



May 20, 2026 Agenda Regular Meeting of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for **5.20.26** at **6:00PM** in the library and via **Google Meet** (meet.google.com/whu-hitz-rhr).

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

GUESTS:

- **Declamations Winners** Ms. Barry, Reid Elwell
 - Speech: Sonny Barlow, Dora Clark, **Reid Elwell, Danica Maus**
 - Essay: Ryan Bos, **Piper Doyle**, Brooks Elwell, Devree Podzemny
- **Battle Bots** Mr. Coon, Emma Mawhinney and LJ Hargrove

John Nielson, Gallatin County Superintendent of Schools

Acceptance/Canvas of Election Results

Swear in Trustees - County Superintendent John Nielson

Reorganization of the Board

- Clerk Appointment
- Organization - Chair/Vice Chair elections

Presiding Trustee's Explanation of Procedures

Public Comment- Non Agenda Items

Consent Agenda

Minutes, Financial Reports, Personnel Action Report

Superintendent Report

Old Business

Discussion Items:

- Committee Updates
- MTSBA Leadership Summit

Action Items:

- Business Manager
- Signors for First Interstate Bank
- Summer Work, Mr. Coon
- Governing Board Self Evaluation Action Planning
- Negotiations MOU
- End of School Year Calendar

New Business

Discussion Items:

- Model Policy Updates, First Reading

Action Items:

- Levy Funds and Personnel Budget

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.

- HVAC Controls
- Non-Resident Student Agreements
- Transportation Agreements

Adjournment

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.

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. 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

Guests:

- Declamations Winners: Reid Elwell. Reid received an honorable mention for his declamations. Danica Maus received first place for her speech, and Piper Doyle received second place for her essay.
- Battle Bots: Mr. Coon
- John Nielson, Gallatin County Superintendent of Schools
 - **Acceptance/Canvas of Election Results**
 - **Background/Information:**
 - Board Members: Luke Hancox 269 votes
 - Brian Nickolay 242 votes
 - Erica Parrish 235 votes
 - Total Votes: 746
 -
 - General Fund Levy: For 459
Against 210
Total 513
- Recommendation: The Governing Board recommends approval of the election results for May 2026.
- **Swear in Trustees** - County Superintendent John Nielson, Brian Nickolay, Lucas Hancox
- **Reorganization of the Board**
 - Clerk Appointment - Kaitlyn Dinnan
 - Organization - Chair/Vice Chair elections
- Recommendation: Approval of the appointments for Chair, Vice Chair, and District Clerk

Presiding Trustee's Explanation of Procedures:

Excerpt from GGS Policy #1441- Audience Participation

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Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

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Consent Agenda

Minutes: [April 15, 2026 RBM Minutes.pdf](#); [May 6 Agenda/WSS Meeting Minutes.docx](#)

Financial Reports: [April 16 to May 15 Payroll.pdf](#), [Budget v Actual May.pdf](#), [General Fund Balance Sheet.pdf](#),
[Warrant Register 05.15.pdf](#)

Personnel Action Report: [May Personnel Resolution](#)

Superintendent's Report

May 20, 2026



Strategic Goals

Individual Student Success

- Special Education students - 16
- Students with 504's - 24
- Check In/Check Out - no students on formal check in check out process
- Two suspensions: 1 student for 3 days for assault; 1 student for 1 day for cheating/plagiarism
- Current Enrollment - 133

Staff and Volunteers

- PLC meeting topics: Standards based grading and instruction, data compilation and analysis, planning for spring events.

Student Events

Field Trips Galore -

- May 20 2nd Grade Museum of the Rockies Field Trip
- May 21-22 5th Grade Butte Field Trip
- May 21 6-7th Grade Rafting Trip
- May 22 3rd Grade Buffalo Jump and Headwaters State Park Field Trip
- May 27 Middle School Mile Run
- June 1 2nd Grade to Little Bear Schoolhouse Museum
- June 2 Story Mill Park PreK-2

Discussion Points:

- Teacher Appreciation Week was May 5-9. Thank you to everyone who showed our staff lots of love and kept them well fed and hydrated throughout the week. We were so spoiled.
- Stay Interviews are being scheduled for June 1-3
- [2026 Student Appreciation Day](#) is May 29th
- ESEA Report Cards
- Policy Review Series 1000 in the Fall
- School Report Cards for 2024-2025 [ESSA Report Card School.pdf](#)
[ESSA Report Card 7-8.pdf](#)[ESSA Report Card District.pdf](#)
- The winner of the GGS Science Fair was Payton Newstom. She'll be here in June to share her project with us.

