

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 **August 8, 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, Stephanie Esch, Ben Meyer,
14 Tony Hudson (via phone), Jennifer Gunterman, and Billy Donaldson. Kris McKoy was 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 Ben Meyer complimented not only the football team, but also the FFA and soccer
20 teams for their great work in the community by helping at the Creamery Picnic.

21 **Public Comment**

22 Sean Lenahan – He is concerned about the community being expected to fundraise
23 \$20,000 for the upcoming baseball season. He feels there has been a lack of good faith by the
24 school district based on the agreement made last year. There is a lot of animosity in the
25 community about this situation. He feels that the school district should be able to work with
26 families toward a reasonable solution.

27 Tracy Montague – Feels that there needs to be a solution to the funding situation for
28 baseball. Last year \$30,000 was raised to support the baseball program and get it started. It
29 isn't fair to ask one sport be expected to fundraise money when other sports aren't expected to.
30 How can this issue be added to the agenda for discussion in the future?

31 Gina Tan – Her son plays baseball. Why wasn't baseball budgeted for this school year?
32 Why wasn't the public informed? How does Title IX play into this?

33 Erin Lenahan – October 1st deadline given by Mr. Thennis, which could be as late as
34 December 1st by MHSA.

35

36 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

39 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the July 6th, 2023; board minutes as presented.
40 Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Stephanie Esch, Billy Donaldson, Dan
41 Mullan, Ben Meyer, Tony Hudson, and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Kris McKoy was not present
42 for the vote. The motion passed.

43 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the July 25th, 2023; board minutes as
44 presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Stephanie Esch, Billy Donaldson,
45 Dan Mullan, Ben Meyer, Tony Hudson, and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Kris McKoy was not
46 present for the vote. The motion passed.

47 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the July 25th, 2023; closed session minutes as
48 presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Stephanie Esch, Billy Donaldson,
49 Dan Mullan, and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Ben Meyer did not vote since he was not present
50 for the original meeting. Tony Hudson did not vote since he could not view the minutes. The
51 motion passed.

52

53 **4. Approval of Claims**

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

56 Superintendent Dave Thennis answered questions regarding claim #40488 for Marks
57 Lumber for \$9600, which was for the bark mulch used on the elementary playground. Claim
58 #40497 for NCSP for \$8400 is the Aimsweb Assessment for grades kindergarten through 11th.

59 Claim #40516 for Verizon for \$2085.43, which covered jet packs, cell phones for the nurse and
60 for transportation. Claim # 40513 for Universal Athletics for \$5723.55 which was for Volleyball
61 uniforms and football supplies.

62 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the August claims #40455 - #40534 totaling
63 \$201,765.45, and students' accounts in the amount of \$5,891.54, for a total of \$207,656.99.
64 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented.
65 Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

66 **5. Consent Agenda**

67 **A. Resignations**

68 **i. Emily Reed – High School Art**

69 **B. Employment** **All employment is pending completion of satisfactory* 70 *background checks.*

71 **i. Steve Lewis – Middle School Activities Director**

72 **ii. Kieth Chambers – High School Head Basketball Coach**

73 **iii. Bill Dimsha – Elementary Paraprofessional for Braille**

74 **iv. Jody Ross – ESY Paraprofessional**

75 **v. Substitutes**

76 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.
77 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.
78 Trustee Ben Meyer asked what grades the Middle School Activities Director would be overseeing.
79 He also asked what the compensation for the position would be. Superintendent Thennis indicated
80 that the position would oversee grades kindergarten through 8th grades and compensation would
81 be an annual stipend of \$5,000. Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items they would
82 like to remove from the list. Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the
83 items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be
84 adopted by unanimous consent. There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were
85 approved by unanimous consent.

86

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

88 **A. Out of District Students**

89

90 **i. Elementary**

91

92 Trustees reviewed the elementary out-of-district enrollment requests. The Primary
93 School Principal, Jessica Shroud, answered all questions pertaining to these enrollment requests.
94 Ben Meyer motioned to approve the elementary out-of-district applications as presented.
95 Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, and
96 Stephanie Esch voted aye. Tony Hudson and Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion
97 passed.

