



August 19, 2026 Agenda Regular Meeting of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for **8.19.2026** at **6 PM** in the library and via **Google Meeting**: 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 Action Report

Superintendent Report

District Clerk Report

Business Manager Report

Old Business

Discussion Items:

- Committee Information

- Board Activities: Back to School, Open House

- School Finance Roles and Responsibilities

- MCEL Attendance

- Open Education

- Staffing Clarification

Action Items:

- Audit Report Findings

- Handbook Review

New Business

Action Items:

- Discuss and Consider Trustee's Financial Summary for 2025-26

- Discuss and Consider Budget for 2026-27

- Non-Resident Student Applications

Upcoming Meetings:

- September 3rd at 1pm Work Study Session and Agenda Setting

- September 17th at 6pm Regular Board Meeting

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.

Presiding Trustee's Explanation of Procedures

Excerpt from GGS Policy #1441- Audience Participation

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in our board meetings. The Board also recognizes the public's statutory and constitutional rights to participate in district operations. Before we begin tonight's meeting, and for the purpose of ensuring that our meetings are run effectively and efficiently while honoring the public's right of input, we would like to briefly explain the opportunities for public participation and how the Board will handle comments depending on where the matter appears on the agenda.

Montana law requires school districts and other public agencies to provide notice of their meeting agendas and opportunities for the public to participate in matters before the Board. The agenda also includes an opportunity for members of the public to comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the district that are not otherwise specifically listed on the agenda. These notice requirements affect how the Board may respond to, discuss, and act upon matters raised during a meeting.

- (1) During general public comment on non-agenda items, the Board will listen to and receive the information, concerns, and recommendations presented. However, because these matters have not been specifically noticed on tonight's agenda, the Board cannot take action on them and will not engage in substantive discussion with the public or among Board members regarding the matter. This does not mean the Board is disregarding the comment or concern. The Board must provide appropriate public notice before discussing and acting upon matters that are not already on the agenda. At the Board's discretion, a matter raised during general public comment on non-agenda items may be considered for placement on a future agenda (in the discretion of the board), or the individual may be directed to the Superintendent or appropriate District staff for follow-up.
- (2) For items that are specifically listed as discussion only (that is, no action will be taken), generally speaking, the Board will discuss those items and determine if those items warrant action on a future agenda. Because these items are discussion items only, the Board will not take public input at that time, but will, of course, invite public input if and when the Board takes action on such items.
- (3) For any agenda item on which the Board will take action, members of the public will be provided an opportunity to comment on that action item before the Board votes. After the public has been given the opportunity to comment, the Chair will close public comment and return the matter to the Board for any further discussion, motions, and action. Public input is considered as part of the Board's decision-making process and we value the input of the public on issues before taking final action, but public comment on action items is not ordinarily a question-and-answer session or an ongoing dialogue between individual speakers and the Board.

To ensure our meetings are orderly, individuals wishing to address the Board during any public comment period must first be recognized by the Chair. If you have not already done so, please sign your name on the sheet provided and indicate the general topic on which you intend to comment. The Chair will call individuals to speak and will provide an opportunity for individuals who have not signed in to comment before the applicable comment period is closed. When recognized, please state your name and make your comments as concisely as possible. The

Board will begin a process of allowing each member of the public 2 minutes during: (1) public comment on non-agenda items, and (2) public comment before the board takes any action.

State and federal laws also protect individual rights of privacy. Members of the public are therefore asked to respect the privacy rights of students, employees, and other individuals when providing public comment and to avoid disclosing private information in a manner that may violate those rights. Consistent with District policy, the general public comment period is not available for contested cases, other adjudicative proceedings, or personnel matters.

The Chair will manage all public comment periods to ensure a fair and orderly progression of the meeting.

The Board appreciates and values your participation and asks for your compliance with these meeting protocols and understanding that the Board's ability to respond, discuss, or act upon a matter depends upon whether that matter has been specifically identified on the publicly noticed agenda.

