

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 **July 6, 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 7:07 pm in the MPR Choir Room.
13 Cathi led the Pledge of Allegiance. The trustees present were Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Ben
14 Meyer, Tony Hudson (joined meeting at 7:30 pm), Jennifer Gunterman, Billy Donaldson, and Kris
15 McKoy. Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren were present.

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

18 **Board Comment**

19 Jennifer Gunterman commented that Speech and Debate students had a wonderful time
20 competing in Phoenix.

21 **Public Comment**

22 Wayne Rusk, the Montana House of Representatives from Corvallis, was at the meeting
23 tonight. He introduced himself and thanked the trustees and district for supporting him.

24 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

27 On the June 13th minutes on line 317 Dan Mullan asked the words be changed from
28 "objective for staff" be changed to "objectives for the district". Christy indicated this change
29 would be made to the minutes. Cathi Cook indicated that she had reviewed a few changes with
30 Christy already. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the June 13th, 2023, minutes with the
31 requested changes. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Stephanie Esch, Billy

32 Donaldson, Kris McKoy, Dan Mullan, Ben Meyer, and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Tony Hudson
33 was not present for the vote. The motion passed.

34

35 **4. Approval of Claims**

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

38 Superintendent Dave Thennis answered Dan Mullan's question from the June 13th meeting
39 on the students' accounts labeled "73 In and Out" with a negative balance of \$6,133.17. This
40 was due to a personal credit card being used accidentally for a baseball expense and an expense
41 for a TV & stand for graduation at the last minute.

42 Dan Mullan had a few other claims questions which were answered. The other question
43 brought up was what happens to the balances remaining in Class Funds from 2019-2023? Can
44 the board decide that they be utilized for another purpose? The trustees would like to know.

45 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that there are claims for both June and July since the
46 board meeting is being held earlier in the month than normal. Cathi told the Board the district
47 has the June claims #40358 - #40399 totaling \$79,817.04, claims #40417 - # 40433 totaling
48 \$16,285.26, claims #40435 - #40448 totaling \$13,856.26, claims #40453 - #40454 totaling
49 \$964.04, July claims #40400 - #40416 totaling \$224,739.06, claims #40449 - #40452 totaling
50 \$8,801.00 and students' accounts in the amount of \$74,070.68, for a total of \$418,533.34. Dan
51 Mullan motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Kris McKoy
52 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

53 **5. Consent Agenda**

54 **A. Resignations**

55 **i. Clayton Curley – High School Basketball Head Coach**

56 **ii. Phillip Neely - Custodian**

57 **B. Employment** **All employment is pending completion of satisfactory* 58 *background checks.*

59 **i. Trae Williams -Head High School Football Coach**

60 **ii. Jeff Gum – High School Assistant Football Coach**

61 **iii. Bradley Armour – High School Assistant Football Coach**

62 **iv. Trae Williams – Summer Weightroom Supervisor**

63 **v. Lori Lewis – High School head Cross Country Coach**

64 **vi. Hannah Williams – High School Assistant Cross Country Coach**

65 **vii. Rosalee Shorter – High School Cheerleading Coach**

- 66 **viii. Joey Wark – High School Head Golf Coach**
- 67 **ix. Eric Depee - High School Head Girls Soccer Coach**
- 68 **x. Dave Gross – High School Assistant Girls Soccer Coach**
- 69 **xi. Ralph Serrette – High School Head Boys Soccer Coach**
- 70 **xii. C.J. Clark – High School Assistant Coach Boys Soccer**

71 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.
72 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.
73 There were none. Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items they would like to remove
74 from the list. Trustee, Ben Meyer asked if item iv. regarding Trae Williams could be removed from
75 the consent agenda. Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items
76 they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted
77 by unanimous consent. There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved
78 by unanimous consent.

79 Ben Meyer asked why the stipend for the Summer Weightroom Supervisor was not on
80 "Addendum B" of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for the Stevensville Teachers
81 Association (STA) since extra-curricular stipends were recently updated when the CBA was being
82 renegotiated.

83 Ben Meyer motioned to table the approval of Trae Williams as the Summer Weightroom
84 Supervisor until an MOU could be done with the Stevensville Teachers Association. Stephanie
85 Esch seconded the motion. After this motion was made, further discussion followed. During the
86 discussion it was determined that a sign-in sheet of all people using the weightroom would be
87 kept for liability and to find out how many people are utilizing the room. The STA representative
88 at the meeting, Vickie Motley, indicated she felt it was in the best interests of students and district
89 to allow Trae Williams to continue his duties as the Summer Weightroom Supervisor until the
90 union and school leadership to create an MOU addressing this stipend. Stephanie Esch withdrew
91 her motion. Ben Meyer withdrew his motion. Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the hiring
92 of Trae Williams as the Summer Weightroom Supervisor with the understanding that the
93 Stevensville Teachers Association and Mr. Thennis will meet and create an MOU to the CBA that
94 will address the Summer Weightroom Supervisor position. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All
95 trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

96

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

98 **A. MOU – CSCT Intergovernmental Agreement with DPHHS**

99

100 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the legislature recently updated the process by
101 which schools receive federal reimbursement for district provided services eligible for
102 reimbursement under the Montana Medicaid Program. This is usually for counseling services
103 provided to eligible students. OPI was handling the reimbursement and now this process is
104 switching to DPHHS. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the MOU presented allowing the
105 reimbursement of funds between the Stevensville School District and the Department of health
106 and Human Services for Comprehensive School and Community Support Services. Tony Hudson
107 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

108

109 **B. Schedule Budget Work Session**

110

111 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that she had been working with all trustees and
112 Superintendent Thennis to set up a Budget Work Session for Thursday, August 3rd at 7 pm. It
113 appeared that all trustees would be able to attend. Kris McKoy will need to connect to this
114 meeting remotely, as he is out of town that day. Cathi determined that no motion is necessary
115 to schedule the session for this date.

