

HARLEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Regular Board Meeting

April 28, 2026

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mike King called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Trustees present were Mike King, Alan Bigby Sr., Jackie Blackbird, Dean Doney Jr. at 6:05 pm and absent-Kathleen Adams. John McGee, Superintendent and Mackenzie Doney, sub-board clerk attended the meeting. 15 guests were also present.

A. GUESTS AND DELEGATIONS

- a. Delegations –Dawn Bishop-Moore; impact aid
- b. Public Comment Guidelines – Board Chair
- c. Public Comment – None

B. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to approve the Consent Agenda items as listed:

- Minutes of the Regular March 24 Board Meeting.
- Payroll Warrant number 81888-81940 in the amount of \$838,887.08. Voids-none
- Claim Warrant number 21030-21067 in the amount of \$315,759.27. Voids- 21027.
- Student Accounts check number 23055-23060 in the amount of \$12,062.19. Voids-None.
- Purchase Orders over \$10,000:
 - Frontier Lawn and Landscaping - \$57,646.00 – Sod/Hydroseed/landscape-Elementary playground.
- Sub/Volunteer list with the District reserving the right to withdraw the offer based on the background check:
 - Cecelia Shortman- volunteer for activities.

Second by Jackie Blackbird and motion carried, 4 for 1 absent-KA.

C. PROGRAM REPORTS

Information only. Program reports were given by Activities Director, Title VII Director, Director of Transportation, Director of Infrastructure, Elementary Principal, Jr/Sr High Principal, and Superintendent.

District track will be in Fairview and Div. will be in Glasgow. State band is May 1st in Billings.

D. CLUBS/ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Information only. Jr. Tribal council to do re-election in May as seniors are graduating.

E. DISSOLVE THE D.C. STUDENT ACTIVITY TRAVEL CLUB-CLOSED

Motion by Alan Bigby Sr. to dissolve the D.C. Student Activity Travel Club and revoke its official recognition as a student organization, effective April 30, 2026.

Second by Dean Doney Jr. and motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

F. JOHNSON CONTROLS-LEASE/PURCHASE RENEWAL

Motion by Jackie Blackbird to renew the lease purchase agreements entered into by the elementary and high school districts and First Bank of Montana for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2026 for the Johnson Controls Energy Performance Contracts.

Second by Alan Bigby Sr., and motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

G. MOU AMENDMENT 2026-27 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to approve the memorandum of agreement as presented to change the school calendar so that Friday, September 18, 2026 becomes an instructional day.

Second by Alan Bigby Sr. and motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

H. MOU AMENDMENT-BEAR PAW CO-OP/FORT BELKNAP HEAD START-PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Motion by Jackie Blackbird to approve the amended MOA with the Harlem School District, The Bear Paw Cooperative, and the Fort Belknap Head Start Program from August 2025 through May 2028.

Second by Alan Bigby Sr., and motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

I. TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT SERVICE CONTRACT-FACILITY MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Tabled until May board meeting.

J. CONSTRUCTION RENOVATIONS-ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND AND NEW HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Motion by Dean Doney Jr to approve spending \$57,646 of the schools Construction Funds with Frontier Lawn and Landscapers to make improvements to the elementary playground.

Second by Jackie Blackbird and motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

Motion to approve setting aside \$100,000 of the schools Construction Contingency Funds to renovations of the new house next to the Jr/Sr High School-tabled until May meeting, need more info.
Dean Doney Jr. rescind motion.

K. COMPLAINT HEARING-SUPERINTENDENT

Board dismissed the claim-closed.

L. 2026 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM APPROVAL

Motion by Jackie Blackbird to approve the Harlem Jr/Sr High School summer school program as presented and to hire Melvanessa Baleos, Lucelle Maglinte, Crystal Doney, and Enrique Rivera as summer school teachers at \$25 per/hr.

Second by Alan Bigby Sr., and motion carried 3 for, 1 absent-KA, 1 abstain-DD

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to hire Michael Cooper para at \$20 per/hr, Andrea Quintana as Summer school snack coordinator at \$20/hr and James Hodgson as a Drives Education Teacher at \$58.94 per/hr.

