

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 **June 13, 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 Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Ben Meyer
14 (via phone), Tony Hudson, Jennifer Gunterman, and Billy Donaldson. Kris McKoy was not present.
15 Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk(s) Bill Schiele & Christy McLaren were
16 present.

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

19 **Board Comment**

20 Jennifer Gunterman commented that Speech and Debate students are currently in Phoenix
21 competing.

22 **Public Comment**

23 Ralph Serrette commented that Eric Depee's Sabre boys U19 soccer team won the state
24 championship.

25 Vicki Motley commented that students from Stevensville FFA are visiting Washington, D.C.
26 this week and can be followed on Facebook.

27 Fran Schmitz commented that she had concerns about why Chrome Books were gathered
28 up from students (1) week prior to school ending. This is when students need laptops the most.
29 Fran also understood that annually the outgoing seniors were supposed to be given the
30 opportunity to purchase older Chromebooks from the district. Fran wanted to know if this was
31 still happening. Fran had concerns about homework being requested in advance from students

32 who had athletic events. Fran Schmitz feels that staff need to work with student athletes, so
33 they feel more supported.

34 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

37 On the May 9th minutes on line 114 Stephanie Esch asked if the word "public" could be
38 added in front of library. Christy indicated this change would be made to the minutes. Cathi
39 Cook indicated that she had reviewed a few changes with Christy already. Stephanie Esch
40 motioned to approve the May 9th, 2023, minutes with the requested changes. Jennifer
41 Gunterman seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Tony Hudson, Stephanie Esch, Billy Donaldson,
42 and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Dan Mullan and Ben Meyer abstained from the vote. No one
43 voted nay. The motion passed.

44 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the June 15, 2023, minutes. Stephanie Esch
45 seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

46

47 **4. Approval of Claims**

48 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments on the claims or
49 students' accounts.

50 Dan Mullan had several questions about district claims which Superintendent Dave
51 Thennis answered. Dan had a question on the student accounts labeled "73 In and Out" with a
52 negative balance of \$6,133.17, which Superintendent Thennis will follow up on.

53 Cathi told the Board the district has claims for June in the amount of \$277,190.51 starting
54 with claim #40259 and ending with claim #40357 and students' accounts in the amount of
55 \$24,164.10, for a total of \$301,354.61. Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the claims and
56 students' accounts as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

57 **5. Consent Agenda**

58 **A. Resignations**

- 59 **i. Pam Torgerson – District Office – Copy Room**
- 60 **ii. Ashlin Hiller – K3 Special Education Paraprofessional**
- 61 **iii. Robin Johnston-Jordan – Middle School Paraprofessional**

- 62 **B. Employment** **All employment is pending completion of satisfactory*
63 *background checks.*
- 64 i. **Sydney Heidtke – High School ELA**
 - 65 ii. **Sabrina Hamrick – Middle School Math Teacher**
 - 66 iii. **Danita (Dani) Smith – High School Assistant Principal and Activities**
- 67 **Director**
- 68 iv. **Stephen Schlotterer – High School Math Teacher**
 - 69 v. **Chris Talbot – High School Math Teacher & High School Summer School**
- 70 **Teacher**
- 71 vi. **Clayton Curley – Middle School Football**
 - 72 vii. **Sean Lenahan – Assistant High School Football Coach**
 - 73 viii. **Heidi Cowan - Assistant High School Speech and Debate Coach**
 - 74 ix. **Vicki Motley – K3 Reboot Camp Teacher**
 - 75 x. **Kathleen Braverman – K-12 ESY Teacher**
 - 76 xi. **Jaci Knutsen - High School Assistant Volleyball Coach**
 - 77 xii. **Carter Armijo – Summer Custodial**
 - 78 xiii. **Taylor Hancock – Summer Custodial**
 - 79 xiv. **Joyce Walters – Summer Custodial**
 - 80 xv. **Chris Shephard - Summer Custodial**
- 81

82 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.

83 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.

84 There were none. Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items they would like to remove

85 from the list. Dan Mullan asked if items regarding Danita (Dani) Smith and Clayton Curley could

86 be removed from the consent agenda. Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains

87 only to the items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda

88 items will be adopted by unanimous consent. There were no objections, and the consent agenda

89 items were approved by unanimous consent.

