

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 **September 12, 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 (via  
14 phone), Tony Hudson, Jennifer Gunterman, Billy Donaldson, and Kris McKoy. Superintendent  
15 Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, Principals Jessica Shourd, Tracey  
16 Rogstad, and Eric Larson were present. Vice-Principals Sierra Hankinson and Danita Smith were  
17 present.

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

20 **Board Comment**

21 Trustee Stephanie Esch indicated that the feedback has been great about the start of the  
22 school year.

23 Chairwoman Cathi Cook had a request from a community member requesting that the  
24 Board proclaim Constitution Week, the week of September 17, 2023, to September 23, 2023.  
25 Cathi read the letter, made the proclamation, and moved on to public comment.

26 **Public Comment**

27 Vickie Motley indicated that posting kids sports weekly has been great.

28 Fran Schmitz thanked those members of the community who have donated to the middle  
29 school cross-country program. Fran requested that trustees attend at least one event in each  
30 activity and reach out to at least one student to let them know their impact on the school. Fran

31 also asked if there will be no Homecoming dance or bonfire can the school do something else,  
32 such as a service project.

33 Next Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked for a motion to move informational item #7 A to the next  
34 item on the agenda. Stephanie Esch motioned to move agenda item **#7 Informational Item**  
35 **A. High School Report** to the next item on the agenda. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion.  
36 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

## 37 **7. Informational Item**

### 38 **A. High School Report – Eric Larson and Dani Smith**

39 High School Principal Eric Larson indicated that currently there are 371 students enrolled  
40 at Stevensville High School (SHS), last year the district finished SY22-23 with 334 high school  
41 students.

42 High School Vice-Principal/Activities Director Dani Smith presented the student enrollment  
43 numbers for athletics and activities to the Board. Dani indicated that a record number of tickets  
44 have been sold for soccer. Dani indicated that very few students participate in two Fall sports.

45 Trustee Dan Mullan wanted to know if 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were included in Dani's  
46 percentages. Dani will follow up with trustees.

47 Eric indicated that the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) has been a phenomenal success  
48 so far! The morning class has 12 students, and the afternoon class has 10 students. Ms. Haxton  
49 has had many happy parents and students. Eric indicated that 16 of the 22 students are returning  
50 to Stevensville High School or transferred within the school. Trustee Dan Mullan would like to  
51 know of these 22 students, how many have transferred from within the school. Mr. Larson will  
52 get back to the trustees with this information.

53 Eric provided the trustees with a 2023-2024 master schedule with course offerings. He  
54 indicated that since SY20-21 the high school has reduced certified teachers by 4.5 FTE's and  
55 administrators by 1 FTE.

56 Eric shared the SY22-23 graduation rate of 81 seniors with one (1) drop-out (two of the  
57 81 are enrolled in the ALC), for a graduation rate of 99%.

58 The American College Testing or ACT composite score for SHS Juniors for SY22-23 was  
59 19.3 which was the same as the Montana composite score. The SHS tradition is for the entire  
60 Junior class to go bowling and for pizza if they meet or beat the Montana composite score.

61 During SY22-23 grades 9 -12 participated in the Aimsweb assessment so that the district  
62 would have a means for comparing student achievement in math and reading to national norms.  
63 Now when incoming high school students enter the district SHS uses the Aimsweb assessment to  
64 determine proper placement within courses.

65 Tutoring sessions are offered in all core courses on Monday and Thursdays in both the  
66 mornings and afternoons. Wednesdays there is intervention from 2:00 to 3:00 pm under the  
67 guidance of a certified teacher and paraprofessional. Trustee Dan Mullan asked how many high  
68 school students are currently considered Title I.

69 The Board resumed with the remainder of the Board agenda.

### 70 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

73 It was noted that on line 62 of the August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes the  
74 word "Billing" needed to be changed to "Billy". Tony Hudson motioned to approve the August  
75 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, special board minutes with this correction. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All  
76 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

77 It was noted that on line 32 of the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes "Title  
78 IV" needs to be changed to "Title IX". Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the August 8<sup>th</sup>,  
79 2023, board minutes with this correction. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted  
80 aye. The motion passed.

