

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 23, 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,
14 Stephanie Esch, Jennifer Gunterman, and Kris McKoy (arrived at 7:42 pm). Billy Donaldson was
15 not present. Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren were
16 present.

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

19 **Board Comment**

20 Trustee Ben Meyer thought the Open House was wonderful! Attendance at the Open
21 House was great!

22 **Public Comment**

23 None.

24 **3. Consent Agenda**

25 **A. Resignations**

26 i. **Lori Lewis – High School Head Track Coach**

27 **B. Employment** **All employment is pending completion of satisfactory background*
28 *checks.*

29 i. **Kelsey Mahan – 7th Grade Volleyball Head Coach – Team A**

30 ii. **Kelsey Mahan – 7th Grade Volleyball Assistant Coach – Team B**

31 iii. **Mary Pat Osler – 7th and 8th Grade Cross Country Head Coach**

32 iv. **Chanda Gum 8th Grade Volleyball Assistant Coach**

33 v. **Jessi Voss – Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional**

34 vi. **Valorie Struzynski – Elementary Paraprofessional (ESSER – PK Program)**

35 vii. **Amy Paxton – High School Pep Club**

36 viii. **Josette Hackett – High School FFA Advisor**

- 37 **ix. Trevor Motley – High School FFA Advisor**
- 38 **x. Charlie Hackett – High School Assistant FFA Advisor**
- 39 **xi. Heidi Cowan – High School Yearbook**
- 40 **xii. Amy Paxton – High Scholl FCCLA**
- 41 **xiii. Trevor Motley – High School Freshman Class Sponsor**
- 42 **xiv. Stacey Sager – High School Freshman Class Sponsor**
- 43 **xv. Ryan Hansen – High School Sophomore Class Sponsor**
- 44 **xvi. Hannah Williams – High School Sophomore Class Sponsor**
- 45 **xvii. Jacki Bauman – High School Junior Class Sponsor**
- 46 **xvii. Casey Ferguson – High School Junior Class Sponsor**
- 47 **xix. Wes Wells – High School Senior Class Sponsor**
- 48 **xx. Amy Paxton - High School Senior Class Sponsor**
- 49 **xxi. Ayse Haxton – High School NHS Advisor**
- 50 **xxii. Ayse Haxton – High School Key Club Advisor**
- 51 **xxiii. Jacki Bauman - High School DECA Advisor**
- 52 **xxiv. Zach Paulus – High School Pep Band Advisor**
- 53 **xxv. Zach Paulus – High School Jazz Band Advisor**
- 54 **xxvi. Grace Sullivan – High School Student Counsel Advisor**
- 55 **xxvii. Kyla Morton – High School Choir Advisor**
- 56 **xxviii. Substitutes**

57 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.
58 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.
59 There were none. Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items they would like to remove
60 from the list. There were none. Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to
61 the items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will
62 be adopted by unanimous consent. There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were
63 approved by unanimous consent.

64

65 **4. Business: Action Items**

66 **A. Out of District Enrollment**

67 **i. Elementary**

68 There were no elementary out-of-district enrollment requests.

69 **ii. High School**

70 Superintendent Thennis answered a few questions the trustees had regarding the high
71 school out-of-district enrollment requests. Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the high

72 school out-of-district applications as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. The
73 motion passed.

74

75 **B. Consideration of Leave Without Pay – Lee Stark**

76 Superintendent Thennis explained that section 11.7 of the Collective Bargaining
77 Agreement with the Stevensville Teachers Association allows other leave requests to be
78 considered by the Board. Mr. Lee Stark, a primary school counselor, has requested nine days of
79 leave without pay to complete course work at the University of Montana during the fall semester.
80 During his absence a counseling intern assigned to the District will support students along with
81 other counseling staff. The intern will work under the direct supervision of our professional
82 counseling staff. Although an approval changes the service provided for nine Tuesdays, it does
83 not leave students without counseling support. In addition, Mr. Starck’s education does not
84 impact Stevensville District financially because he has achieved the maximum educational
85 recognition allowed in the CBA.

86 Ben Meyer motioned to approve nine days of leave without pay between September 1st,
87 2023, and November 31st, 2023, for Mr. Lee Stark consistent with section 11.7 of the Collective
88 Bargaining Agreement. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan
89 Mullan, Stephanie Esch, and Tony Hudson voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman abstained from the
90 vote. The motion passed.

91

92 **C. Nursing Salary for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025**

93 Tony Hudson motioned to approve a 1% salary increase to the nursing contract in 2023-
94 24 and a 2% salary increase for 2024-25. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted
95 aye. The motion passed.

96 Public Comment

97 Fran Schmitz – Fran is concerned that the district has only one nurse covering the entire
98 school.

99 David Burton – Asked if the district has always had two nurses?

100 Board Comment

101 We have only had two nurses for the District since COVID.

102 **D. District Goals**

103 Superintendent Thennis indicated the board packet included information to help with the
104 annual review of the Stevensville School District Goals. Additional information for the board
105 packet was provided by Dan Mullan which was distributed to trustees at the meeting.

106 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the School Improvement Team (SIT) provided
107 information that was utilized to prepare the Cognia Report. The Cognia report is more student
108 achievement driven. The School Improvement Team felt it was important to identify at each
109 grade level and in each course, what are the priorities in that specific course. Dave felt that
110 priority one is to define what "success" is at each grade level (identify what knowledge and skills
111 are related to that). Priority two is to define the relationships amongst all stakeholders.
112 Communicating where are strengths are in relationships. Priority three is to develop teaching
113 staff. "When adults know better, they do better." The same holds true for kids. Paula Onstad
114 has been very involved in the School Improvement Team process. Paula provided information to
115 the trustees about the School Improvement Team and the Cognia Report.

116 Superintendent Thennis indicates the Cognia Report will address at least three (3) of the
117 five (5) district goals. Dave is not ready to bring academic data to the board today.

118 Dave indicated that an area that the Cognia Report showed that improvement could be
119 made was parent engagement. This can be done through conferences, open houses etc. Another
120 area is staff professional development. We need to develop measurable outcomes so that we
121 measure outcomes when we implement change.

122 Board Comment

123 Ben Meyer would like to see Building Administration goals. What is the vision long-term
124 for curricular courses? A future wish list.

125 Cathi Cook felt that community advisory lunches would be helpful to obtain engagement
126 with the community and get feedback.

127

128 Tony Hudson would like to know how we can connect with the community to train our
129 students for positions through our CTE programs. Superintendent Thennis indicated that OPI has
130 work based learning programs.

131 Dan Mullan mentioned that when he reviewed the Cognia Report he saw two areas with
132 two (2) stars, professional development, and student engagement. Dan also thinks we need to
133 have written reasonable objectives for the three (3) goals the Superintendent mentioned.

134 Public comment

135 Fran Schmitz – Fran said that Superintendent Thennis is addressing the budget shortfall.
136 There are lots of good things going on in the district. The “Attendance Matters Program” was
137 great with local businesses. The prom dress program also helps local students that wouldn’t be
138 able to attend the prom. Peacock Floral taught our students how to make corsages for prom.
139 This was wonderful! We need to get our students to “love Stevi School”. We need to include our
140 students, by getting their buy in. How are we measuring our honor students, so they are
141 progressing?

142

143 At the conclusion of tonight’s meeting, it was concluded that Superintendent Thennis will
144 come back to the board with measurable objectives to discuss at future meetings.

145 **5. Adjourn**

146 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Kris McKoy seconded the
147 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

148 Board Chairman: signed Copy on File in District Office.

149 Date: September 12, 2023.

150 School Board Clerk: signed Copy on File in District Office.