Upcoming Events

Student Appreciation Day - May 29
8th Grade Graduation - June 3, 6pm
Field Day - June 5th

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Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Committee Updates

Presented by: Governing Board Chair, Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

All of our committees wrapped up their work for the year. I have two updates for the Facilities committee:

Roof Evaluation: We had a roof evaluation done, for free, by Garland. I've included the report for your review but this will be shared with the Facilities committee in the fall. We have some significant areas of deterioration.

[Roof Evaluation.pdf](#)

Fence out front: While the SRO recommended the fence out front, and Mr. Melton and TJ installed it beautifully for us for FREE, the county indicated that we needed an encroachment to post the no parking signs. Ms. Davis has filed that paperwork for us. According to the county this takes 2-3 months to complete. Hopefully, we will have this completed by the start of school. The fence increased the safety of our students significantly. Thank you!!

Suggestion for School Finance Committee

- School Finance Committee
- Formal Budget Hearing
- Twice Yearly Budget Meeting

Old Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

MTSBA Leadership Summit

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate) The MTSBA Leadership Summit is June 9th, from 9am-4:15pm. MTSBA will also be celebrating their 100th anniversary with a reception June 9th from 5-7pm. The annual membership meeting is June 10th at 9am. This is no cost to the district except for hotel, if you want to stay.

Join us from 5:00 - 7:00 PM for MTSBA's 100th Anniversary Celebration reception at MTSBA Headquarters, fourth floor deck! RSVP to communications@mtsba.org.

Meeting Location

MTSBA Headquarters
863 Great Northern Blvd., Suite 401
4th Floor
Helena, Montana 59601

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

- Leadership Symposium
- MTSBA 100th Anniversary Reception

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. - MTSBA Annual Membership Meeting
- Afternoon - MTSBA Board of Directors Meeting

Annual Meeting Agenda

As previously noticed, members will convene to review and provide input on the MTSBA Legislative Platform approved by the Delegate Assembly at MCEL 2025 for the 2027 Montana Legislative Session, ensuring that the voices of local school boards help guide education policy.

Additional matters for discussion will include the MTSBA Board's proposed Organizational DNA document, the MTSBA Principles and Guidelines, proposed bylaws amendments recommended by the MTSBA Board, and a dues revenue estimate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, to be presented by MTSBA Executive Director Lance Melton.

The purpose of the in-person Annual Membership Meeting is to provide a focused opportunity for members in attendance to engage in thoughtful discussion and develop a shared understanding of the issues and proposals under consideration, including the proposed 2027 legislative platform. Consistent with the Association's commitment to knowledge-based decision-making and meaningful member engagement, the meeting will focus on dialogue, clarification, and the exchange of perspectives among those present.

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Old Business
ACTION ITEM

Business Manager Hiring

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background:

[HMumby.pdf](#)

Heather, Kaitlyn and I will be working through the documented processes and procedures requested by the auditor and for our business office handbook in June.

Recommendation: Administration recommends approving the hiring of Heather Mumby as the .5FTE remote business manager.

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

Check Signors First Interstate

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

Chair:

Primary signers: Kelly Henderson, Kaitlyn Brown, Heather Mumby.

Secondary signers: Aaron Schwieterman, Brian Nickolay, Carissa Maus, Lucas Hancox, Tim Melton

Removals: Hannah Hancox

Recommendation: The Gallatin Gateway Governing Board accepts the signors listed and approves the removal of Hannah Hancox from the First Security banking system for the school.

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

Summer Work, Mr. Coon

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[1699_001.pdf](#)

During the summer, Mr. Coon completes all technology and network maintenance as well as assisting with other maintenance work needed at the school. We have paid him \$25 an hour for this work over the summer.