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

Public Comment- Non Agenda Items

Consent Agenda

Minutes:  6.17.26 RBM.pdf ,  8.5.26 MinutesTemplate.docx ,  Board Orientation Minutes.docx

Finance;  End of June Claims Approval List.pdf  Month 13 Claims.pdf  July GG Claims.pdf

 End of July Claims.pdf  August 14th Claim Approval List.pdf

Personnel Action Report:  August Personnel Resolution

Superintendent Report

August 19, 2026

- Current Enrollment - 130

Staff and Volunteers

- Back to School Week for our staff begins on August 24, 2026. We will have Active Intruder Training on August 28th.
- Back to School is August 27th
- Back to School Staff BBQ is August 26th

Student Events

- We only had three students signed up for Volleyball this school year. We are working with the homeschool group to get our girls into their program as all the surrounding school programs are full.

Other Information

- We were able to sell our route buses and purchase two new mini-buses. They should be at the school shortly. The new mini-buses are new. According to the law, we can use Bus Depreciation once to purchase mini-buses, if we've never had them before. Once we

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purchase mini-buses with the Bus Depreciation fund, we can not purchase another with this fund. New was the way to go with these buses.



- Building Walkthrough - September Board meeting.

District Clerk Report

Food Service

Transportation

Business Manager Report

School Funding Proposal - Camps Update Full Article: [PDF RECAP of the SFIC.pdf](#)

[School Funding Interim Commission Completes Work and Advances Proposals to 2027 Legislature](#)

The School Funding Interim Commission (SFIC) concluded its work this week, approving its final report and advancing a package of bill drafts for consideration by the 2027 Montana Legislature.

Over the past 15 months, the Commission has examined Montana's K-12 funding system, including adequacy, inflation, special education, facilities, at-risk students, English learners, Indian Education for All, student mental health, data systems, and the overall structure of the school funding formula.

All the bill drafts considered by the Commission were approved to move forward for introduction in the 2027 Legislature.

Major proposals advanced

Among the Commission's key recommendations are:

- **Inflation:** Remove the current 3% cap on inflationary adjustments and incorporate a mechanism to reconcile projected inflation with actual inflation.
- **Special education:** Increase state support for special education and pursue changes intended to reduce pressure on local taxpayers.
- **At-risk students:** Revise the at-risk payment using direct certification multiplied by 1.6 to better estimate economically disadvantaged students. The Commission directed this change during its August 12 meeting before taking final action.
- **English learners:** Establish additional state funding for English language learners. The APA study's recommendation in this area was based on a 25% weighting of its foundation amount.
- **Sixth-grade funding:** Allow qualifying sixth-grade students in accredited middle-school programs to be funded at the same rate as seventh- and eighth-grade students.
- **Indian Education for All and American Indian achievement:** Increase the minimum IEFA payment from \$100 to \$1,000 per district and advance additional funding related to the American Indian achievement gap.
- **Facilities:** Improve statewide information on deferred maintenance and school facility needs.
- **Funding formula redesign:** Continue work toward a simpler and more transparent school funding formula. The Commission recommended that SFIC reconvene during the next interim with a specific focus on formula redesign.
- **Data systems:** Continue modernizing school and student data systems while also reducing unnecessary reporting requirements.
- **Student mental health:** Encourage broader, multi-agency efforts to support student mental health while recognizing that schools cannot address these challenges alone.
- **School district isolation and enrollment:** Continue examining the additional costs associated with rural and isolated districts and whether Average Number Belonging remains the best measure of enrollment and educational costs.

What the dollar amounts mean

One important point discussed during the Commission's final meetings is the distinction between the APA adequacy study and the cost of the Commission's proposals.

APA estimated an adjusted funding amount of approximately \$1.598 billion. That is approximately \$433 million above the FY26 BASE General Fund budget and \$212.9 million — roughly \$213 million — above FY26 adopted district General Fund budgets.

The \$213 million figure is not the estimated cost of the SFIC package. It is simply the difference between current adopted General Fund budgets and the adjusted APA amount.

The bill drafts approved by the Commission are estimated separately and total roughly \$200 million in FY28 and \$280 million in FY29.

