

1 **Stevensville Public Schools**  
2 **School District #2**  
3 **300 Park Avenue**  
4 **Stevensville, Montana 59870**  
5 **Telephone: (406) 777-5481**  
6 **Fax: (406)258-1246**

7  
8 **Regular Board Meeting**

9 **May 9, 2023**

**7:00 pm**

**Music Center Choir Room**

10  
11 **1. Opening of Meeting – Call to Order – Salute to Flag – Roll Call**

12 Chairwoman Cathi Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the MPR Choir Room.  
13 Cathi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustees present were Sean Lenahan, Kris McKoy, Stephanie  
14 Esch, Ben Meyer, Tony Hudson, Jennifer Gunterman, and Billy Donaldson. Superintendent Dave  
15 Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk(s) Bill Schiele & Christy McLaren were present.

16  
17 **2. Recognize Visitors/Public Comment**

18 **Board Comment**

19 Stephanie Esch indicated that it is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week and wanted to  
20 thank everyone for their service.

21 **Public Comment**

22 None

23 **3. Approval of Minutes**

24 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to  
25 be made regarding the minutes.

26 Ben Meyer asked why Policy #1120 wasn't being followed, which he indicated allows for  
27 the reorganization of the board at the beginning of the board meeting. Cathi indicated that the  
28 district has done the reorganization of the board at the end of the meeting for the past 2 to 3  
29 years so that a new trustee isn't trying to make decisions on agenda items that they may not be  
30 informed on. Cathi asked if the trustees were okay with continuing with the order of the agenda.  
31 No trustees stated that it was not okay when asked.

32 On the April 11<sup>th</sup> minutes under the section regarding the MOU – Extra-Curriculum  
33 Stipends for High School Baseball Coaches, Ben Meyer would like line 11 changed to reflect that  
34 Dave told the Board these stipends were “requested to be added” instead of “will be added” to  
35 the teachers CBA in the upcoming negotiations. Cathi Cook also requested that lines 10 – 12 be  
36 updated to reflect that the MOU is being requested to pay baseball coaches this year with money  
37 raised for the baseball program. Sean Lenahan motioned to approve the April 11, 2023, minutes  
38 with the requested changes. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

39 Superintendent Thennis clarified that the section referencing the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in  
40 Dillon Gongliewski’s Resignation Agreement should be the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District. He checked with  
41 our legal counsel and was told it does not affect the agreement. There were no other comments.  
42 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the April 25, 2023; minutes as presented. Tony Hudson  
43 seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

44

#### 45 **4. Approval of Claims**

46 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments on the claims or  
47 students’ accounts.

48 There were questions about a payment to Harlow’s for \$35,000 to repair one of the district  
49 bus engines. Tony Hudson thought this repair should have been covered under a warranty for  
50 the bus. He was also concerned that the district might want to use another vendor for bus repairs  
51 moving forward.

52 Ben Meyer and Tony Hudson brought up a question about transfers to the safety fund  
53 being done after most of the expenses had already been paid/incurred in the building reserve  
54 fund. Stephanie Esch indicated that this had been discussed under Superintendent Moore during  
55 a Resource Committee meeting. Moving forward it was discussed that in August the expenditures  
56 that are anticipated to be paid from this safety transfer will be outlined for trustees. This way it  
57 will be clear when the transfer is done in May which expenditures it is for.

58 Cathi told the Board the district has claims for May in the amount of \$327,482.52 starting  
59 with claim #40156 and ending with claim #40256 and students’ accounts in the amount of  
60 \$33,716.13. Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the claims and students’ accounts as  
61 presented. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

- 62 **5. Consent Agenda**  
63 **A. Resignations**  
64 **i. Linda Burrington – Middle School Math**  
65 **ii. Avery Sindelar – High School Math**  
66 **iii. Erika Asay – Elementary Counselor**  
67 **iv. Angie Armour – High School Assistant Principal**  
68 **B. Employment** *\*All employment is pending completion of satisfactory*  
69 *background checks.*  
70 **i. Substitutes**  
71 **ii. Jessica Lund – ESSER – Early Literacy (PreK) Teacher**  
72 **iii. Kelly Conway – Elementary Teacher (K)**  
73 **iv. Frosty Hance – ESSER – K3 Recovery**  
74 **v. Deborah Buckley – High School Paraprofessional**  
75 **vi. Karen Darnall – High School Secretary**  
76

77 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.  
78 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.  
79 High School Principal Eric Larson thanked Angie Armour for her service with the district and wished  
80 her well on her new venture! Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items they would  
81 like to remove from the list. There were no items to be removed. Cathi told the Board the consent  
82 of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no  
83 objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent. There were no objections,  
84 and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

85

86 **6. Information Items**  
87 **A. Special Board Meeting May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
88

89 Superintendent Thennis indicated that on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Insurance Committee will be  
90 meeting with Payne West to discuss health insurance rates/options for FY23-24. Dave will then  
91 present this information at the Special Board Meeting for board approval so that open enrollment  
92 can occur before the staff has summer break. There will be a few other items on the agenda.

