

September 15, 2026 Regular Meeting

The Unified Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 in the High School Library. Chairman, Harold Erlenbusch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Members present were: Chairman, Harold Erlenbusch, Beth Murnion, Jason Nordlund, Wyatt Colvin, and John O'Connor. Also present were: Principal, Julie Elias; Clerk, Anna Guesanburu, Marisa O'Connor, Forrest Hensley, Kalley Pluhar and Bethany Ryan.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Murnion, seconded by Colvin to approve the agenda without correction. Motion carried unanimously.

STUCO REPORT

Student Council Representative, Gwen Miller informed the Board homecoming is next week and students will be busy working on floats.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Principal, Julie Elias informed the Board of the huge donation from Big Country Select to be divided between the lunch program and the activities departments. An email was received from MTSBA about a settlement between OPI and Indian Ed for All. Information was given on the Education Freedom Tax Credit, more will be made available to the public as soon as Ms. Elias gets clarification on everything. Locker rooms are completed at the gym and look amazing. The gym floor is still on schedule and moving along. Ms. Elias is looking for a volunteer who may be in Helena to pick up between 40 to 50 laptops free to the school.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Murnion, seconded by Nordlund to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2026 regular meeting without correction or addition. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by O'Connor, seconded by Colvin to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2026 emergency meeting without correction or addition. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Colvin, seconded by Nordlund to approve the consent agenda including the following items: #6.1 Accounts Payable/Payroll Claims; #6.2 Payroll Claims Transfers; and #6.3 Extra-curricular reports HS/EL. Accounts Payable includes #33531 - #33564; Direct Deposit warrants include #83459 - #83430; Payroll warrants include #24402 - #24414. Extra-curricular warrants include: #21281 - 21302. Motion carried unanimously.

MUSTANG DEBIT CARD

Garfield County Bank CEO, Rex Phipps asked the Board for permission to set up a Mustang debit card. Customers who utilize the new debit card will be giving a kickback to the school. Motion was made by Colvin, seconded by Murnion to allow Garfield County Bank to set up a Mustang debit card with the schools Mustang logo. Motion carried unanimously. At this time Mr. Phipps informed the Board the Garfield County Bank would like to donate 500lbs of beef to the school lunch program.

PART-TIME JANITOR

Principal Elias recommended to the Board the hiring of Stewart Bailey for the part-time janitor position. Motion was made by Murnion, seconded by O'Connor to approve hiring Stewart Bailey as the part-time janitor for the 2026-27 year with an hourly wage of \$18.00. Motion carried unanimously.

JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Principal Elias informed the Board she has hired Stephanie Smotherman as head junior high girls' basketball coach and Leila Mamangan as assistant junior high girls' basketball coach.

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HANDBOOKS

Principal, Julie Elias presented the Board the Activities handbook changing language on the eligibility quarters to semester. Motion was made by Murnion, seconded by Nordlund to approve the language change to the Activity handbook. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Elias presented to the Board the aligning of the Student handbook to match the Faculty handbook. Motion was made by Murnion, seconded by Nordlund to approve the aligning of the Student and Faculty handbooks. Motion carried unanimously.

EL JANITOR RESIGNATION

Chairman Erlenbusch read a resignation letter from Malcolm McRae. Motion was made by Nordlund, seconded by Colvin to approve the resignation of Malcolm McRae effective September 24, 2026. Motion carried unanimously. The Board gave permission to Ms. Elias to advertise for a maintenance position for the school.

MASDA CONFERENCE

Principal, Julie Elias informed the Board she will be attending the Montana Association of School District Attorney's (MASDA) conference on October 14, 2026 and the hosts of the conference would like all Board members to attend as well.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Murnion to adjourn at 6:09 p.m.

Anna Guesanburu, Clerk Date

Harold Erlenbusch, Chairman Date