

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 **November 14, 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 Kris McKoy. Billy Donaldson was not present.
15 Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, Principals Tracey
16 Rogstad, Jessica Shourd, and Eric Larson were present. Vice-Principal Sierra Hankinson was
17 present.

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

20 **Board Comment**

21 Trustee Stephanie Esch attended the MCEL (Montana Conference of Education
22 Leadership) meeting in October and indicated the meeting was great. Stephanie will put together
23 a packet to distribute in December.

24 **Public Comment**

25 Fran Schmitz thanked everyone who participated in the Scarecrow Festival.

26 Fran also discussed her concerns regarding the discontinuation of the Jacket Academy
27 program. Fran felt that the program gave older students an opportunity to mentor younger
28 students. Fran felt discontinuation of this program is a disservice to students by not having staff
29 time with students to tutor on Wednesdays during early outs. This program also allowed time
30 for students to study after school. She asked if the administration had explored all options before
31 discontinuing Jacket Academy.

32

33 **3. Recognition**

34 **A. Hannah Williams – Recipient of the John Morrison and Cathy Wright Healthy**
35 **Montana Kids Educator Award**

36 Superintendent Thennis recognized Hannah Williams for being the recipient of the John
37 Morrison and Cathy Wright Healthy Montana Kids Educator Award. Ms. Williams received a
38 stipend of \$3000 and a professional development scholarship of \$1500 with this award.

39 **4. Approval of Minutes**

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

42 Chairwoman Cathi Cook commented that on line 66 of the October 10, 2023, regular board
43 meeting minutes, "Cejay Paulsen" needed to be changed to "Katy Cardoza". Stephanie Esch
44 motioned to approve the October 10th, 2023, regular board minutes with the presented changes.
45 Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

46 There were no changes or comments on the October 26th Special Board Meeting minutes.
47 Kris McKoy motioned to approve the October 26th, 2023, special board minutes as presented.
48 Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

49 There were no changes or comments on the October 26th Work Session Meeting minutes.
50 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the October 16th, 2023, work session minutes as presented.
51 Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

52

53 **5. Approval of Claims**

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

56 Trustee Dan Mullan asked about claim #40760 to Harlow's Truck Center for \$25,891.91.
57 Superintendent Thennis indicated that this claim was for a compressor and body work to a district
58 owned activity bus that had been in an accident. The district had received a check from the
59 insurance company for damages to the bus less the deductible, which covered the costs of this

60 repair. Trustee Tony Hudson asked if the district would be getting quotes for bus repairs from
61 other repair shops besides Harlow's moving forward. Superintendent Thennis indicated the
62 district would.

63

64 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the November claims #40726 - #40826 total
65 \$321,934.95 and October students' accounts in the amount of \$12,792.25 for a total of
66 \$334,727.20. Tony Hudson motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented.
67 Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

68 **6. Informational Items**

69 **A. Primary School Report**

70 Primary Principal Jessica Shourd distributed Aimsweb math scores for kindergarten
71 through 3rd students to show the progress her staff is making with students. Jessica then
72 reviewed her report and discussed students reading score information. Jessica indicated that
73 the current 3rd grade students were greatly affected by the wearing of masks and when schools
74 shut down during the pandemic. This group of students has had trouble with reading and math
75 which is reflected in their scores on standardized tests. The district currently has a teacher that
76 is focused on math and reading recovery for the primary grades.

77 Jessica discussed the PAX grant which is an approach to teaching students how to self-
78 regulate behavior. There are two teachers that are learning the program and then helping to
79 mentor the other teachers. This is a grant funded through the University of Montana. Teachers
80 are already finding that it is helping improve students' behavior.

81

82 **B. Middle School Report**

83 Middle School Principal Tracey Rogstad and Vice-Principal Sierra Hankinson presented
84 their reports and fielded questions. Sierra shared a graph regarding behavior of students and the
85 # of referrals and refocuses year to date for the middle school. The 1st quarter the number of
86 referrals and refocuses is down compared to 2022-2023, however the type of referrals that
87 administration is handling (majors) has increased in volume.