98

99 **ii. High School**

100

101 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the high school out-of-district application
102 excluding the application for student (5) - C's. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben
103 Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Tony
104 Hudson did not vote. The motion passed.

105

106 **B. MOU – Middle School Cross Country Program**

107 Superintendent Thennis explained that when the STA-CBA was recently updated, and
108 Addendum B, which includes all stipends for coaching did not include Middle School Cross Country
109 since the district was unsure what the level of student interest would be. Currently at least 20
110 Middle School students are interested in Middle School Cross Country. Dave feels that costs for
111 this program will run between \$3000 to \$4000 including a coach if meets are combined with the
112 high school. Trustee Dan Mullan asked if the program has ever been approved at the district
113 before. Dan believes that any time a new sport is added, the trustees must approve the addition
114 and do an MOU. Dan also asked why 8th graders can't participate with high schoolers. Middle
115 School Principal, Tracey Rogstad, prefers to start with 6th through 8th graders first if the program
116 moves forward. Superintendent Thennis supports a memorandum of understanding to initiate a
117 middle school cross county program for the fall of 2023.

118 Dan Mullan motioned to approve the Middle School Cross Country program for the 2023-
119 2024 season if funds can be raised by close of business August 31, 2023. Ben Meyer seconded
120 the motion.

121 Public Comment

- 122 • Lori Lewis indicates that waiting until the funds are raised to try to hire a middle school
123 coach would be too difficult. She indicates that she can't do both a Middle School and

124 High School program. One of the issues with having 8th graders participate with the high
125 schoolers is that most of the time they are not able to keep up and it makes it difficult for
126 the coaches to keep track of all the students when practicing.

- 127 • Fran Schmitz believes that the district needs to do what is best for the kids. By not
128 approving Middle School Cross Country some kids will be left out. Mrs. Lewis has saved
129 student lives. Cross Country is an amazing program.
- 130 • Parents need to pay for their children if they wish to participate in sports at a younger age
131 and the sports aren't offered through the school.
- 132 • Why is the deficit allocated to all sports equally? Why is it only baseball that must be
133 fundraised?
- 134 • Erin Lenahan indicates that it was widely understood the baseball inaugural season was
135 to be fundraised, then the district would take over after that.

136

137 Board Comment

- 138 • Trustee Ben Meyer indicates that baseball was only approved for one year with the
139 expectation that the district would revisit the subject again for school year 2023-2024.
- 140 • Trustee Tony Hudson questioned how much would need to be fundraised privately for the
141 Middle School Cross Country program to happen this year. Superintendent Thennis
142 indicated the district would need \$3500 by August 28, 2023.
- 143 • Trustee Billy Donaldson has trouble getting behind a new fundraiser for Cross Country. It
144 doesn't seem right to him as baseball should be the priority.

145

146 Ben Meyer withdrew his motion. Dan withdrew his motion so that a new motion could be
147 made.

148

149 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve Middle School Cross Country program for the 2023-
150 2024 season based on the good faith effort to fund raise \$3500 by August 28, 2023. Tony Hudson
151 seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, and
152 Tony Hudson voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

153

154 **C. MOU – Middle School Cross Country Coach**

155 Dan Mullan motioned to approve the MOU between the Stevensville Teachers Association
156 and the Stevensville School District adding a middle school cross country coaching stipend at 7%
157 to Addendum B of the CBA. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan
158 Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, and Tony Hudson voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did
159 not vote. The motion passed.