90 Dan Mullan asked for clarification on how many days Danita Smith’s position would be

91 contracted for. Superintendent Thennis indicated that the contract is for 212 days. She will start

92 on August 1st. Dan asked what the savings would be by combining the Activities Director & High

93 School Assistant Principal positions. Dave indicated the savings are approximately \$100,000. Dave

94 indicated that attendance at all activities is not a requirement of the new position. Transportation

95 duties are being taken over by Ms. Rogstad in FY23-24. These changes, along with a few

96 modifications being made to the District Office position that is currently being hired for, should

97 help make the position manageable for Dani. While Dani has not worked as an Activities Director
98 before, Dave believes Dani's exceptional organizational skills in her position as the Field Experience
99 Administrator at the University of Montana will serve her well in this position. Dani's starting salary
100 is \$77,168. Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the hiring of Danita Smith as High School
101 Assistant Principal and Activities Director. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees
102 in attendance voted aye.

103 Dan Mullan's question was why it said "substitute" after Middle School Football on Clayton
104 Curley. Superintendent Thennis indicates this was an error and should be removed. There was
105 no further discussion. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve Clayton Curley as the Middle School
106 Football Coach. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees in attendance voted aye.

107

108 **6. Business: Discussion and Action Items**

109 **A. Consideration to approve the updated ARP/ESSER Plan**

110

111 Superintendent Thennis indicated this was the updated version of the district ARP/ESSER
112 Plan, after receiving feedback at the May 9th board meeting. The plan must be reviewed every 6
113 months and reposted on the school district website to remain compliant with the Office of Public
114 Instruction. Dave indicated that it will be reviewed again at the November 2023 board meeting.
115 Tony Hudson motioned to approve the Stevensville School District ARP/ESSER plan as presented.
116 Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees in attendance voted aye.

117

118 **B. Consideration to approve the Plan for Safe Return**

119

120 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Plan for Safe Return in additional requirement
121 of ESSER funding. It addresses the measures the district has in place for a return to in-person
122 instruction in the event we experience disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in
123 alternative methods of instruction. Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the Stevensville
124 School District Plan for Safe Return as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All
125 trustees in attendance voted aye.

126

C. High School Cross Country Retreat

127 The High School Cross Country Coach, Lori Lewis, indicated that she wanted to allow
128 participating students to attend an overnight retreat again this year. Ms. Lewis has thoroughly
129 addressed sleeping arrangements, supervision, facilities, meals, and the agenda. Lori has had
130 very good participation in the past and feels it helps foster team building. Superintendent Thennis
131 supports approval of this. Tony Hudson motioned to approve the High School Cross Country
132 Retreat as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees in attendance voted
133 aye.

134 **D. Second Reading Budget Amendment Safety Funds**

135 Superintendent Thennis discussed that funds are transferred at the end of the year so
136 that funds are available to pay for the SRO and to pay for work that needs to be completed during
137 the summer months (finishing the keyless entry work and camera's).

138 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the second reading of the Elementary District budget
139 amendment as presented. Dan Mullan seconded the motion. Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson,
140 Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Billy Donaldson, and Dan Mullan voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman could
141 not vote.

142 Tony Hudson motioned to approve the second reading of the High School District budget
143 amendment as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees in attendance voted
144 aye.

145 **E. Consideration of July 2023 Regular Board Meeting**

146 Superintendent Thennis has requested that the board meeting in July be moved as he is
147 attending a professional conference during the time of the regularly scheduled board meeting. It
148 was decided that the regular board meeting would be rescheduled to Thursday, July 6th, 2023, at
149 7 pm. Billy Donaldson motioned to approve rescheduling the July 11, 2023, board meeting to
150 July 6, 2023, at 7 pm. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees in attendance
151 voted aye.

152 **F. Cooperative Agreement with Florence-Carlton School District for Boys Soccer**

153 There was discussion about cooperative agreements that Stevensville School District has
154 with other school districts and if money is received from the other school districts and students.
155 There is no fee that the other school district pays Stevensville School District to have their
156 students participate in the various sports teams. Stevensville does not charge a fee for the

157 student athlete of the other school district. The student athlete must provide their own
158 transportation to and from practices/events. Each district must pay the \$250 cooperative
159 agreement fee, which covers a 3-year time frame. Superintendent Thennis recommends renewal
160 of all the cooperative agreements presented. Stephanie Esch motioned for the renewal of the
161 cooperative agreement with the Florence-Carlton School District for the boys' soccer for the 2023-
162 24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees
163 present voted aye.