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For comparison, the CAMPS proposal was estimated at approximately \$276 million above current adopted General Fund budgets.

Importantly, the Commission's final report retains the CAMPS proposal as a distinct resource in its Additional Materials for Reference, recognizing the significant work and analysis that went into its development. During final consideration of the report, an amendment was offered to instead categorize the CAMPS proposal with general public comment. That amendment failed on a 10–10 tie vote, leaving the proposal separately identified as a reference for the Commission's recommendations.

During the discussion, commissioners noted the substantial time, expertise, and collaborative effort invested in the CAMPS proposal. Commissioners also acknowledged that the Commission spent significant time analyzing the proposal and that it helped inform ideas ultimately reflected in the Commission's recommendations.

It is also important to note that APA did not design or recommend a new Montana school funding formula. Its study estimated the reasonable cost of a successful school. The August 12 discussion specifically recognized that APA's foundation analysis and Montana's current funding structure are not directly comparable in every respect. The at-risk and English learner proposals are the Commission recommendations that most closely track specific APA funding recommendations.

What happens next

The Commission ultimately approved its final report, completing the work of the current interim.

Approval by SFIC does **not** mean these proposals are now law. The bill drafts will move forward for introduction and consideration during the 2027 legislative session and will proceed through the normal legislative process.

Members can review the Commission's bill drafts, meeting materials, and supporting documents here:

<https://committees.legmt.gov/#/nonStandingCommittees/43?tab=Meeting+Materials>

The Coalition partners will continue reviewing the proposals, their fiscal impacts, and their potential effects on Montana school districts and local taxpayers as they move toward the 2027 session. CAMPS has provided input to the SFIC throughout this process and will continue working with legislators to advance the interests of Montana's public schools.

CAMPS is also conducting a more detailed analysis of the Commission's final proposals and individual voting records. We will share additional information as that review is completed. In the meantime, we wanted to provide members with this Executive Summary as a timely overview of the Commission's final actions and recommendations.

1. Since starting in June, I have been working on getting things reported accurately. This has proven to be very challenging due to the fact that the budget information in the accounting system was not accurate and the district has not been balancing with the county for at least the last two fiscal years. After speaking with Kelly, I am going to reach out to MASBO to see if they can help us with the issues that are still compounding so we can get it cleaned up for this current year.
2. I have worked closely with Kelly and Kaitlyn in establishing procedures to make sure that internal controls are being implemented for payroll and accounting. Every month the process is getting smoother and more efficient.
3. Once the budget has been accepted, I will go into the accounting system and update the budgets and line items to accurately reflect the current budget. I will be submitting reports to the board monthly so they can see the status of every account and grant. This will help prevent over spending in any funds, grants or sub funds.

4. Kelly and staff at the county have been very patient and helpful getting me access to all the online accounts we use for payroll, bill paying and reporting. This is a much more complicated process than one would think but persevering and I really appreciate the help and patience.
5. The plans for this year are going to concentrate around getting the accounting system cleaned up, accurately balancing with the county, and reporting on a regular basis to the Superintendent and School Board.
6. I will be attending MCEL in Billing this October. As a member of the MASBO board and a voting region representative for MTSBA (Columbia Falls School board trustee), I will be there to represent both district business personnel and school board members. I am more than happy to report back to the board if no trustees or administration is able to attend.
7. Finally, on a personal note, I just wanted to let you know that I am having surgery September 11th and will be taking the week of the 13th off. Kelly is covering for me in getting payroll and claims done, but I wanted to give you a heads up as I am unsure if I will be able to attend the board meeting that week.