81 Kris McKoy motioned to approve the August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023; special session board minutes as  
82 presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

83 It was noted that line 123 of the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes needed  
84 to be removed. Tony Hudson motioned to approve the minutes with this correction. Stephanie  
85 Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

86

87 **4. Approval of Claims**

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

90 Superintendent Dave Thennis answered questions regarding claim #40573 for HUDL for  
91 \$8700, which is a yearly software fee for people to access certain school sports over the internet.  
92 There is a rebate that the school receives annually that we will need to look up. A trustee asked  
93 how much the annual fee for HUDL was last year. Trustee Tony Hudson noticed a repair for the  
94 kitchen freezer and asked if there was a maintenance agreement on it.

95 Public Comment

96 Fran Schmitz asked if we were going to keep funds raised for each of the sports teams  
97 separate. Superintendent Thennis indicated that we would be.

98 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the September claims #40538 - #40641 total  
99 \$259,227.80, and students' accounts in the amount of \$6,350.83, for a total of \$265,578.63.  
100 Tony Hudson motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Kris McKoy  
101 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

102 **5. Consent Agenda**

103 **A. Resignations**

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

105 **B. Employment** *\*All employment is pending completion of satisfactory*  
106 *background checks.*

107 **i. Scott Seibert – Middle School Yearbook/Publication**

108 **ii. Jennifer French – Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional**

109 **iii. Anna Swisher DelaRosa – High School Special Education one-to-one**  
110 **Paraprofessional**

111 **iv. Heather Grooms – High School Paraprofessional – One Year**

112 **v. Ashlynn Rogstad – Custodian**

113 **vi. Jessica Schaefer – Head Cook**

114 **vii. Tracy Johnson – Kitchen Helper**

115 **viii. Substitutes**

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

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

118 There were no questions or comments. Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items

119 they would like to remove from the list. No items were removed from the consent agenda. Cathi  
120 told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the authority to  
121 decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent.  
122 There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

123

## 124 **6. Business: Discussion and Action Items**

### 125 **A. Out of District Students**

126

#### 127 **i. Elementary**

128

129 Trustees reviewed the elementary out-of-district enrollment requests. The Middle School  
130 Principal, Tracey Rogstad, answered all questions pertaining to these enrollment requests.  
131 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the elementary out-of-district applications as presented.  
132 Kris McKoy seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, Kris  
133 McKoy, and Stephanie Esch voted aye. Ben Meyer and Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The  
134 motion passed.

135

#### 136 **ii. High School**

137

138 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the high school out-of-district applications as  
139 presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Jennifer Gunterman, Dan  
140 Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, Stephanie Esch, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Ben Meyer  
141 did not vote. The motion passed.

142

### 143 **B. CSCT Reimbursement**

144 Superintendent Thennis asked for permission to mail the CSCT reimbursement check prior  
145 to Board approval. The Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) does not allow  
146 release of these funds upon receipt of a copy of our check as OPI used to when OPI processed  
147 CSCT payments. If this check is not received by DPHHS by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month it creates  
148 reimbursement issues for Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative (BVEC), as well as all the other  
149 schools in the valley. Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the mailing of the CSCT

150 reimbursement check prior to Board approval. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees  
151 voted aye. The motion passed.

152

153 **C. LIUNA Collective Bargaining Agreement**

154 The laborer’s union (LIUNA) and the negotiation committee recently discussed and  
155 completed a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The agreement is for two (2) years.  
156 The agreement includes a 1% increase in 2023-2024, retroactive to July 1, 2023, and a 2%  
157 increase in 2024-2025. In addition, this bargaining group will receive an additional paid holiday  
158 the day after Thanksgiving. The additional day is for the duration of the two-year contract and  
159 will need to be renegotiated in the future. The District agreed to a \$0.25 increase to the LIUNA  
160 pension premium for each hour of employment. The District previously contributed \$.70 and now  
161 contributes \$.95 to the pension plan. These funds are paid out of the retirement fund and are  
162 retroactive to July 1, 2023.

163 Tony Hudson motioned to approve the contract between the Stevensville School District  
164 and the LIUNA bargaining unit as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees  
165 voted aye. The motion passed.