93

94 **B. Alternative Learning Center – Mr. Larson and Mrs. Haxton**  
95

96 High School Principal Eric Larson and Ayse Haxton provided the trustees with a handout  
97 for the Alternative Learning Center (ALC). They discussed the enrollment process, courses, and  
98 the criteria required for students to attend. They answered questions from trustees. There are

99 still a few questions that will need to be answered, such as how many out-of-district students to  
100 allow, how much will the district be compensated per student (it is believed it will be based on  
101 hours attended), and proficiency-based policies will need to be revisited to ensure the ALC is  
102 covered in district policies.

103

#### 104 **C. ARP/ESSER & Plan for Safe Return**

105 Superintendent Thennis indicated that copies of the ARP/ESSER & Plan for Safe Return  
106 were included in the board packet. He asked that trustees review the plan and provide him with  
107 feedback on any updates that need to be made. Dave indicated that the plan must be reviewed  
108 every 6 months while the district is accepting ESSER funding. Trustees mentioned a few items  
109 that needed updating in the plan, such as, the district is no longer disinfecting the school with  
110 nano-technology barrier solution on a regular basis and social distancing is not being monitored.

#### 111 **D. Superintendent Report**

112 Superintendent Thennis discussed the reduction in high school enrollment over the past  
113 three years. Currently not sure how many students will be coming from Lone Rock next year.  
114 Lone Rock is experiencing an increase in enrollment, which hopefully translates into more  
115 students for our freshman class.

116 Superintendent Thennis updated the board on the public library situation. Dave explained  
117 the resolution process by which the district property would be able to be disposed of and which  
118 school funds any proceeds from the sale would be able to be credited to.

119 The Lisa Thompson Grant recipients were discussed next. A special thank you to Kirk and  
120 Lisa Thompson for this grant which allows teachers and students the funds for special projects.

121 The Stevensville School District received a thank you letter from Pantry Partners for the  
122 \$1540.92 donated to the food bank.

123 Superintendent Thennis asked permission to attend a conference in Orlando July 10 –  
124 13<sup>th</sup>. The conference conflicts with the July 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting. Dave asked if this  
125 meeting could be rescheduled. The Board asked to change this to an action item at the June  
126 Regular Board meeting.

127 Superintendent Thennis also updated the Board on the change in the position posting for  
128 Activities Director. After reviewing the applicants, he felt that it would be better to repost the  
129 position as High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director. Dave feels this position will work  
130 better for the district. He is making a few modifications to the duties so that it is not  
131 overwhelming. There are still job openings for HS English, HS Math and MS Math.

132 **7. Business: Discussion and Action Items**

133 **A. Out-of-District Enrollment**

134 **i. Elementary**

135 Trustees reviewed the elementary out-of-district applications. Ben Meyer motioned to  
136 approve the elementary out-of-district applications as presented. Tony Hudson seconded the  
137 motion. Stephanie Esch, Sean Lenahan, Tony Hudson, Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Billy Donaldson,  
138 and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman could not vote.

139 **ii. High School**

140 Trustees reviewed the high school out-of-district applications. There were a few questions  
141 on transportation for these students that will be clarified. Sean Lenahan motioned to approve  
142 the high school out-of-district applications as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the  
143 motion. All present voted aye.

144 **B. Consideration of items for Disposal**

145 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that there was a list of materials from the high school  
146 library that were determined to be obsolete and/or undesirable and are ready for disposal.  
147 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve disposal of the Stevensville School District property as  
148 listed. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

149 **C. Consideration to rehire Non-Certified and Non-Instructional Professional**  
150 **Staff**

151 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that there was a list of Non-Certified and Non-  
152 Instructional Staff included in the board packet. Dave recommended rehiring all staff on the list.  
153 The list was divided into two groups for approval purposes: elementary and high school/district.  
154 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the rehiring of the following elementary staff: Christine  
155 Bailey, Stacey Hubbel, Robin Johnston-Jordan, Kate Kowal, Amber Marin, Jessica Martinez, Kim

156 Nittler, Jody Ross, Libbi Hyde, Anne Mari Gurney, Paige Bierly, Margaret Diepstraten, Vanessa  
157 Lehnen, Christann Schmid, Maria Severson, Ashlin Hiller, Christine Shepherd, Debbie Stevens, Ruth  
158 Kephart, Nicole Sylvester, and Christina Svaren. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. Stephanie  
159 Esch, Sean Lenahan, Tony Hudson, Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Billy Donaldson, and Kris McKoy voted  
160 aye. Jennifer Gunterman could not vote.

