person attendees must wear a mask/face covering at all times and remain safety distanced from anyone not residing within the same place of residence. All other attendees are encouraged to attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams and/or email your public comment to boardoftrustees@helenaschools.org prior to the start of the meeting.

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AGENDA

I. TOUR OF ACCESS TO SUCCESS at 3:30pm

II. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

IV. PRESENTATION: Access to Success

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

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VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items for Consent

1. Approval of the November 17, 2020, Board Work Session Minutes (see attached)
2. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – Food Services Surplus (see attached)
3. Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property – CHS Sewing Machines (see attached)

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Work Session: Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at C.R. Anderson Middle School.