Second by Alan Bigby Sr., and motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

M. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF CONTRACTS FOR 2026-27 CLASSIFIED STAFF

Motion by Jackie Blackbird to rehire the following Jr/Sr High School classified staff for the 2026-2027 S.Y., per the CBA:

- Grace Franson
- Wendy Briere
- Michael Cooper
- Ira Talks Different
- Shawnae King
- Gabi Tamantini
- Nicole Cooper
- Gabe Guerrero
- Vina Healy
- Jennifer Renfro
- Kirstie Longknife
- Kevin Gaston
- Vance Valenzuela
- Lynette Medicine Bear
- Jessi Castillo
- Clayton Talks Different
- Krystal Caldwell

Also rehire the following Elementary School classified staff for 2026-2027 S.Y., per the CBA

- Nina Bearcub
- Natasha Blackhawk
- Angie Horswill
- Eileen Schilling
- Crystal Cox
- Taylor Faulkinberry-Richardson
- Sarah Green
- Britta Sande-Stuker
- Gail Show
- Jessica Horn
- Janice Gilham
- Nick Hopkins
- Steven Hopkins
- Denise Stanley

Second by Dean Doney Jr. and motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

N. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF CONTRACTS FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ADVISORS/COACH

Motion by Alan Bigby Sr., to hire Skylee Dirden and Lynette Medicinebear as the 2025-2026 S.Y. Rodeo Club Advisors, per the CBA, and hire Joshua Rose for the Jr High Track Coach for the 2025-2026 S.Y., per the CBA.

Second by Dean Doney Jr., motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

O. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF CONTRACTS FOR 2026-27 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF

Motion by Alan Bigby Sr., to renew the contract of Corey Morgan as Activities Director for the 2026-2027 school year. The contract shall consist of 160 days at a salary of \$64,896 with an additional \$4,000 performance bonus to be paid upon completion of the contract term.

Second by Jackie Blackbird, motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to hire Alana Briese as the Jr/Sr School Nurse for the 2026-2027 S.Y. with the District reserving the right to withdraw the offer based on the background check.

Second by Jackie Blackbird, motion married, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

P. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF CONTRACTS FOR 2026-2027 NEW CERTIFIED STAFF

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to hire Cori Kusik as HS English Teacher for the 26-27 S.Y., per the CBA, with the district reserving the right to withdraw the offer based on the background check and MT license.

Second by Alan Bigby Sr., motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

Motion by Jackie Blackbird to hire Kayla Messerly as Jr High Social Studies Teacher for the 26-27 S.Y., per the CBA, with the district reserving the right to withdraw the offer based on the background check and MT license.

Second by Dean Doney Jr., motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

Q. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF CONTRACT FOR 2026-2027 EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS-COACHES

Motion to rehire coaches-tabled until after elections, will re-hire at May board meeting.

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to open Head Girls Flag Football Coach, Asst. Girls Flag Football Coach, Head Football Coach, Asst. Football Coaches, Asst. Volleyball Coach, Head Cheer Coach, and Asst. Cheer Coach for the 26-27 S.Y.

Second by Jackie Blackbird, motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

R. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING OF CONTRACTS FOR 2026-2027 ADMINISTRATORS

Motion by Jackie Blackbird to renew contracts with corrections for the following for the 2026-2027 school year: strike 179 days to 175 days, a 4% increase to their salary, and change leave to reflect work days.

- Christy CalfBossRibs for Jr/SR High School Assistant Principal for 175 days for 4% increase
- William Huebsch for Elementary Principal for 175 days for 4% increase.
- Sheena Pursley for Elementary Dean of Students for 175 days for 4% increase.

Motion by Jackie Blackbird to renew contracts with corrections for the following for the 2026-2027 school year: strike 179 days to 175 days, a 4% increase to their salary, and change leave to reflect work days.

- Holly Allen-King for Jr/Sr High School Principal for 175 days for 4% increase

Second by Dean Doney Jr., motion carried, 3 for, 1 absent-KA, 1 abstain-MK.

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to amend Bill Huebsch's and Sheena Pursley's 2025-26 school year contract to complete on May 28, 2026.

Second by Jackie Blackbird, motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

S. JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & EXTRA-CURRICULAR 2026-2027 HANDBOOKS

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to approve the 2026-27 S.Y. elementary, extracurricular, Jr/Sr high School Student Handbooks as first reading.

Second by Jackie Blackbird, motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

T. FP14.1 OUT OF DISTRICT AGREEMENTS

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to approve the Out-of District Attendance Agreement FP14.1 for student MB to attend Cleveland School for the 2025-26 S.Y.

Second by Jackie Blackbird, motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

U. ADJOURN

Motion by Dean Doney Jr. to adjourn at 7:27 pm, second by Jackie Blackbird, motion carried, 4 for, 1 absent-KA.

Kathleen Adams, Board Chair

Mackenzie Doney, Sub-Board Clerk