

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 **December 12, 2023**

7:00 pm

Music Center Choir Room

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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 (left meeting at 7:05 pm), and Jennifer Gunterman. Billy Donaldson and Kris McKoy
15 were not present. Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, and
16 Principal Tracey Rogstad were present. Vice-Principal Sierra Hankinson was present.

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

19 **Board Comment**

20 Trustee Tony Hudson discussed that he has been working with the local American Legion
21 and Veterans Association on placing 3' by 5' flags in every classroom. He has the full support of
22 the school district. The American Legion needs the school district to vote on the matter before
23 they can proceed. The matter will be voted on at the January Regular Board Meeting. Tony
24 emphasized that there was some confusion in the community about this topic and he wanted to
25 make sure that everyone present was aware that at no time was the district against having flags
26 in the classrooms.

27 Trustee Stephanie Esch attended the Stevensville Hall of Fame ceremony hosted by STARS
28 Foundation last month and stated that it was beautiful and very impressive!

29 **Public Comment**

30 Kasey Shaw asked why the board packet isn't available digitally to the public. She felt it
31 was cost prohibitive to require the public to pay for copies of the packet.

32 Fran Schmitz, community member, indicated that she has mentioned this in the past at
33 board meetings and was told it was unsafe to have a copy of it.

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35 **3. Recognition**

36 **A. Trevor Motley – National Association of Agricultural Education – Teacher** 37 **Turn the Key Award**

38 Superintendent Thennis recognized Trevor Motley for receiving the National Association
39 of Agricultural Education (NAAE)- Teacher Turn the Key Award. Superintendent Thennis indicated
40 that the award addresses the persistent shortage of qualified agricultural teachers. It encourages
41 early-career teachers to stay in the profession by providing support and recognition for
42 participation in professional development. Eligibility is for NAAE members in their second, third,
43 or fourth year of teaching, with evaluations taking place at the state level and first-ranked state-
44 winning applicants selected for the specialized profession development program.

45 Trevor Motley indicated that the award allowed him to travel to Phoenix, AZ for NAAE
46 Convention paid for by NAAE. He was the only winner for the state of Montana.

47 **4. Approval of Minutes**

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

50 Chairwoman Cathi Cook commented that Christy would be making a few noted corrections
51 to the last paragraph of the minutes pertaining to the termination hearing. Stephanie Esch
52 motioned to approve the November 14th, 2023, regular board minutes with the presented
53 changes. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

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55 **5. Approval of Claims**

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

58 Trustee Dan Mullan asked about claim #40831 to Associated Students for \$15,000.00.
59 Superintendent Thennis indicated that this claim was for an embroidery machine for the Home

60 Economics Class and this claim reimbursed Student Accounts for a check written to pay for it. A
61 grant from the Rapp Family Foundation will cover the cost of the machine. Dan had a question
62 about claim #40832, which was for BDS Consulting, for \$1500.00 which is a consultant helping
63 the business office. Claim #40835 is for Brightly Software, Inc. for \$8,232.00, which is a one-
64 time fee for facility management software used to assist the Athletic Director with managing the
65 gyms and facility usage and control access. Claim #40897 line 8 for Harlow's Bus Service for
66 \$5098.01 which is for charges for middle school athletic travel, which just happened to be the
67 same expense as the high school extra-curricular travel on that invoice.

68 **Public Comment**

69 Trevor Motley indicated that FCCLA, DECA, and the AG departments worked together to
70 apply for the Rapp Family Foundation Grant that covered the cost of the embroidery machine
71 because they knew that it would be beneficial for their programs moving forward.

72 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the December claims #40828 - #40899 total
73 \$219,828.28 and November students' accounts in the amount of \$38,753.89 for a total of
74 \$258,582.17. Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as
75 presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

76 **6. Informational Items**

77 **A. Superintendent Report**

78 **i. Superintendent Evaluation Format**

79 Trustee Dan Mullan asked where the format for the superintendent evaluation was
80 obtained. Superintendent Thennis indicated that this was the evaluation format that was saved
81 on his computer from past evaluations.

82 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the board packets aren't posted on the
83 district website due to ADA compliance issues.

84 Superintendent Thennis indicated that safety drills haven't been publicized for
85 safety reasons.

86 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that in the past the school district was cited for
87 not having civil rights compliance issues with the website. It took a few years and \$100,000 to
88 make the district website compliant, so the district is very careful not to post items that would
89 not be compliant with this guidance.

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91 **Public Comment**

92 A member of the public asked if a solution could be created for posting the board packet
93 on the district website if the district would be open to this. Superintendent Thennis indicated the
94 district would be.

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96 **ii. Enrollment Report**

97 Superintendent Thennis reviewed the enrollment numbers with trustees.

98 **iii. Budget Report (Christy McLaren)**

99 Christy McLaren reviewed the budget reports. Christy indicated that she and
100 Superintendent Thennis had moved budgeted funds from some categories to other categories
101 based on need.

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103 **B. Lone Rock School District Report – Trustee Gunterman**

104 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman gave a brief update on Lone Rock School District. Trustee
105 Gunterman indicated that Lone Rock currently has several open positions. Jennifer also indicated
106 that Lone Rock School distributes paper copies of the agenda.

