

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Regular School Board Meeting Agenda of the Power School District

Board of Trustees of Power School District No. 30

January 12, 2026 7:00 pm

Conference Room

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Citizens are given the opportunity to make brief comments to the Board on any matters not included in the agenda. By law the Board cannot deliberate, debate, or take any action on any matter presented during Public Comment.
Comments about any staff, student, or member of the public are not allowed due to rights of privacy laws. Public Comment on action (A) agenda items is to be addressed when the item is being considered on the agenda. Informational and Staff Reports are reported to the Board of Trustees as information only.
- IV. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)
- V. Administrative Reports
 - a. Superintendent – Nichole Pieper
 - i. Facilities Updates
 - ii. Transportation Updates
 - iii. Behavior
 - iv. Activities
 - v. School Updates
 - vi. Student Council Report
 - b. Business Manager – Stephani Johnson
 - i. Approval of Warrants
 - ii. Activity Account Report
 - iii. Attendance Agreements
- VI. Information Items –
- VII. Action Items –
 - a. Consideration to Approve Bridged Health Alliance
 - b. Consideration to Approve Student Council Representative to the Board Policy
 - c. Consideration to Approve Policy Updates
 - d. Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Proposal (Possible Closed Meeting)
- VIII. Adjournment

Information Items

Action Items

Consideration to Approve Bridged Health Alliance

Category: Personnel

Presented by: Nichole Pieper

Facts to Consider:

Bridged is a statewide, self-funded health trust that brings together over 150 school districts and more than 12,000 employees to address one of the most pressing challenges we face—rising health care costs. By pooling resources and leveraging collective purchasing power, Bridged offers a model that stabilizes costs, reduces administrative expenses, and ensures access to high-quality, affordable health and wellness benefits.

This effort is supported by a historic \$40 million investment from Montana's Legislature and governor, specifically aimed at maintaining and improving benefits for educators and staff. Participating districts will have the opportunity to reinvest savings into their budgets and directly benefit their employees.

Key advantages of Bridged include:

1. Improved health outcomes: Healthier employees lead to lower costs and allow districts to focus on their core mission—educating Montana's children.
2. Lower fixed costs: By working together, districts can secure better pricing and reduce administrative overhead.
3. Stability and predictability: A larger risk pool and fair renewal methodology provide year-over-year consistency in health insurance rates.
4. Maximized return on investment: The \$40 million legislative investment ensures that participating districts see tangible financial benefits.

Many districts have already committed to Bridged, and formal cost and benefit proposals are being released.

Superintendent Recommendation: Continue to table until we have other bids.

Sample Motion: I move to table the Bridged Health Alliance decision.

Consideration to Approve Student Council Representative to the Board Policy

Category: Policy

Presented by: Nichole Pieper

Facts to Consider:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The Board of trustees recognizes the importance of maintaining open communication with the student body and providing students with enhanced civic opportunities. In furtherance of these objectives, the Board authorizes the seating of one representative, the student body president, from the high school to serve in a nonvoting capacity on the Board of Trustees. This student representative is intended to provide students with a more effective voice at the decision-making level of the school system.

A student representative shall:

- Attend all regular meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- Report on happenings at Power Public Schools under the Information items on the agenda.
- Raise issues pertinent to the students at Power Public Schools.
- Speak on any issue on the agenda or motion before the Board unless deemed inappropriate by the Board.
- Report back to the Power Public Schools student body via Student Council.

A student representative shall not:

- Be able to make, second, or vote on any motion or resolution.
- Be allowed to attend executive sessions nor have access to any confidential materials.

The following procedures will be observed for the seating of the student representative:

- The student representative will come from the junior and senior classes at the high school. If the president is unable to attend, the role will fall onto vice president, secretary, treasure, etc.
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required to be an active member of Student Council. Failure to maintain this GPA will result in the removal of the member from Student Council, and the student representative position.
- After the student has been selected, they will be given an orientation session by the Superintendent or designee.
- The Board of Trustees reserves the right to dismiss a student without cause and call for the selection of a new member.
- The term of office for the representative shall be for one school year.

Superintendent Recommendation: Approve the policy.

Sample Motion: I move to approve the policy.

Consideration to Approve MTSBA Policy Updates

Category: Policy

Presented by: Nichole Pieper

Facts to Consider: These are the latest policy updates from MTSBA:

The MTSBA Policy Services Team has prepared recommended updates to the MTSBA Model Policy Manual.

1. HB745 was passed by the Montana Legislature and signed into law by the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2025. The Bill amended § 20-3-323, MCA, to require the Trustees of each district to adopt a “student protection policy” requiring background checks prior to an individual having unsupervised access to students. We previously released a Model Policy 3665 in response to the Bill being passed. Now, following further discussion with member districts and other school law professionals, and in light of initiation of rulemaking by the Office of Public Instruction, we are recommending additional changes to MTSBA Model Policies 3665, 5122, and 2600. The recommended changes will bring the policies into compliance with the proposed administrative rules. It is possible that the content of the draft administrative rules may change during the rule making process. If this occurs, it may or may not be necessary to update the above-referenced policies again. We will monitor the rulemaking process and make changes to model policies when and/or if that is supported by adoption of final rules that are different from the proposed rules. Meanwhile, adoption of the recommended changes to Policies 3665, 5122, and 2600 will ensure continued compliance with the requirements of HB745.

Superintendent Recommendation: Approve the policy updates.

Sample Motion: I move to approve the policy updates as presented.

Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Proposal (Possible Closed Meeting)

Category: Personnel

Presented by: Nichole Pieper

Facts to Consider:

- Extend current contract by two years
- 2% pay increase each year (below inflation rate)
- Two days/week to work remotely during summer break (helps offset fuel and wear on vehicle)
- Ability to work remotely on student holidays during the school year
- Family insurance stipend with spouse's portion going to a 403b

Sample Motion: I move to