

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 **Special Board Meeting**

9 **July 25, 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. The trustees present were Dan Mullan, Kris McKoy, Stephanie
14 Esch, Billy Donaldson, and Jennifer Gunterman. Ben Meyer and Tony Hudson were not present.
15 Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren were present.

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

18 **Board Comment**

19 Trustee Dan Mullan would like work sessions scheduled to work on the goals and
20 objectives for the district.

21 **Public Comment**

22 Fran Schmitz indicated that Policy 1400 regarding Special Meetings indicates that notices
23 shall be posted conspicuously within the district so that they will receive public attention. She
24 also indicated that the policy states written notice shall also be sent not less than twenty-four
25 (24) hours prior to the meeting to each newspaper and radio or television station that has filed a
26 written request for such notice. She felt it was important that this information be put out on
27 Facebook for these meetings to reach a wider audience.

28
29 **3. Consent Agenda**

30 **A. Resignations**

31 **i. Lori Skyrud - High School Science**

32 **B. Employment** **All employment is pending completion of satisfactory*
33 *background checks.*

34 **i. Emma Blyton – Long Term Substitute – Middle School**
35

36 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.
37 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.

38 Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items they would like to remove from the
39 list. There were no items to be removed. Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains
40 only to the items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda
41 items will be adopted by unanimous consent. There were no objections, and the consent agenda
42 items were approved by unanimous consent.

43 **4. Business: Discussion and Action Items**
44

45 **A. Approval of Insurance Contract**

46 Superintendent Thennis explained that the property and liability insurance increase to
47 \$150,791 from \$127,785 was discussed at the July 6th Board Meeting and needs to be approved.
48 Increases are due to the current state of the insurance market which was detailed in the letter
49 from Rody Holman in the July 6th board packet. Superintendent Thennis recommends renewing
50 the contract for FY23-24. Stephanie Esch motioned to renew the Stevensville School District
51 liability and property insurance contract with Montana School Property & Liability Insurance Plan
52 for the 2023-24 school year. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The
53 motion passed.

54 **B. Sinking Fund Reinvestment**

55 Superintendent Thennis discussed that the district had a certificate of deposit housed at
56 Farmers State Bank that matured on 7/20/23 that needed to be reinvested. There is also
57 approximately \$207,390 in new tax revenue that needs to be invested in CD's. Funds earned from
58 these CD's will be utilized to pay off the bond due in 2026. Christy McLaren provided reinvestment
59 options from Rocky Mountain Bank and Farmers State Bank. Rocky Mountain Bank had provided
60 a CD rate of 5.15% APY for 12 months and Farmers State Bank had provided a CD rate of 4.89%
61 APY for 13 months. Rocky Mountain Bank had sent an email with this updated rate shortly before
62 the start of the board meeting. Stephanie Esch motioned to invest both the approximate
63 \$207,390 in new revenue and maturing CD worth approximately \$607,303.70 of sinking funds

64 with Rocky Mountain Bank in a CD for 12 months at 5.15% APY. Jennifer Gunterman seconded
65 the motion. Both Dan Mullan and Billy Donaldson abstained from the vote due to conflicts of
66 interest. At this point it was recognized that since this was an elementary issue, Jennifer
67 Gunterman is not allowed to vote and there would not be enough trustees present for a vote.
68 Jennifer Gunterman rescinded her motion. Stephanie Esch also rescinded her motion. There was
69 also a comment that Farmers State Bank should be given the opportunity to review their rate
70 since we had accepted a revised rate from Rocky Mountain Bank shortly before the start of the
71 Board Meeting.

72 Stephanie Esch made a new motion to allow Superintendent Thennis and Business
73 Manager Christy McLaren to reinvest the CD funds and the new tax revenue of approximately
74 \$207,390 at the best rate and term before the expiration date. Kris Mckoy seconded the motion.
75 Stephanie Esch, Cathi Cook, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Dan Mullan and Billy Donaldson abstained
76 from the vote. Jennifer Gunterman could not vote. The motion passed.

77 **C. District Supervisor Contracts**

78 Superintendent Thennis reviewed the recommended salary increases for the next two
79 years for Dave Haacke - Maintenance Supervisor, Greg Sheller - IT Director, and Debbie Van
80 Sickle - Food Director. The increases were as follows:

81 Dave Haacke	2023-24 (3.3%)	2024-25 (2%)
82 Greg Sheller	2023-24 (1%)	2024-25 (2%)
83 Debbie Van Sickle	2023-24 (1%)	2024-25 (2%)

84 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the two-year contracts for Dave Haacke as
85 presented. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

86 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the two-year contracts for Greg Sheller as presented.
87 Dan Mullan seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

88 Kris McKoy motioned to approve the two-year contracts for Debbie Van Sickle as
89 presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

90

91 **D. Administration Contracts**

92 Superintendent Thennis discussed a 1% increase in compensation for 2023-2024 and a
93 2% increase in 2024-2025 for all district administrators. This increase was reviewed with
94 administrators and trustees on the negotiation committee. Leave days would remain unchanged
95 from past contracts. Trustee Dan Mullan inquired about why the High School Principal has 217
96 days in his contract, which is 5 more than the other principals. Dave explained that this is due
97 to more scheduling obligations. Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that the High School Principal
98 has always had more contract days than the other school principals.

99 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the contracts for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
100 school years for High School Principal Eric Larson. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All
101 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

102 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the contracts for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
103 school years for Middle School Principal Tracey Rogstad. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All
104 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

105 Kris McKoy motioned to approve the contracts for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school
106 years for Middle School Assistant Principal Sierra Hankinson. Stephanie Esch seconded the
107 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

108 Kris McKoy motioned to approve the contracts for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school
109 years for Primary School Principal Jessica Shourd. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All
110 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

111 **E. District Office Staff Contracts**

112 Superintendent Thennis recommended the following compensation increases for district
113 office staff:

114 1% increase for 2023-2024

115 2% increase for 2024-2025

116 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the pay rate increases for District Office staff for the
117 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion.
118 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

119 **F. Technology Support Staff**

120 Superintendent Thennis recommended District technology support staff receive a 1%
121 increase in compensation for the 2023-2024 and 2% for 2024-2025 school years.

122 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the pay rate increases for District technology
123 staff for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the
124 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

125 **G. Leave of Absence – Cely Jackson**

126 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that the board would be entering a Closed Session as
127 per Montana Code Annotated 20-3-203, the agenda item relates to a matter of individual privacy.
128 Cathi indicated that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public
129 disclosure. Cathi asked the public to leave the room. The time was 7:35 pm. The public re-
130 entered at 7:42 pm.

131 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve a leave of absence for Cely Jackson for the 2023-
132 2024 school year. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

133 **5. Adjourn**

134 Stephanie Esch motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Billy Donaldson seconded the
135 motion. All present voted aye. The motion passed.

136

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

138 Date: August 8, 2023.

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

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