88

89 **C. Coding For Kids – Loey Knapp**

90 Loey Knapp presented her Coding for Kids information and answered questions from the
91 trustees.

92 **D. Stevensville Hall of Fame – Steve Lewis**

93 Steve Lewis distributed a handout with the names of six (6) of the 2023 Stevensville Hall
94 of Fame Inductees. There will be a ceremony on November 18th from 6 to 10 pm at St. Mary’s
95 Family Center. The STARS Foundation is hosting a live and silent auction during the induction.
96 Tickets are still available for those interested.

97

98 **E. FFA – Washington Leadership Conference – Trevor Motley**

99 FFA Students who attended the Washington Leadership Conference made a PowerPoint
100 presentation sharing what they had learned and got to see while attending the conference in
101 Washington, D.C.

102

103 **F. Superintendent Report**

104 **i. Enrollment Report**

105 Superintendent Thennis shared enrollment numbers with the trustees.

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

107 Business Manager Christy McLaren reviewed the High School and Elementary Budget
108 Summary Reports and Cash Reports with the trustees. Currently there are no categories that Ms.
109 McLaren has concerns about. Trustee Dan Mullan has concerns about dollar amount of
110 expenditures in the “610” supplies code.

111

112 **G. District Goals and Objectives**

113 Superintendent Thennis reviewed the highlighted items from the District Goals and
114 Objectives. He noted that under Objective One the following items had been added:

115 c. Initiate essential knowledge and skills in each grade level and course.

116 d. ELEOT training for school improvement team members.

117

118 **H. Lone Rock School District Report – Trustee Gunterman**

119 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman gave a brief update on Lone Rock School District. Trustee
120 Gunterman indicated that enrollment was up 22 students from October 2022. Jennifer has

121 indicated that Superintendent Dobell has been working diligently toward school districts receiving
122 full funding on the 95 vs 78 Mills property tax issue.

123

124 **I. ARP ESSER Report**

125

126 Superintendent Thennis shared the current version of the *ARP ESSER Plan* adopted
127 6/14/2023. He indicated that this document will be approved at the December board meeting
128 and asked that anyone with input please email him.

129

130 **J. Plan for Safe Return**

131

132 Superintendent Thennis shared the current version of the *Plan for Safe Return* adopted
133 6/14/2023. He indicated that this document will be approved at the December board meeting
134 and asked that anyone with input please email him.

135

136 **7. Consent Agenda**

137 **A. Employment** * *All employment is pending completion of satisfactory*
138 *background checks.*

139 **i. Substitutes**

140 **ii. Josh Schultz – Volunteer High School Boys Basketball Coach**

141

142

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

150

151 **8. Business: Action Items**

152 **A. Out of District Students**

153

154 **i. Elementary**

155
156 There were no out of district applications.

157
158 **ii. High School**

159
160 There were no out of district applications.

161
162 **B. Policy 2nd Reading (2310P, 2309P)**

163 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Policy Committee has been reviewing the 2000
164 series policies for any updates. This process led to a thorough discussion of the library selection
165 and review process which includes policy 2309, 2310, 2309P, and 2310P. Policy 2310P is a
166 recommended addition consistent with the model policy from MTSBA. Policy 2309P is a
167 recommended deletion because it does not match the numbering pattern in the model MTSBA
168 policies. The content contained in current Policy 2309P is found in 2310P.

169 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve policy 2310P and delete policy 2309P as
170 recommended. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion
171 passed.

172
173 **C. Out of State Travel for High School Girl's Basketball**

174 Superintendent Thennis explained that due to a cancellation and lack of available Montana
175 opponents, the high school girls' basketball team would like to schedule an away game in Kellogg,
176 Idaho with Kellogg High School. Superintendent Thennis supports this option for the 2023-2024
177 season and believes that a Montana opponent can be found in future years. Michael Edwards,
178 the transportation supervisor with Harlow's Bus Service indicated that the travel to Kellogg would
179 be no different than many other places that the team travels to within the state. Tony Hudson
180 motioned to approve the high school girls' basketball team to travel out of state to play Kellogg
181 High School during the 2023-2024 season. This motion was amended to be for the 2023-2024
182 season only. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Jennifer
183 Gunterman, Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. The motion
184 passed.

