

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 **October 10, 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, Jennifer Gunterman, and Billy Donaldson. Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business
15 Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, Principals Tracey Rogstad, and Eric Larson were present. Vice-
16 Principal Sierra Hankinson was present.

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

19 **Board Comment**

20 Trustee Dan Mullan thanked Superintendent Dave Thennis and Business Manager Christy
21 McLaren for their work on the school budgets and reports that have been provided to the trustees.

22
23 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman provided an update on Lone Rock School District based on
24 information from their September meeting. The current enrollment is 262 and has been steadily
25 increasing. Lone Rock School District is possibly interested in a cooperative agreement with
26 Stevensville for cross-country and vo-ag. The Lone Rock Record has changed from a paper to
27 an electronic format and the students are assisting in the writing of the newsletter.

28
29 **Public Comment**

30 None.

31

32 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

35 There were no comments or questions regarding the August 3, 2023, Budget Work Session
36 minutes. Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the August 3rd, 2023; Budget Work Session
37 minutes as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion
38 passed.

39 Trustee Dan Mullan noted that the sentence starting on line 203 should read as follows,
40 "Dan Mullan motioned to approve baseball for the 2024 season only contingent on \$14,500 being
41 deposited with the District no later than January 1, 2024, and the balance of \$3,000 being
42 deposited with the District by May 1, 2024." Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the
43 September 12, 2023, regular board minutes as presented with this change. Tony Hudson
44 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

45

46 **4. Approval of Claims**

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

49 Trustee Ben Meyer asked if a new lawn mower had been purchased. Superintendent
50 Thennis indicated that the grounds' crew had been down by one mower most of the summer. A
51 new mower was purchased with end of the year money.

52 Trustee Dan Mullan asked about what was going to be done with the balances in the
53 student accounts for the "Classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023". Dan asked about what
54 the funds in the "Pay to Play 22-23" were being used for. Superintendent Thennis indicated that
55 both of these will need to be discussed during Resource Committee meetings.

56

57 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the October claims #40643 - #40723 total \$188,501.05,
58 and students' accounts in the amount of \$8,787.80, for a total of \$197,288.85. Stephanie Esch

59 motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded
60 the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

61 Superintendent Thennis announced a new student council representative that would be
62 attending the Board Meetings this school year. Her name is Cheyenne Sannar. Cheyenne
63 introduced herself and updated the board on activities that the student council has been involved
64 in so far this year.

65 **5. Informational Items**

66 **A. SIT Team Report – (SIT Members)**

67 Representatives of the SIT Team, Paula Onstad, Bruce Jessop, and Katy Cardoza did a
68 presentation for the trustees explaining the PLC+ (Professional Learning Community) process
69 that the district is using to improve learning. An important component of the PLC+ is for staff to
70 develop "relational trust". To do this relational trust must be defined and it must be maintained.
71 Over the coming weeks the SIT team will be working with staff members to develop relational
72 trust amongst one another.

73 Trustee Dan Mullan indicated that he would like updates from the SIT Team as the school
74 year progresses as to how this is working. Dan also asked if this is something the Board should
75 do too.

76 **B. School Handbooks**

77 **i. Activities**

78 High School Principal Eric Larson indicates he appreciates the feedback and will make
79 changes to the activity handbooks based on the information he has received. Trustee Ben Meyer
80 asked if the drug/alcohol language would be updated. Trustee Dan Mullan suggested that it
81 would be better if the activity handbooks were done in August in the future.

82 **ii. High School**

83 Trustee Ben Meyer asked that the requirements for a diploma be reviewed. Ben requested
84 that the last bullet under "Requirements for Diploma" be updated to "career and technology
85 education".

86 **iii. Middle School**

87 Trustee Dan Mullan asked if a Middle School Activity handbook could be created. It was
88 also noted that the recent changes to 8th grade participation in high school sports need to be
89 updated in the handbook.

90 **iv. Primary School**

91 Trustee Ben Meyer asked that our school suspension policy be reviewed and that it is
92 consistent in each of the handbooks.

93 Superintendent Thennis asked that if anyone notices issues/changes that need to be made
94 to any of the handbooks, please bring them to his attention.

95 **C. Superintendent Report**

96 **i. Enrollment Report**

97 Superintendent Thennis reviewed the preliminary enrollment figures. The kindergarten
98 classes are smaller this year. The K-6 grades count has been stable and so has the middle school
99 count. The high school count has increased from 333 last spring to approximately 367 this fall.
100 The junior class is larger than usual.

101 **ii. Budget Report (Christy McLaren)**

102 Business Manager Christy McLaren reviewed the High School and Elementary Budget
103 Reports and Cash Reports with the trustees. These reports will be shared each month.

104 Superintendent Thennis is trying to schedule a work session for the trustees for later in
105 October to set goals and objectives and work on PLC+. He asked the trustees to send him dates
106 that would work for them so he could get this session scheduled.

107 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked how early out Wednesdays were going? Superintendent
108 Thennis indicated that they were going very well. One drawback is that Administration team has
109 an increased amount of preparation time getting ready for early out Wednesdays.