164 **G. Cooperative Agreement with Florence-Carlton School District for Girls**
165 **Soccer**

166 Tony Hudson, trustee and Dan Mullan, trustee expressed frustration with the fees
167 associated with membership in Montana High School Association (MHSA). Superintendent
168 Thennis indicated that these fees are necessary if the district wishes to participate in high school
169 sports and have MHSA referees. If the district does not participate, then we would only be able
170 to have intramural games. Tony Hudson moved for the renewal of the cooperative agreement
171 with the Florence-Carlton School District girls' soccer for the 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 school
172 years. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

173 **H. Cooperative Agreement with Victor School District for Boys Soccer**

174 There was a question regarding if Stevensville sends in payment for cooperative
175 agreement and the other district does not. What would happen to the school district payment?
176 The school district payment would be refunded to us if the other district did not submit their
177 payment. Tony Hudson moved for the renewal of the cooperative agreement with the Victor
178 School District boys' soccer for the 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 school years. Stephanie Esch
179 seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

180 **I. Cooperative Agreement with Victor School District for Girls Soccer**

181 Stephanie Esch moved for the renewal of the cooperative agreement with the Victor
182 School District girls' soccer for the 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 school years. Billy Donaldson
183 seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

184

185 **J. Cooperative Agreement with Victor School District for Boys Wrestling**

186 Billy Donaldson moved for the renewal of the cooperative agreement with the Victor
187 School District boys' wrestling for the 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 school years. Jennifer
188 Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

189 **K. Cooperative Agreement with Victor School District for Girls Wrestling**

190 Stephanie Esch moved for the renewal of the cooperative agreement with the Victor
191 School District girls' wrestling for the 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 school years. Jennifer
192 Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

193 **L. Cooperative Agreement with Victor School District for Softball**

194 Billy Donaldson moved for the renewal of the cooperative agreement with the Victor
195 School District softball for the 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 school years. Jennifer Gunterman
196 seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

197 **M. Cooperative Agreement with Victor School District for Baseball**

198 Superintendent Thennis indicates that currently the school district isn't able fund baseball
199 through the budget. He recommends this item be tabled and addressed later. Tony Hudson
200 moved to table the cooperative agreement with Victor School District baseball. Billy Donaldson
201 seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

202 **N. Transportation Agreement with Lone Rock School District**

203 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the renewal of this agreement clarifies the
204 transportation roles of Lone Rock School District and Stevensville School District. Dan Mullan,
205 trustee asked if the Transportation Director for Stevensville School District will be in place by
206 August. Dave indicated that they would be. Stephanie Esch moved for the renewal of the
207 transportation agreement with the Lone Rock School District for the 2023-24 school year. Jennifer
208 Gunterman seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Jennifer Gunterman, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson,
209 Stephanie Esch and Tony Hudson voted aye. Bey Meyer abstained from the vote. No trustees
210 voted nay. The motion passed.

211 **O. Obsolete items for disposal**

212 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Obsolete Items for Disposal List had been
213 enclosed in the board packet. The district does not need these items as we have new equipment

214 in our athletic performance center. There is a minimum bid established for select items on the
215 list. Dave thanked the community for the contributions that have made it possible for us to
216 establish our new athletic performance center. Tony Hudson motioned to dispose of items
217 presented and establish a minimum bid for the items presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the
218 motion. Cathi Cook, Stephanie Esch, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, Dan Mullan and Jennifer
219 Gunterman voted aye. Ben Meyer abstained from the vote. No Trustees voted nay. The motion
220 passed.

221 **P. Outstanding Payroll and Claim Warrants**

222 Christy McLaren, Clerk, provided a list of outstanding payroll and claim warrants that have
223 not been cashed and are considered stale. Christy would like permission to cancel these warrants.

224 Jennifer Gunterman moved to cancel the payroll warrants as presented. Tony Hudson
225 seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Stephanie Esch, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, Dan Mullan
226 and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Ben Meyer abstained from the vote. No Trustees voted nay.
227 The motion passed.

228 Stephanie Esch moved to cancel the claims warrants as presented. Tony Hudson
229 seconded the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

230 **7. Informational Items**

231 **A. Pre-K Report – Jessica Shourd**

232 Jessica Shourd, Elementary Principal, reviewed her report from the board packet and
233 answered questions. Jessica indicated that the Pre-K program will operate from 8:30 am to 2:30
234 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. There is currently no busing provided for
235 these students. Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative does not operate the same hours as the
236 Pre-K program, so Jessica doesn't believe that the district would be able to transport these two
237 groups of students together.

238 **B. RBHI – Report – Mary Miller**

239 Mary Miller, High School Counselor, reported on RBHI screener. Mary discussed the
240 importance of having the RBHI approved screener at the school. Through the screener the
241 counselors were able to identify several students that needed counseling services and the district
242 as able to provide those services to the students.