185

186 **D. Substitute Retention Premium for 2022-2023**

187 Superintendent Thennis explained that last school year most employee groups received a
188 retention premium using ESSER III Funds. Superintendent Thennis proposed that substitutes
189 who worked a minimum of 210 hours during the 2022-2023 school year receive a \$500 retention
190 premium. The total ESSER III expenses for this retention premium would total \$9500.
191 Superintendent Thennis supported this action as many of these substitutes are loyal to
192 Stevensville Public Schools. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve a one-time retention premium
193 of \$500 for substitute teachers who worked more than 210 hours during the 2022-2023 school
194 year. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

195
196 **E. Sinking Fund Reinvestment**

197 Superintendent Thennis explained that the district has a certificate of deposit housed at
198 Rocky Mountain Bank that matures on November 5th. The district has 10 days to reinvest these
199 funds. Trustees should consider reinvesting \$525,462.25. In addition, a certificate of deposit
200 housed at Farmers State Bank matures on November 15th. Trustees will need to consider
201 reinvesting \$513,069.18. On November 15th, Christy McLaren will reinvest funds as directed by
202 the Board of Trustees. Tim Schreiber with Farmers State Bank told the trustees that if the district
203 currently has any CD's earning a rate lower than 5%, it might be wise to break the CD and set
204 up a new CD at the current rates being offered. Tony Hudson moved to invest approximately
205 \$1,038,531.83 of sinking funds with Farmers State Bank in a CD for the period of 13 months.
206 Kris McKoy seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Tony Hudson, Ben Meyer, Stephanie Esch, Kris
207 McKoy, and Jennifer Gunterman voted aye. Dan Mullan abstained. The motion passed.

208 **F. Termination Hearing – Mr. Rod Lanoue**

209 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that the matter before the Board today was a hearing
210 to terminate the employment of Rod Lanoue. Chairwoman Cathi Cook stated that she would
211 summarize the process that would be followed today. The Board members are judging this case
212 today. The hearing would be informal and technical rules of evidence would not apply. Either
213 side may introduce any relevant documents or records. Since this is a recommendation to
214 terminate Mr. Lanoue's employment, the administration will present its case first. If the
215 Administrator calls witnesses, Mr. Lanoue will be given the opportunity to cross-examine the

216 witness. Then Mr. Lanoue will present his case. Again, if Mr. Lanoue calls any witnesses, the
217 administration will have the right to cross-examine those witnesses. After all the evidence has
218 been presented, the Board will consider the evidence and testimony presented by the parties.
219 The Board will begin its deliberations. Once the Board is ready to act upon the recommendation
220 Chairwoman Cathi Cook will then ask for a motion and a second and call for a vote. It was noted
221 that Mr. Lanoue was not present for tonight's meeting, even though he had been invited to attend.
222 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if the trustees had any questions. There were no questions.
223 Superintendent Thennis provided a document that summarized this case to the trustees. The
224 trustees were allowed time to review the documents. The trustees were asked if they had any
225 questions. There were no questions. Since Mr. Lanoue chose not to attend there was no evidence
226 presented by him. Chairwoman Cathi Cook then closed the evidentiary portion of the hearing
227 and allowed the Board to deliberate.

228 Ben Meyer moved to accept the recommendation to terminate the employment of Rod
229 Lanoue. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Jennifer Gunterman, Dan
230 Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. The motion passed.

231

232 **9. Adjourn**

233 Tony Hudson motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Kris McKoy seconded the motion.
234 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

235

236 Board Chairman: Signed Copy on File in the District Office.

237 Date: December 12, 2023.

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