February 11, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Kyle Kluck called the regular meeting to order in the Board room of the Malta Middle/Senior High School at 7:00 PM. Board members present were Katey Marquis, Kyle Kluck, and Katie Brown. Absent were Jessica Oyler and Angel DeVries. Others present were Superintendent Steve Bucks and Business Manager Heathyr Knowles.	Call to Order
Visitors present: Elementary Principal JF Hewitt, Activities Director Jake Norby, Middle School Principal Mardee Lamb, Transportation Coordinator Carter Clausen, Raymond Hough, Delsi Witmer, Kari Hould, Emma Oyler, and Makenzie Manoukian.	Visitor List
Public input: None.	Public Input
Consent Agenda This consists of approving the minutes from the January 14, 2026 regular meeting, approve the agenda, and approve the current month's bills **Motion: Katey Marquis moved to approve the Consent Agenda** **2nd: Katie Brown** **Motion passed unanimously**	Approve Agenda, Minutes, Bills
Committee Reports: Transportation committee met twice to discuss an incentive for non-employees to try and get additional bus drivers, the sale of the 2012 Traverse, and city plowing of bus routes as well as the Educational Access Transportation Support Program. Finance met twice to discuss a RIP, the cell phone stipend vs sponsored cell phones, and get a fiscal YTD and FY27 budget work. The Personnel committee met to discuss a new Years of Service Award system to recognize employees and position openings.	Committee Reports
Administrative Reports: School Principals gave their reports, the AD presented his monthly report, the Business Manager gave a financial update and the Superintendent gave his monthly report.	Administrative Reports
Agenda Item #1 – CLOSED SESSION Extended Leave of Absence **Motion: Katie Brown moved to approve the extended leave requests** **2nd: Katey Marquis** **Motion passed unanimously**	Agenda Items:
Agenda Item #2 – Strategic Plan – Communication Guides With Angel and Jessica both absent, the board decided to table this discussion to get more information **Motion: Katie Brown moved to table until the next monthly meeting** **2nd: Katey Marquis** **Motion passed unanimously**	

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Student Graduation Request
All information was included in the packet emailed directly to the board to protect the privacy of the student.
Motion: Katie Brown moved to approve the student graduation requested based on the MT graduation requirements.
2nd: Katey Marquis
Motion passed unanimously

Action Item #4 – TruGreen Contract
This is the annual contract for fertilizing and weed abatement
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to approve the TruGreen contract and pay upfront to take advantage of the discounted rate
2nd: Katie Brown
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #5 – $1500 CDL Incentive for Non-Employees
The transportation committee would like to offer the $1500 CDL incentive to members of the public. Stipulations are that they must have received their CDL with bus endorsements within the last five years or have added bus endorsements to their current CDL. They must drive bus for the District for 2 years to receive the full reimbursement up to $1500.
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to approve a CDL incentive for non-employees up to $1500 with the stated stipulations.
2nd: Katie Brown
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #6 – Cell Phone Stipends
Administrative staff who currently have a District cell phone have indicated they no longer want to carry two phones. Recommendation from the finance committee is that we move to a stipend program instead. Cap would be $1200/year and would be offered to the superintendent, all principals, the AD, and the Maintenance Director.
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to go forward with a stipend option and cancel our Verizon service for staff cell phones
2nd: Katie Brown
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #7 – Educational Access Transportation Support Program
The transportation committee has brought forward a program that would sponsor in town transportation for specific internally referred students. The program would begin in FY27
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to approve the Educational Access Transportation Support Program and authorize Mr. Bucks to sign the MOU on behalf of the District with Phillips Transit.
2nd: Katie Brown
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #8 – Recognize Receipt of Letter of Intent for Negotiations
Both unions have sent formal letters to open negotiations for FY27
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to recognize the letters of intent and assign the Finance Committee members to negotiate on behalf of the board.
2nd: Katie Brown
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #9 – TR-6 Claims
The Business Manager presented the first semester TR-6 claims for approval.
Motion: Kate Brown moved to approve the TR-6 first semester bus claims.
2nd: Katey Marquis
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #10 – 2025-2026 Contracts
Jessica Zeiger – Playground Aide
Leann Cochran – substitute pending background check
Anthony Warren – Paraprofessional at the ES
Motion: Katie Brown moved to approve the list
2nd: Katey Marquis
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #11 – Delinquent Lunch Account Procedure
Due to different procedures across the schools, the District created one procedure and form letters to collect on delinquent lunch accounts.
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to approve the delinquent lunch account procedure.
2nd: Kyle Kluck
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #12 – Student Attendance Agreement
We are in receipt of a student attendance agreement form that was included in the packed emailed to protect the privacy of the student.
Motion: Katie Brown moved to approve the student attendance agreement as presented.
2nd: Katey Marquis
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #13 – Garden MOU
The District has been approached by a business to take over the garden for the next calendar year and provide all labor to clean and maintain the garden while the district would pay for materials costs up to $10,000 as well as all utilities. The board had to table the item until the special board meeting due to close family ties.
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to table the Garden MOU until the special meeting which has been set for 2/18/26
2nd: Kyle Kluck
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #14 – Policy 2410-P First Reading
We have found that our Policy 2410-P needs to be updated to match Montana law. First reading so no action required

Agenda Item #15 – Policy Review Second Reading
The board reviewed the policy packet prepared by the superintendent for second reading
Motion: Katey Marquis moved to approve the policies
2nd: Kyle Kluck
Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #16 – Recognize Superintendent Resignation
Superintendent Steven Bucks has tendered his resignation
Motion: Katie Brown moved to recognize the superintendent's resignation
2nd: Katey Marquis
Motion passed unanimously

Set next board meeting

The next regular board meeting is set for **Wednesday, March 11, 2026** at 7:00 PM in the boardroom of the Malta High School.

Adjournment

Motion: Katie Brown moved to adjourn
2nd: Katey Marquis
Motion passed unanimously
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Kyle Kluck
Chairman of the Board

Heathyr Knowles
Clerk of the Board