160

161 **D. Para/Secretaries Collective Bargaining Agreement**

162 Superintendent Thennis indicated that recent bargaining conversations resulted in a
163 contract supported by the paraprofessional and secretarial union. A 1% increase for 2023-2024
164 and a 2% increase for 2024-2025 were agreed to. Additionally, video surveillance will not be
165 used for formal evaluation purposes. Both the collective bargaining union and the District
166 negotiation committee support the agreement. Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the collective
167 bargaining agreement between the Stevensville Paraprofessional and Secretarial Employees and
168 the Stevensville School District as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All
169 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

170

171 **E. Transportation Supervisor Stipend**

172 Superintendent Thennis indicated that due to staffing changes this past spring and the
173 heavy transportation needs of the District he supported offering a stipend to Tracey Rogstad to
174 serve as the transportation supervisor. Dave included a copy of the job description in the board
175 packet. Dave indicated that the stipend would be paid from the elementary and high school
176 transportation funds. The position was not advertised as it requires a knowledge of Infinite
177 Campus and the ability to integrate the new Edulog software with Infinite Campus. Extra duties
178 required will include evenings and weekends. Trustee Dan Mullan was concerned that these
179 duties would be too much in addition to the Middle School Principal job duties. Dave explained
180 that Leda Turnage will be handling extra-curricular activities. Ben Meyer motioned to approve the
181 transportation supervisor stipend for Stevensville School District transportation supervisory
182 responsibilities for \$13,200 for 2023-2024. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees
183 voted aye. The motion passed.

184

185 **F. Consideration to Dispose of Obsolete Technology**

186 Superintendent Thennis indicated that Debbie Van Sickle has a meat slicer for disposal.
187 The item needs repair and is not used in the cafeteria. Stephanie Esch motioned to dispose of
188 the unusable kitchen items presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted
189 aye. The motion passed.

190 **G. Policy 1st Board Reading (1120)**

191 Superintendent Thennis explained that during the spring reorganization the Board
192 performed its annual reorganization after the action items were complete so that new trustees
193 were not voting on action items without reviewing the information contained in the packet.
194 Discussion occurred about the timing of this process because Policy 1120 stated organization
195 follows matters after the approval of minutes. After discussion, the language in Policy 1120 has
196 been updated to state the annual organizational meetings will take place after action items are
197 complete. Dan Mullan motioned to approve the first reading of Policy # 1120 as presented. Ben
198 Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

199 **H. Consideration of Wage increase for Kitchen Help**

200 Superintendent Thennis recommended a wage increase for the Kitchen Help. The increase
201 is 1% for 2023-2024 and 2% for 2024-2025. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the wage
202 increase of 1% in 2023-24 school year and 2% for 2024-25 school year for Velnetta Cameron,
203 Laurie Cassidy, Jennifer French, Kaelen Hemry, Christi Jackson, and Elizabeth Ketterling. Jennifer
204 Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

205 **7. Informational Items**

206 **A. LIUNA Negotiations**

207 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the negotiations committee had reached a tentative
208 agreement with custodial, maintenance, and the grounds employee group (LIUNA) on a two-year
209 contract that includes a wage increase of 1% in 2023-2024 and 2% in 2024-2025. The
210 agreement also includes an increased contribution of \$0.25 to a union retirement fund.

211 **B. 8th Grade Participation**

212 **i. High School Girls Soccer**

213 **ii. High School Golf**

214 Superintendent Thennis indicated that after much discussion in the July board meeting
215 about 8th grade participation in high school sports, a plan was developed to support 8th grade
216 participation. Coaches were notified and Mr. Larson, Ms. Smith and Mr. Thennis received a
217 request from Mr. Wark and Mr. Depee to allow 8th grade students to participate in girls' soccer
218 and golf. They unanimously agreed to the rational presented by the coaches and approved 8th
219 grade participation in both activities.

220 **8. Adjourn**

221 Trustee Ben Meyer asked if we had made any changes to school transportation yet.
222 Superintendent Thennis indicated that we won't know until school starts. They are looking at
223 some possible changes to routes, but it was recommended to make changes at the beginning of
224 the school year or at mid-year. Dave will keep the board apprised of the changes.

225 Billy Donaldson motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Stephanie Esch seconded the
226 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

227

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

229 Date: September 12, 2023.

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