243 **C. Disposal of obsolete equipment – Information**

244 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the district contracted with B & W Liquidations to
245 dispose of obsolete or unusable property. B & W was to pick up the unusable technology devices
246 and equipment and provide an inventory of information back to the district. The company made
247 an error and performed a data destruction. The equipment was deemed unusable or obsolete,
248 but data destruction was not the resolution of the trustees. Dave provided the email from B & W
249 Liquidations to trustees as an informational item.

250 **D. Policy Committee Report**

251 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the policy committee met in May and June to
252 MTSBA's required policies with those of the school district. Policies that require a deeper
253 examination are being noted as the committee does their review.

254 **E. Activities Director Report**

255 **i. Extra-Curricular Participation**

256 Superintendent Thennis provided information in the board packet about athletic
257 participation numbers and general participation rates in school activities.

258 **ii. Athletic Budget**

259 It was mentioned that not every athletic team did fundraising this past school year. This
260 seemed unfair since the proceeds from each fundraiser was pooled together for all teams to use.
261 Parents and students were told different things by the Activities Director about money that was
262 fundraised. Dan Mullan would like expenditures broken down by activity.

263 Ben Meyer asked about when the district increased the cost of activity passes for students
264 did that increase student engagement? Ben wanted to know where did the funds for this increase
265 go? Ben also wondered in the increased cost of the activity passes hindered student attendance.

266 **iii. Pay to Play Fees**

267 Superintendent Thennis recommended there be no pay to play fees. Several trustees
268 agreed with him.

269 **iv. Hudl Reimbursement**

270 Superintendent Thennis indicated that there will be a one-time rebate of \$5250 to the
271 school for Hudl streaming service.

272

273 **F. 8th Grade Participation for the Activities Handbook**

274 Superintendent Thennis discussed the idea of allowing 8th graders to participate in extra-
275 curricular activities. Dave discussed why MHSA is permitting districts to allow 8th graders to
276 participate on some high school athletic teams with trustees' approval. MHSA does not allow 8th
277 grade participation in football. Dave indicated that he does not support participation of 8th grade
278 student-athletes when it negatively impacts the ability of high school aged student participation.
279 Dave believes the intent of the rule is to maintain or allow participation for students rather than
280 limit.

281 Trustee Comments:

282 Dan Mullan is not in favor of allowing 8th graders to play on high school teams. Jennifer
283 Gunterman is concerned about the middle school sports teams if too many 8th graders move up to
284 the high school teams. Jennifer has concerns regarding the physical differences between 8th
285 graders and high school students. Tony Hudson worries about injuries to the 8th graders and the
286 social aspects of having younger students with the high school students. Billy Donaldson would
287 only allow 8th graders to play if doing so gives the high school team enough students to complete
288 a team. Cathi Cook has concerns. Stephanie Esch views this as an opportunity to create policies
289 and procedures.

290 Public Comments:

291 It allows opportunities for students with no programs at the district for middle school, for
292 example x-country and soccer.

293 It provides opportunity for students. If 8th graders were allowed to play some sports,
294 there would be enough students for the team without being part of a co-op.

295 Needs this to be allowed as a feeder for sports without a middle school team.

296 Thinks that this should be considered for softball.

297 A decision needs to be made in July so that 8th graders can participate in sports that the
298 district currently has no middle school program for.

299

300 **G. Transfer of funds for safety**

301 Superintendent Thennis indicates that the transfer of funds from adult education,
302 transportation, and bus depreciation funds into the building reserve fund for safety. These funds
303 pay for the school resource officer and outdated safety technology, such as cameras and door
304 swipes. This transfer is being done at the end of this fiscal year to allow for payment of the
305 resource officer and to have the technology work performed during the summer months.

306 **H. Library Discussion**

307 Superintendent Thennis updated the trustees on the status of conversations about the sale
308 of property to the public library group. For the property to be sold to the library group, the trustees
309 must declare the property obsolete and unusable and then sell the property for fair market value
310 to the library group.

311 **I. Superintendent's Report**

312 Superintendent Thennis indicated that all certified staff have been hired. IT support will
313 be provided by K12 moving forward.

314 Dan Mullan has requested that the school district MHSA representative vote the way that
315 the trustees wish going forward. Ben Meyer believes that MHSA has votes at their Annual Meeting
316 in January and at their meeting in June each year.

317 Dan Mullan would like to have a date set for a working budget meeting at the July 6th Board
318 Meeting. Dan would like to review the goals and objectives for the district.

319

320 **8. Adjourn**

321 Stephanie Esch motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Jennifer Gunterman seconded
322 the motion. All trustees present voted aye.

323

324 Board Chairman: Signed Copy on File in District Office.
325 Date: July 6, 2023.
326 School Board Clerk: Signed Copy on File in district Office.