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Committee Information

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

Safety Committee - Meets September and April

Responsibilities:

- assessing and controlling hazards;
- assessing safety training and awareness topics;
- communicating with employees regarding safety committee activities;
- developing safety rules, policies and procedures;
- educating employees on safety-related topics;
- evaluating the safety program on a regular basis;
- inspecting the workplace;
- keeping job specific training current;
- motivating employees to create a safety culture in the workplace; and
- reviewing incidents of workplace accidents, injuries and illnesses

Professional Development Committee - Meets March/April

Responsibilities

- Evaluate the current school year's professional development plan.
- Recommend a professional development plan for the subsequent school year to the GGS Board.
- The Professional Development Plan recommendation will outline how, when, and from whom teachers and specialist will meet their professional PIR day expectations and will follow ARM 10.55.714

Whole Child Committee - Meets September, December, March, May

Responsibilities

- Annually evaluate the District's School Wellness Plan.
- Utilize the District's Strategic Plan & Goals as a guide to determine areas of focus/need.
- Recommend a professional development plan for the subsequent school year to the GGS Board.
- Meet at least four times per year.
- Using such tools as surveys, evaluate how well the District is serving its students.
- Assist in reviewing, evaluating, and recommending supplemental curriculum materials/programs (ex: maturation classes, mental health wellness programs, nutritional programs).

Facilities Committee - Meets September, December, March, May

Responsibilities

- Analyze and plan for how our District can best maintain its campus, provide the best educational spaces possible, and responsibly accommodate growth.
- Advise the GGS Board on the condition of our District's property, growth projections, and anticipated future projects/investments needed.
- Keep community taxpayers apprised of the current condition and needs of our campus in addition to making voters aware of future potential projects.

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Governing Board Activities

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

August 24th Back to School Staff Breakfast - Monday, 8am. The Board normally provides breakfast on this day.

August 26th Staff BBQ 5:30pm at Neal Krogstad's home. You are WELCOMED to attend.

August 27th Open House 5-7pm

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

School Finance Roles and Responsibilities

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

 SBO_Supt_Duties_June_26.docx

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

MCEL Attendance

Presented by: Aaron Schwieterman

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

 2026 Annual Meeting Booklet 5.27.2026.pdf

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Open Ed

Presented by: Aaron Schwieterman, 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.

Video from Grant.

Discussion items:

MDA's

Legal Action

Outstanding Balance to Open Ed

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Staffing Clarification

Presented by: Aaron Schwieterman, Governing Board

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

Conversation within the community has focused on having a part time person instead of a full time person. We've heard "why would you keep someone on part-time? Why are you not just trying to hire someone full-time?"

This is the way that we have this structured for this school year due to school funding issues and school district needs. We anticipate that there aren't going to be any glitches. We are providing consistency in instruction, leadership in school district operations as well as accreditation requirements.

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

24-25 Audit Report

Presented by: Kelly Henderson, Heather Mumby

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

 DRAFT - Gallatin Gateway SD.pdf ;

 GALLATIN GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT-5002-CONCLUSION GOVERNANCE LETTER (... ;

 Audit Adjustments.pdf ;  Approval Form.docx ;  25-26 Corrective Action Plan.docx

Recommendation: Administration recommends the approval of the 24-25 Audit and Corrective Action Plan.

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

Handbook Review

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[W 26-27 Staff Handbook.docx](#)

Updated Policies 5321, 5321 P, 5334 and 5334 P for sick and vacation leave policies.

Inserted Use of AI in the Classroom along with policies

[W 26-27 Student-Parent Handbook \(1\).docx](#)

Added Policy 5015 Bullying Harassment and Intimidation

Update to Food Service and Transportation changes

Added Policy 1700 along with the Procedure/Form

Updated 3rd Grade Supply List

[W 26-27 Behavior Expectations.docx](#)

Pg. 33 Added flow chart for discipline referrals to Lead Teacher, Superintendent, SRO

Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the changes to the Staff, Student-Parent, and Behavior Handbooks for the 26-27 school year.

New Business
ACTION ITEM

Trustee's Financial Summary 25-26

Presented by: Heather Mumby

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

 TFS.pdf

Recommendation: Administration recommends the approval of the 25-26 Trustees Financial Report.

New Business
ACTION ITEM

26-27 Budget

Presented by: Heather Mumby

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

 Budget.pdf

Recommendation: Administration recommends the approval of the 26-27 Budget

New Business
ACTION ITEM

Non-Resident Student Applications

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

We have three students who applied for out of district attendance. PreK, 1, 5th grades.

Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the out of district agreements for three students.