

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 **August 15, 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 in the MPR Choir Room. Cathi led
13 the Pledge of Allegiance. The trustees present were Dan Mullan, Ben Meyer, Tony Hudson, Billy
14 Donaldson, and Kris McKoy. Stephanie Esch and Jennifer Gunterman 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 None.

20 **Public Comment**

21 None.

22 **3. Claims**

23 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments on the claims.
24 There were none.

25 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the August claims #40536 - #40537 totaled \$18,683.00.
26 Dan Mullan motioned to approve the claims as presented. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All
27 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

28 **4. Consent Agenda**

29 **A. Resignations**

30 **i. Christina Shepherd – Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional**

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

- 33 **i. Anne Marie Gurney – Middle School Teaching**
- 34 **ii. Jeff Gum – Assistant High School Boys Basketball Coach**
- 35 **iii. Rita Bundren – Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional**
- 36 **iv. Kiersten Gramps – Elementary Paraprofessional**
- 37 **v. Floyd Clevidence – High School Science Teacher**
- 38 **vi. Erin Schafer – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach**
- 39 **vii. Substitutes**
- 40

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

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

43 Superintendent Thennis indicated that Kiersten Gramps declined the position. Cathi asked the

44 Board if there were any consent items they would like to remove from the list. Trustee, Ben Meyer

45 asked if Item iv. regarding, Kiersten Gramps could be removed from the consent agenda. Cathi

46 told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the authority to

47 decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent.

48 There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

49

50 **5. Business: Action Items**

51 **A. Out of District Enrollment**

52 **i. Elementary**

53 The elementary out-of-district enrollment requests were reviewed by the trustees. Kris

54 McKoy motioned to approve the elementary out-of-district applications as presented. Billy

55 Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

56 **ii. High School**

57 The high school out-of-district enrollment requests were reviewed by the trustees. Tony

58 Hudson motioned to approve the high school out-of-district applications as presented. Kris McKoy

59 seconded the motion. The motion passed.

60 **B. Action – Adoption of General Fund Budget**

61 **i. Elementary General Fund Budget**

62 Superintendent Thennis provided a summary spreadsheet to the trustees for both the
63 elementary and high school general fund budgets for FY24. Kris McKoy motioned to authorize
64 the Stevensville Elementary School District general fund budget authority in the amount of
65 \$4,454,500.26 for the 2024 fiscal year. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted
66 aye. The motion passed.

67 Public Comment

68 Fran Schmitz – Thanked everyone for the budget information. Fran suggested that the
69 teaching staff are very creative and should make wish lists for parents to provide items for the
70 classrooms when they need things. “Donors Choose” is an organization that helps provide
71 supplies for teachers.

72 Board Comment

73 Trustee Ben Meyer asked how the shortfall is being funded. Superintendent Thennis
74 explained that the district has utilized the interlocal fund and will need to continue to utilize it in
75 the short term.

76 **ii. High School General Fund Budget**

77 The trustees reviewed the high school general fund spreadsheets that Superintendent
78 Thennis provided them.

79 High School Principal Eric Larson indicated that the high school enrollment appears to be
80 up to 371 at this time, up from 339 last spring. The Alternative Learning Center (ALC) is up and
81 running. He invited everyone to tour the ALC.

82 Superintendent Thennis indicated that expenditures for athletics had increased due to
83 travel, coaching stipends, meals, and other expenses that have risen.

84 Billy Donaldson motioned to authorize the Stevensville High School District general fund
85 budget authority in the amount of \$3,098,943.29 for the 2024 fiscal year. Kris McKoy seconded
86 the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

87 Public Comment

88 Fran Schmitz – Fran believes that the district will need to get creative about funding, apply
89 for grants, etc. Extra-curricular activities keep the students engaged and involved in school.

90 Board Comment

91 Trustee Ben Meyer is concerned that there is 62% cut in #582 (Meals, Conferences, &
92 Field Trips). Trustee Dan Mullan is concerned about the future of high school expenditures. He
93 believes that more cuts will need to be made. Trustee Tony Hudson wants to know the number
94 of students involved in sports since so much of the budget is being spent in that area.

95

96 **C. Action – Adoption of Transportation Budget**

97 **i. Elementary Transportation**

98 Copies of the elementary and high school transportation budgets were distributed to all
99 trustees. Superintendent Thennis indicated that there has been discussion about reducing the
100 number of bus routes if possible. Two routes have been eliminated. Students are still being
101 registered for routes.

102 Superintendent Thennis indicated that we are requesting more money to cover wages for
103 staff handling transportation duties, the fuel escalation, new transportation software and for
104 Edulog to assist with reviewing routes and the implementation of the software.

105 Dan Mullan motioned to authorize the Stevensville Elementary School District
106 transportation budget authority in the amount of \$651,840 for the 2024 fiscal year. Tony Hudson
107 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

108 **ii. High School Transportation**

109 Billy Donaldson motioned to authorize the Stevensville High School District transportation
110 budget authority in the amount of \$438,810 for the 2024 fiscal year. All trustees voted aye. The
111 motion passed.

112 **6. Informational Items**

113 **A. Baseball Update**

114 Superintendent Thennis indicated that he has a baseball meeting scheduled on Monday
115 with interested community members to discuss potential plans for 2024. Dave wants to have a
116 clear plan to bring to the board to move forward in a positive manner. The expected costs for a
117 “bare bones” program are between \$15,000 to \$18,000.

118 **7. Adjourn**

119 Tony Hudson motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Kris McKoy seconded the motion.
120 All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

121 Public Comment

122 Gina Tan - Gina appreciates that Superintendent Thennis is meeting with the baseball
123 group on Monday. Their group raised \$31,000 last year for the baseball program. She is confused
124 about why the district has costs to maintain the baseball field.

125 Board Comment

126 Superintendent Thennis indicated that money was left over, but the district does not know
127 how much because the district did not over see these funds. The district had expenses to repair
128 score boards, maintain the fields, transportation of around \$10,000, stipends of \$5000, umpires,
129 and baseballs (\$100/dozen).

130 Chairwoman Cathi Cook added that the grounds must be maintained from the spring
131 through fall to ensure the fields are ready when needed.

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

133 Date: September 12, 2023.

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