161 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the rehiring of the following high school/district staff:  
162 Pauline Hammack, Monie Hinson, Kristi Hinson, Araceli Jackson, Jessica Stokes, Glenda Kearney,  
163 Vickie Vernon, Dave Haacke, Pat Ahlin, Tracey Blyton, Sean Ham, Kevin Hernandez, Phil Neely,  
164 Rod Lanoue, James Montague, Doug Sellner, Cliff Wallace, Dave Spiers, Debbie Vansickle, Jennifer  
165 French, Velnetta Cameron, Laurie Cassidy, Billie Dimsha, Kaelen Henry, Christi Jackson, Elizabeth  
166 Ketterling, Greg Sheller, Kaleb Knudsen, Christy McLaren, Samantha Mewes, Lorraine Driver, Pam  
167 Torgerson, Connie Johnson, and Lindsay Gross. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All present  
168 voted aye.

#### 169 **D. Transfer of School Safety Funds to Building Reserve (Senate Bill 213)**

170 Chairwoman Cathi Cook discussed the transfer of funds to the building reserve fund for the  
171 purpose of school safety under Senate Bill 213. This action includes consideration for both the  
172 elementary and high school districts.

#### 173 **Elementary**

174 Tony Hudson motioned to transfer funds from adult education and bus depreciation totaling  
175 \$67,894.53 to the building reserve fund for safety. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. Stephanie  
176 Esch, Sean Lenahan, Tony Hudson, Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Billy Donaldson, and Kris McKoy voted  
177 aye. Jennifer Gunterman could not vote.

#### 178 **High School**

179 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to transfer funds from adult education totaling \$32,547.53  
180 to the building reserve fund for safety. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

#### 181 **E. Budget Amendment Safety Funds**

##### 182 **i. Elementary**

183 Chairwoman Cathi Cook explained that if the Board agreed to transfer funds in accordance  
184 with Senate Bill 213, it must also authorize spending authority for the elementary and high school  
185 districts. Montana law requires two readings for the school safety budget amendment. Dave  
186 recommended the first reading tonight.

187 **Elementary**

188 Sean Lenahan motioned to approve the first reading of the Elementary District budget  
189 amendment as presented. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. Stephanie Esch, Sean Lenahan, Tony  
190 Hudson, Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Billy Donaldson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman  
191 could not vote.

192 **High School**

193 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the first reading of the High School District budget  
194 amendment as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

195 **F. Canvass Trustee Election**

196 Chairwoman Cathi Cook reviewed the trustee election results. Ben Meyer and Dan Mullan  
197 were elected to three-year terms and Kris McKoy was elected for a one-year term. Billy Donaldson  
198 motioned to accept the results of the Stevensville Elementary & High School District trustee  
199 election held on May 2, 2023. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

200 **G. Trustee Certificate of Election and Oath of Office**

201 Chairwoman Cathi Cook presented Sean Lenahan with a plaque and thanked him for his  
202 years of service as a trustee with the school district. District Clerk, William Schiele distributed the  
203 Trustee Certificate of Election & Oath of Office to each elected trustee for their signature during a  
204 brief recess.

205 **H. Reorganization of the Board**

206 Stephanie Esch immediately motioned to nominate Cathi Cook as Board Chairwoman. Kris  
207 McKoy seconded the motion. Stephanie Esch, Dan Mullan, Tony Hudson, Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer,  
208 Billy Donaldson, Jennifer Gunterman, and Kris McKoy voted aye.

209 Stephanie Esch motioned to nominate Kris McKoy as Board Vice-Chairman. Billy Donaldson  
210 seconded the motion. Stephanie Esch, Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Billy Donaldson, Jennifer

211 Gunterman, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Dan Mullan and Tony Hudson voted nay. Motion passed  
212 6-2.

213 **I. Appointment of Clerk**

214 Chairwoman Cathi Cook recommended the appointment of Christy McLaren as the Clerk  
215 for the Board to replace Mr. Schiele. Mr. Schiele will be retiring this summer. Mr. Schiele thanked  
216 everyone for the wonderful years he has had working for the district. Kris McKoy motioned to  
217 appoint Christy McLaren as the Clerk of Stevensville School District Board of Trustees. Billy  
218 Donaldson seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

219 **8. Adjourn**

220 Dan Mullan motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the  
221 motion. All present voted aye.

222

223 Board Chairman: Signed Copy on File in District Office.

224 Date: June 13, 2023.

225 School Board Clerk: Signed Copy on File in District Office.