110 The Alternative Learning Center (ALC) had their 1st graduate! An article was featured in
111 the Bitterroot Star.

112

113 **6. Consent Agenda**

114 **A. Employment * All employment is pending completion of satisfactory**
115 **background checks.**

- 116 **i. David Gross – Middle School Boys Basketball**
- 117 **ii. Austin Lewis – Middle School Boys Basketball**
- 118 **iii. Robert Sonsteng – Middle School Boys Basketball**
- 119 **iv. Phil Neely – Part-time Custodian**
- 120 **v. Jacob Parks – Part-time Custodian**
- 121 **vi. Amanda Jones – Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional**
- 122 **vii. Mike Mickelson – Adult Education**
- 123 **viii. Casey Ferguson – High School Math Tutor**
- 124 **ix. Chris Talbot - High School Math Tutor**
- 125 **x. Drew Kendall – High School Science Tutor**
- 126 **xi. Sydnie Heidke – High School English Tutor**
- 127 **xii. Ayse Haxton – High School English Tutor**

- 128 **xiii. Wes Wells – High School Social Studies Tutor**
- 129 **xiv. Bret Reneau – High School Social Studies Tutor**
- 130 **xv. Substitutes**
- 131

132 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.
133 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.
134 There were no questions or comments. Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent items
135 they would like to remove from the list. No items were removed from the consent agenda. Cathi
136 told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the authority to
137 decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent.
138 There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

139

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

141 **A. Out of District Students**

142

143 **i. Elementary**

144

145 Trustees reviewed the elementary out-of-district enrollment requests. There were
146 questions regarding the Student "A" that could not be answered tonight. Tony Hudson motioned
147 to table the elementary out-of-district application presented tonight. Ben Meyer seconded the
148 motion. Cathi Cook, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, Ben Meyer, and Stephanie Esch
149 voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

150

151 **ii. High School**

152

153 There were no out of district applications.

154

155 **B. Policy 1st Reading (2310P, 2309P)**

156 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Policy Committee has been reviewing the 2000
157 series policies for any updates. This process led to a thorough discussion of the library selection
158 and review process which includes policy 2309, 2310, 2309P, and 2310P. Policy 2310P is a
159 recommended addition consistent with the model policy from MTSBA. Policy 2309P is a

160 recommended deletion because it does not match the numbering pattern in the model MTSBA
161 policies. The content contained in current Policy 2309P is found in 2310P.

162 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve Policy 2310P and 2309P for a second Board reading.
163 Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

164

165 **C. Policy 2nd Reading (1120, 2000, 2150, 2160, 2161P, 2162, 2312, 2333)**

166 Superintendent Thennis reviewed each of these policies and the updates that were being
167 made to each and why.

168 It was noted that on Policy 2161P on pages 4 and 5 it needs to be correct to read "page
169 4 of 6" not "page 4 or 6". Stephanie Esch motioned to adopt policy 1120, 2000, 2150, 2160,
170 2161P, 2162, 2312, and 2333 as presented with the corrections indicated. Jennifer Gunterman
171 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

172

173 **D. Pantry Partners Payment**

174 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the business office met with Pantry Partners about
175 authorization to release funds without Board approval. Pantry Partners supplies food for the
176 Backpack Program and counseling staff for needy students. Early authorization reduces the
177 waiting period between ordering and reimbursement.

178 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to authorize payment to Pantry Partners prior to Board
179 approval. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

180

181 **E. RBHI - MOU**

182 Superintendent Thennis explained that the Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI) was
183 established to help address an increasing number of suicides during the past decade. RBHI offers
184 a free suicide risk screener for students with school counselor and administrative oversight. The
185 online screener is provided to students with parent consent and follow up care for students with
186 elevated risk scores. Students with elevated risk scores will be seen on the same day as the
187 screener either by a school counselor or a mental health professional either in person or through
188 teletherapy. Outside mental health professionals are provided by RBHI. Prior to the screener
189 school staff will be trained to ensure the assessment and follow-up resources follow best

190 practices. Student information is confidentially contained by MERET solutions and is HIPPA
191 compliant. Administration will ensure proper parent notification and consent is completed prior
192 to screening.

193 Billy Donaldson moved to approve the MOU between the Rural Behavioral Health Institute
194 and Stevensville Public Schools to provide a suicide risk screener for students in grades six
195 through twelve. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion
196 passed.

197 **F. RBHI – Data Sharing Agreement**

198 Superintendent Thennis explained that the Montana Data Privacy Agreement allows the
199 contractor (RBHI and MERET Solutions) to provide technology services, cloud based HIPPA
200 compliant storage of data, management, and retrieval of data for specific purposes. This
201 agreement does not prohibit the District from working with other providers. The HIPPA compliant
202 database (MERET Solutions) will protect confidential information unless authorized by the parent
203 or District. Parents have the right to inspect, amend, or remove personal information by written
204 request through the Stevensville School District. The data sharing consent form directs data
205 usage by RBHI and MERET Solutions. Superintendent Thennis supported signing the data sharing
206 consent form allowing data to be used in aggregate form without disclosing personally identifiable
207 information or the identification of the Stevensville Public School District.

208 Stephanie Esch moved to approve the consent agreement to store, manage, and use
209 MERET Solutions HIPPA cloud-based data storage and allow RBHI to use data without identifying
210 the Stevensville Public Schools or any of its students. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All
211 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

212 **G. Technology Items for Disposal**

213 Mr. Sheller provided a list of items to consider for disposal. These items are no longer
214 usable by the District. Superintendent Thennis indicated that none of the machines will update
215 to Windows 11.

216 Jennifer Gunterman moved to dispose of the technology items as presented. Billy
217 Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

218 **8. Adjourn**

219 Tony Hudson motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Billy Donaldson seconded the
220 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

221

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

223 Date: November 14, 2023.

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