Recommendation: Administration recommends hiring Mike Coon at \$25/hour for a maximum of 360 hours from June 8, 2026 to August 28, 2026.

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

Governing Board Self-Evaluation Action Planning

Presented by: Governing Board Chair

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[School Board Self Evaluation.docx](#)

Need	Plan
Community Involvement at meetings	Establish Public comment process in the regular meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establish a more formal process with layman's terms for how the meetings operate according to law● Google form plus forms available at the meeting● Establish expectations and standards for community● Outline the law as it pertains to the Governing Board's response to public comment● Write a 1 page summary● Eliminate conversation between the board and within the audience
Sharing events and information with the public	Publicize where information can be obtained and by when: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Audio recordings posted within the 7 days● Draft meeting notes posted within 10 days● Provide the public with a notice of postings, law pertaining to agenda postings and where they can locate information
Financial Reporting	Check with the auditor regarding what reports we should include in the board packet: The only thing that we are missing is the approved warrants, but Kelly will check with MASBO.
Strategic Planning	We review yearly and update any goals or processes we need to change or implement. We'd like to review the plan with Deb Silk and have her possibly educate the community on the plan and update if needed.

Recommendation: Approval of the Governing Board action plan for the 26-27 school year.

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

Negotiations MOU

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

The school team met to discuss the points for the MOU for the 26-27 school year. We are tabling the prep time and the Flex benefit until further discussion can be had around these two topics. [Memorandum of Understanding.pdf](#)

Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the MOU for the 26-27 school year.

Old Business
ACTION ITEM

End of School Calendar

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

For the 25-26 school year, we built in two extra days for snow days or late starts. Because we didn't use those days, we'd like to get out of school on June 5th. We will meet our minute/hour requirements for accreditation.

Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the change in the end of the school year from June 10, 2026 to June 5, 2026.

New Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Model Policy Updates First Reading

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

Here are the new policy updates from MTSBA for the first reading. Some of them affect our handbooks, so the handbooks will need to wait until the beginning of August for approval.

[Policy 1105 Membership and Terms of Office.pdf](#)

[Policy 2050 Innovative Student Instruction.pdf](#)

[Policy 2100 School Calendar and Day.pdf](#)

[Policy 2140 Guidance and Counseling.pdf](#)

[Policy 2161 Special Education.pdf](#)

[Policy 3110 Entrance Placement and Transfer.pdf](#)

[Policy 3124 Military Compact Waiver.pdf](#)

[Policy 3150 Part-Time Enrollment \(1\).pdf](#)

[Procedure 2161-P\(1\) Special Education - Procedure.pdf](#)

[Procedure 3600-P\(1\) Student Records - Maintenance of School Student Records.pdf](#)

New Business
DISCUSSION ITEM

Levy Funding/Personnel Budget

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[Budget with Levy](#) With the addition of the levy funding, we are proposing adding a counselor .5 FTE and hourly food service for one meal prep, sack lunches, and snack prep. This may also change is staff opt out of the insurance which would free up funds for an additional paraprofessional for Kindergarten.

Recommendation: Administration approves of the proposed budget with the levy funding for the 26-27 school year.

New Business
ACTION ITEM

HVAC Controls

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[HVAC Work to Date.pdf](#)

[Gallatin Gateway School Engine Replace.pdf](#)

Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the replacement of the HVAC controls.

New Business
ACTION ITEM

Non-Resident Student Agreements

Presented by: Kelly Henderson

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

Our current out of district attendance is 27

Non-Resident In Coming	Total	Elementary	Middle School
Bozeman	9	6	2
Cottonwood	2	2	
Belgrade	6	6	
Monforton	1		1
Outgoing	10	3	7

Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the out of district/non-resident student attendance agreements.

New Business
ACTION ITEM

Transportation Agreements

Presented by: Kaitlyn Dinnan

Background: (Include funding sources as appropriate)

[Transportation Process.pdf](#) [Transportation Contract.pdf](#)

We will be submitting everyone to OPI and the County Superintendent for transportation reimbursement.

The dates for submission are included in the transportation process and will be shared with the county superintendent via the portal as well as OPI for approval. Reimbursements are completed in March of 2027.

Recommendation: Administration recommends the approval of the transportation contracts and processes for the 26-27 school year.