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108 **7. Consent Agenda**

109 **A. Employment** * *All employment is pending completion of satisfactory*
110 *background checks.*

- 111 **i. Substitutes**
- 112 **ii. Dakota Wilton – High School Cheerleading Coach**
- 113 **iii. Sheridan Newsom-Shultz – High School Cheerleading Volunteer**
- 114 **iv. Wayne Strozick – High School Boys Basketball Coach – C Team**
- 115 **v. Keith Berning – High School Head Softball Coach**
- 116 **vi. Ray Gavlak – High School Head Baseball Coach**
- 117 **vii. Bill Everett – High School Boys and Girls Head Tennis Coach**
- 118 **viii. Callie Lendman – High School Assistant Softball Coach**
- 119 **ix. Mike Davids – High School Volunteer Softball Coach**
- 120 **x. Tamara Maulding – Full-Time Custodial**
- 121 **xi. Liesl Uskoski – 8th Grade Head Girls Basketball Coach**
- 122 **xii. David Gross – 8th Grade Assistant Girls Basketball Coach**
- 123 **xiii. Brie Kuchel – 7th Grade Head Girls Basketball Coach**
- 124 **xiv. Kelsey Mahan – 7th Grade Assistant Girls Basketball Coach**
- 125 **xi. Ryan Tolley -8th Grade Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach**

126 **B. Resignations**

- 127 **i. Jacob Parks – Part-Time Custodian**
- 128 **ii. Sean Ham – Full-Time Custodian**
- 129 **iii. Eric Depee – Head High School Girls Soccer Coach**

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

8. Business: Action Items

A. Out of District Students

i. Elementary

Principal Tracey Rogstad answered all questions posed by trustees about the applications. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the elementary out-of-district applications as presented. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, and Stephanie Esch voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

ii. High School

There were no out-of-district applications.

B. Consideration of ARP ESSER Report

Superintendent Thennis indicated that the ARP ESSER Plan has been presented at previous board meetings and reviewed internally. The document remains largely unchanged and Superintendent Thennis has received no public comment. The document must be reviewed and available for public comment every six months. This document can be found on the school district's website.

Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the recently reviewed ARP ESSER document as presented. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

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C. Consideration of Plan for Safe Return

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Superintendent Thennis explained that the Plan for Safe Return addressed health and safety measures to be considered and completed when students return from remote instruction. These measures prevent the need for periodic closures and maintain in-person learning. The district continues to plan for in-person instruction but has standards in place if needed to transition to remote learning if needed. Ben Meyer suggested two changes to the document. In the paragraph labelled "Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs" the last sentence needs to be changed to read "The Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative will continue CSCT programs. In the paragraph labelled "Public Input" there needs to be a space between the words "2023" and "during".

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Ben Meyer motioned to approve the Plan for Safe Return with the changes as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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D. Ravalli County School Election Contract

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Superintendent Thennis indicated that this contract is presented to allow Ravalli County to administer school elections during the 2024-2025 school year. The contract is a renewal of past practice. In the future the Board will need to adopt a resolution for trustees and levy elections. This contract runs from February 1st, 2024, to May 31, 2024.

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Jennifer Gunterman moved for the renewal of the contract with Ravalli County to administer school elections in 2024. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

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E. Disposal of District Property

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Superintendent Thennis explained that there was a list of items for disposal included in the board packet. The items are abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable for school purposes. These items are beyond repair or unused and don't offer value to the district.

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Ben Meyer moved for the disposal of the district property as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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F. MOU – Paraprofessional – Secretaries and LIUNA

Superintendent Thennis indicated that the paraprofessional – secretarial union and the maintenance-custodial union have tentatively agreed to blend job responsibilities and duties to offer support for maintaining and cleaning our campus. This agreement is an important step toward solving the problem, but alone will not be enough. The MOU addresses pay, supervision, overtime (Policy 5336), sick and vacation leave. The MOU addresses the most important questions related to this relationship. The MOU is being discussed locally with MTSBA and LIUNA leadership. Superintendent Thennis indicated that he appreciates employees agreeing to help solve this problem. Dave is requesting a directive to complete an MOU between the two unions, so that the District can address our temporary custodial shortage.

Ben Meyer moved to direct the Superintendent to finalize an MOU between the maintenance-custodian union and the para-secretary union to address the current custodial shortage and to report to the Board when it is complete. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. Policy – 1st Board Reading (3120, 3125)

Superintendent Thennis indicated that Policy 3120 is the updated model MTSBA policy that includes language in the provisions portion addressing reasons a student may not be required to attend. This section sites specific Montana code. Provisions or exceptions include enrollment in homeschool, another district or school, a correspondence study, excused by a district judge, or determined by the trustees that attendance is not in the best interest of the child. Additionally, compulsory attendance does not apply to suspended or expelled students, illness or bereavement, or specific parent choice.

Policy 3125 included language updates regarding the child’s right to remain at the school of origin. This update is based on MTSBA model policy.

Ben Meyer asked if line 26 could be changed to read, “Programs in career and technical education.”

Stephanie Esch moved for policies 3120 and 3125 to be advanced for a second Board reading with the changes as presented. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

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222 **9. Adjourn**

223 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Stephanie Esch seconded
224 the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

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

227 Date: January 9, 2024.

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