



September 16, 2026 Agenda Regular Meeting of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for **9.16.26 at 6:00pm** **in the library and via Google Meet:** meet.google.com/whu-hitz-rhr .

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Presiding Trustee's Explanation of Procedures

Public Comment- Non Agenda Items

GUESTS:

Consent Agenda

Minutes, Finance, Personnel

Superintendent Report

District Clerk Report

Business Manager Report

Old Business

Discussion Items:

Facilities Walk Through (Further Discussion)

Committee Update

25-26 Student Data

Action Items:

Open Education Legal Action

New Business

Discussion Items:

Open Board Position

First Reading Policy Review Series 1000

Adjournment

The Core Purpose of Gallatin Gateway School is to embrace an engaging learning culture in a safe, nurturing environment where each student thrives now and into the future.

Excerpt from GGS Policy #1441- Audience Participation

Audience Participation

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. The Board also recognizes the statutory and constitutional rights of the public to participate in governmental operations. To allow fair and orderly expression of public comments, the Board will permit public participation through oral or written comments during the “public comment” section of the Board agenda and prior to a final decision on a matter of significant interest to the public. The Chairperson may control such comments to ensure an orderly progression of the meeting. If public comment will be taken on discussion items, the public will be notified on the agenda.

Individuals wishing to be heard by the Chairperson shall first be recognized by the Chairperson. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. Each person wishing to speak will be limited to two minutes. The Chairperson may interrupt or terminate an individual’s statement when appropriate, including when statements are out of order, too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings. It is important for all participants to remember that Board meetings are held in public but are not public meetings. Members of the public shall be recognized and allowed input during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Cross Reference: 1420 School Board Meeting Procedure

Legal Reference: Article II, Section 8, Montana Constitution – Right of participation
Article II, Section 10, Montana Constitution – Right of privacy
§§ 2-3-101, et seq., MCA Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Presiding Trustee's Explanation of Procedures

Public Comment- Non Agenda Items

GUESTS:

Consent Agenda

Minutes: [August 19, 2026 Minutes.docx](#), [Sept Agenda Setting Minutes .docx](#)

Finance: [August 20Claim 20Approval 20List.pdf](#); [Outstanding Check Report](#)

FY 27 Monthly Budget Report		
Fund	July 2027	September 2027
General	\$1,392,506.03	\$1,221,863.76
Transportation	\$1,965.40	\$1,965.40
Bus Depreciation	\$201,294.41	\$139,400.00
Tuition	\$28,951.53	\$28,951.53
Retirement	\$191,421.47	\$181,206.93
Adult Education	\$3,130.67	\$3,130.37
Flex Fund	\$7,664.42	\$3,695.49
Building Reserve	\$138,362.26	\$95,975.16
REAP SRS Grant	\$16,573.00	\$12,376.81
Title	\$31,385.00	\$29,181.84
Food	\$24,038.51	\$21,124.64
Comp Absenses	\$609.02	\$609.02
Student Activities	\$60,775.16	\$58,022.76
Endowment	\$1,507.36	\$1,507.36
Total:	\$2,146,753.24	\$1,845,642.07

Superintendent Report

- Current Enrollment - 130

Staff and Volunteers

- We've had our EPAs training for the staff.
- All the staff has completed the van training and practiced driving the vans.

Other Information

- I have several major projects coming up: Accreditation and ESEA Audit. These are all due in December.

District Clerk Report

Business Manager Report

- I am working on getting all the budgets up to date. You will see the monthly budget report shows the beginning budget in July and the remaining budget as of September 10th.
The Core Purpose of Gallatin Gateway School is to embrace an engaging learning culture in a safe, nurturing environment where each student thrives now and into the future.

- The staff has been amazing with the changes in the payroll process. I really appreciate their patience and help. My goal is to get procedures written down so that errors will not occur in the future no matter who processes payroll.
- I am working with the Auditor to begin our OPEB report. We should be getting requests for documentation for the FY2026 audit soon.
- The Extracurricular accounting program will be getting updated soon as we are going to add the Student Accounts accounting program to the BMS system. This will help with the controls we are implementing based on audit findings.
- Kelly and I have been in contact with MASBO and our auditor and see what we need to do to get our accounts balanced. MASBO is going to work on it with us in conjunction with the auditor so that we can get everything balanced beginning July 2026. In the meantime, I am continuing to monitor and input expenses and revenues in a timely manner to help mitigate any errors. Like payroll, I would like these procedures written down so that everyone is on the same page and nothing gets lost even if there is staff transition.
- Our Multidistrict funds have finally been sent to us. I have opened the fund at the county level. The amount is not on the budget report as it hasn't yet been realized on the county deposit worksheets. However, the amount is \$20,762.11

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Facilities Walk Through

Presented by: Aaron Schwieterman

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[25-26 Facility Walk-Through Notes](#)

Review any findings or concerns from the walk through.

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Committee Updates

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

Dates for the meeting for September are being scheduled. These notices will come out when everything is completed. For September we have the Whole Child, Safety, and Facilities to convene. We are looking for additional parents and community members to join these committees.

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

25-26 Student Data

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[Goal Setting.xlsx](#) This data is a compilation from STAR and MAST.

Mast Reports: 8th Grade Reports: [8th Math.pdf](#); [8th ELA.pdf](#)

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

Open Ed Legal Action

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

On August 23rd, Aaron and I met with Grant Hewitt from Open Ed. Because of the continued funding issues with OPI, they are electing to remove all the students from Gallatin Gateway and enroll them in a homeschooled program. We have completed all the tasks requested by OPI to receive ANB funding, but they are continuing to refuse funding. As requested by OPI, all students and their Montana certified teachers were entered into Infinite Campus prior to the October 1 count date. We maintained their daily attendance, grades, and their cumulative records. We registered and scheduled students for testing. I trained their assessment staff on the MAST Assessment for security and processes. We also hosted testing at our school for students who live in the vicinity. Completed IEP's and 504's for testing accommodations. After we completed test window 1, OPI removed all the students from our testing rosters. We also completed the Non-Resident Student forms (FP-14's). We also provided Open Ed with our Indian Education standards and pacing calendars for them to enter into their system to meet this constitutional requirement. We have also met our contractual obligations set forth by Open Ed to complete the contract.

We currently owe Open Ed \$1,015,565.58. OPI should have funded 27 middle school students at \$231,309.00 and 159 elementary students at \$1,063,869.00 for a total of \$1,295,178. This would have netted us \$279,612.42 in additional funding.

Open Ed is hosting a working lunch with OPI on the 29th to continue to work out these issues.

Recommendation: Administration recommends moving forward with an attorney for legal action against the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

New Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Open Board Position

Presented by: Aaron Schwieterman

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

The open board position held by Carissa Maus is vacant by resignation and must be filled within 60 days. Her term is completed on 5/30/2027. This open position will complete her term in office.

Interested applicants should submit an application and letter of interest to the District Clerk (district-clerk@gallatingatewayschool.com) at 100 Mill Street for review at the October 21, 2026 Board meeting by October 15, 2026. Application is available at <https://www.gallatinmt.gov/383/Candidate-Filing>. The Governing Board will make their recommendations at the November 4, 2026 Board meeting at 1pm. The applicants will be notified. Swearing in of this position will take place on November 18th at 6pm during the regularly scheduled board meeting. The term of this position will end on May 30, 2027. The board may choose to interview applicants. (Policy 1113)

Please contact the superintendent (super@gallatingatewayschool.com) for questions. Do not contact the board members regarding this open position.

New Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Policy Series 1000 First Reading

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[Board Policy Manual 26-27.pdf](#)