166

167 **D. High School Baseball 2024**

168 Superintendent Thennis explained that he had recently met with the parent group  
169 responsible for fundraising for baseball in 2023. They discussed the plans for the 2024 season  
170 and the necessary steps to have baseball approved for the 2024 season. During this discussion  
171 it became clear that not everyone had the same understanding regarding baseball for the 2024  
172 season. This group understood that the Board planned to have baseball added as a high school  
173 activity and be financially responsible in 2024 and beyond. Mr. Thennis indicated that he did his  
174 best to communicate that the trustees and he did not have the same expectation. This  
175 discrepancy was never completely resolved, but the conversation shifted to solving for the 2024  
176 season. Mr. Thennis understood that there is \$14,000 remaining from the group’s fundraising  
177 efforts so we are approximately \$3,000 - \$4,000 away from the goal. Mr. Thennis left the  
178 meeting confident that this group can and will fundraise the difference. It was clarified that their  
179 donation would need to be given directly to the District and the District would account for all  
180 baseball related expenses. Mr. Thennis supports the approval of baseball in 2024 but does not

181 support a commitment beyond 2024. Long term, Mr. Thennis supports baseball in Stevensville,  
182 but due to our funding conditions cannot commit beyond 2024. In the future changes to the  
183 activities/athletic budget may need to be considered.

184 Dan Mullan motioned to approve baseball for the 2024 season only contingent on \$17,500  
185 being deposited by February 1, 2024. Tony Hudson seconded the motion.

186 Public Comment

187 Erin Lenahan indicated that the meeting with Superintendent Thennis went very well. Erin  
188 indicated that it is not sustainable to expect baseball to be paid for by the community. Erin also  
189 mentioned that the baseball field was not maintained well by the District July through October.  
190 Superintendent Thennis agreed. Maintenance will be done at the District expense.

191 Another commenter asked what would it take to make baseball a school supported sport?  
192 Superintendent Thennis indicated the baseball program costs approximately \$17,000 to \$20,000  
193 annually to operate. Can there be a collective fundraiser spread out for all sports? How are the  
194 proceeds from ticket sales used? The proceeds from ticket sales are used to pay for game  
195 officials.

196 Crystal Christofferson asked if baseball was the only sport that was handled in this way?  
197 Superintendent Thennis indicated that it was a new sport added by the Montana High School  
198 Association (MHSA) in 2023. We have also fundraised to support the middle school cross-country  
199 program.

200 After further discussion it was determined that funds need to be deposited with the District  
201 earlier and the remaining balance could be deposited later during the baseball season. Tony  
202 Hudson rescinded his motion. Dan Mullan rescinded his motion.

203 Dan Mullan motioned to approve baseball for the 2024 season only contingent on \$14,500  
204 being deposited with the District no later than January 1, 2024, and the balance of \$3,000 being  
205 deposited with the District by May 1, 2024. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted  
206 aye. The motion passed.

207

208 **E. Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: (2000, 2150, 2160, 2161P, 2162, 2312, 2333)**

209 Superintendent Thennis reviewed each of the policies with the trustees and noted any  
210 changes that had been made by the policy committee. It was noted that there were a few spelling  
211 corrections that needed to be made to made in policies #2150 and #2333.

212 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policies 2000, 2150, 2160, 2161P,  
213 2162, 2312, & 2333. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion  
214 passed.

## 215 **7. Informational Items**

### 216 **A. High School Report – Eric and Dani Smith**

217 Moved right after item #2.

### 218 **B. Lone Rock Report – Trustee Gunterman**

219 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman indicated that she was unable to attend the July and August  
220 Lone Rock Board Meetings, so she didn't have much information to update the trustees with.  
221 Lone Rock is looking for substitute teachers. They had a great open house. The enrollment for  
222 Lone Rock is growing, she believes they have between 225 to 250 students currently. There  
223 were no questions.

### 224 **C. Superintendent Report**

225 Superintendent Thennis indicated that SHS has had a very positive start to the school  
226 year. Dave appreciates the work of all Administrators and teachers!

227 Dave indicated that he appreciates all the work Tracey Rogstad and Michael Edward's of  
228 Harlow's have done with our transportation program. We have experienced some growing pains,  
229 as 50% of the drivers are new but everyone is settling into a routine now.

230 Human resources are in pretty good shape overall. Most of our positions are filled.

231 The policy committee has been meeting regularly to review policies. The meal charge  
232 policy and the library selection policy will need to be discussed moving forward.

233 The flooring tile has been repaired/replaced throughout the high school.

234 New staff parking has been added by the Alternative Learning Center (ALC).

235 The Professional Learning Community (PLC) and School Improvement Team (SIT) will be  
236 doing training soon.

237 Dave has been in contact with Montana Rail Link regarding modification of our lease.

238 ADT Fire will start working on the automatic door locks soon.



239

240

241 **8. Adjourn**

242 Tony Hudson motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the  
243 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

244

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

246 Date: October 10, 2023.

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