116

117 **C. Collective Bargaining Contract with the Stevensville Teachers Association**

118 Superintendent Thennis explained that during the months of April, May, and June the
119 negotiation committee and several members of the Stevensville Teachers Association (STA) met
120 and arrived at a tentative two-year contract. Interest Based Bargaining was used with the support
121 of Max Hallfrisch from the MT Department of Labor to discuss topics and arrive at collective
122 agreements. The highlights of the agreement include a 1% salary increase in 2023-2024 and a
123 2% salary increase in 2024-2025, an increase in personal leave days from two (2) days without
124 a salary deduction to five (5) days without a salary deduction, updated stipends for extra and co-
125 curricular activities, updates to language regarding preparation time, assignments, and video
126 surveillance usage, and Addendum C was added addressing the quality educator payment.
127 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the contract with the Stevensville Teachers Association and

128 the Stevensville School District for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. Billy Donaldson
129 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

130

131 **D. MTSBA Annual Membership Ballot**

132 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Montana School Board Association held an
133 annual meeting in June, but did not meet quorum requirements, so Board members would need
134 to vote on each of the seven issues collectively by submitting responses to the link provided.

135

136 Stephanie Esch motioned to authorize Chairwoman Cathi Cook to complete the Montana
137 School Board Association annual membership ballot by July 30, 2023. Jennifer Gunterman
138 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

139

140 **E. LIUNA request to open Negotiations**

141 Superintendent Thennis indicated that Laborer’s Local #1686 sent a letter on June 26,
142 2023, requesting to open negotiations. Adam Haight is the new Business Manager for the
143 laborer’s union. He has replaced Kim Rickard. Dave has agreed to start conversations with Adam
144 in July. Bargaining will be done remotely via TEAMS or by phone since Mr. Haight is not local.
145 Mr. Cliff Wallace has resigned as the union steward for LIUNA. Ben Meyer motioned to open
146 negotiations with the LIUNA bargaining unit. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees
147 voted aye. Motion passed.

148

149 **F. Audit Contract Renewal**

150 Superintendent Thennis explained that Denning, Downing & Associates has been
151 providing financial auditing services to the school district for over 20 years. The contract is for
152 FY23, FY24, and FY25. Dave explained that the audit process includes examination of the
153 financial statements providing the district feedback to systematically process financial dealings.
154 Dave recommended renewal of the contract. Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the
155 contract with Denning, Downing & Associates to provide auditing services to the Stevensville
156 School District. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

157

158 **G. Consideration to Dispose of Obsolete Technology**

159 Superintendent Thennis explained that Greg Sheller and Kaleb Knudsen had compiled the
160 list of unusable and unsupported technology items. The list includes computers, printers,
161 monitors, laptops, and projectors. Kris McKoy motioned to dispose of the unusable technology
162 items presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

163

164 **7. Informational Items**

165 **A. 8th Grade Participation**

166 Superintendent Thennis provided a document in tonight's packet regarding 8th grade
167 participation in Montana High School Association (MHSA) sponsored activities. Dave created this
168 document based on feedback from coaches, parents, students, administration, and trustees
169 during the Board Meeting held on June 13, 2023. The guiding principles provide a framework to
170 guide the district. The document limits the activities in which 8th grade participants would be
171 considered and provides a method for requesting approval. A final version of this reflecting what
172 trustees, students, community members, and administration value will be added to the activity's
173 handbook. This document is a draft.

174 Board Comment

- 175
- Tennis and Speech and Debate should be added to the activities for consideration.
 - This is a very good start.
 - Speech and Debate is a team, as well as an individual activity.
 - How would it be handled if an 8th grader wishes to appeal to board to play on a
179 high school team?

180 Public Comment

- 181
- I've coached at Victor. Allowing 8th graders to play on the high school team
182 increased student confidence and helped the team to become stronger.
 - It would be beneficial to have enough students to create a JV girls soccer team as
183 a feeder for the varsity team.
 - Girls' soccer needs more players due to injuries that occur during the season.
- 184
- 185

- 186 • How will the coach know one (1) month in advance if they are going to need an
187 8th grader to play on the high school team?

188 After hearing both board and public comments Superintendent Thennis decided that coaches
189 would submit requests to the superintendent. Requests must go through coaches. There will be
190 flexibility in the timeframe to make these requests.

191
192 **B. Montana Schools Property & Liability Insurance Plan (MSPLIP) – Insurance**
193 **Renewal**

194 Superintendent Thennis received the liability insurance renewal from Montana Schools
195 Property & Liability Insurance Plan (MSPLIP) for the 2023-2024 school year. The premium has
196 increased from \$127,785.00 to \$150,791.00, which is an increase of \$23,006 for the year. Rody
197 Holman, MSPLIP Program Manager, provided an outline of the market and rationale for the
198 increase. Next year we will need to get bids to see if costs can be reduced.

199 **C. Superintendent Report**

200 Superintendent Thennis reviewed his report with the trustees. Dave indicated that he is
201 waiting for a response from the Secretary-Paraprofessional Union on the tentative agreement.
202 Dave answered Ben Meyers questions about a meeting to review district annual goal setting &
203 objectives.

204 **8. Adjourn**

205 Tony Hudson motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Billy Donaldson seconded the
206 motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

207
208 Board Chairman: Signed Copy on File in District Office.
209 Date: August 8, 2023.
210 School Board Clerk: Signed Copy on File in District Office.