

1 **Stevensville Public Schools**
2 **School District #2**
3 **300 Park Avenue**
4 **Stevensville, Montana 59870**
5 **Telephone: (406) 777-5481**
6 **Fax: (406) 625-2576**

7
8 **Regular Board Meeting**

9 **January 9, 2024**

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, Billy Donaldson, Kris McKoy, and Jennifer Gunterman. Superintendent Dave
15 Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, and Principals Tracey Rogstad, Eric Larsen
16 were present. Vice-Principal Sierra Bauer (Hankinson) was present.

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

19 **Board Comment**

20 None

21 **Public Comment**

22 Greg Overstreet, a local attorney, commented about the work he has been doing with Mr.
23 Wells Social Studies class. Greg indicated that they had been working together on a mock trial
24 situation and that it has been extremely gratifying to watch Mr. Wells teach his students. They
25 will be doing a mock trial at the UM Law School on March 15th that parents, students, and others
26 can attend. For more information, please contact Mr. Wells.

27 Wayne Rusk, Montana House Representative for District 88, introduced himself and said
28 he was available if anyone had issues or concerns, they'd like to discuss.

29 Kacy Shaw, a local citizen, indicated that she followed up with an attorney with the
30 Department of Civil Rights asking about the posting of school board packets to the district website.
31 The attorney was unaware of any reason why the school district would be unable to post the

32 board packets on the district website. Kacy then contacted Melissa at Gecko, the company that
33 provides website services for the district and she also did not know why the district would be
34 unable to post board packets on the district website.

35 Kacy indicated that she wants her child shielded from drills at school. The request has
36 been denied by Superintendent Thennis. She indicated there is no 1700 procedure form for her
37 to file a complaint on. Kacy further indicated that she understands that the district follows the “I
38 Love You Guys” protocol for intruders, but she does not see this information on the district website
39 or being shared with parents as she feels it should be. Ultimately, she wants to know how she
40 can get answers to the questions she posed tonight? She was told to schedule a meeting with
41 Superintendent Thennis.

42

43 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

46 Chairwoman Cathi Cook commented that Christy would be making a few corrections to
47 lines 82 and 83 of the minutes to make them read more clearly. Tony Hudson motioned to
48 approve the December 12th, 2023, regular board minutes with the changes as presented.
49 Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

50

51 **4. Approval of Claims**

52 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments on the claims or
53 students’ accounts.

54 Trustee Dan Mullan asked a question about claim #40934 for new lunch tables for \$6,470.
55 Christy explained that \$5870 of this purchase was from a grant that Deb Van Sickle applied for
56 so that she could replace some tables that are no longer in good condition. Only \$600 of the
57 purchase came from Deb’s regular budget. Dan asked about claim#40909 to Bitterroot Valley
58 Education Coop. for \$193,883.50. Christy indicated that \$176,953 is the annual match agreement
59 and \$17,040.50 is the preschool transportation.

60 Trustee Ben Meyer mentioned that claim #40923 was for logging and thinning district
61 owned acreage and that the district must pay the vendor first and then be reimbursed by the
62 DNRC.

63 **Public Comment**

64 None

65 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the 1st batch of January claims #40900 - #40959 total
66 \$356,639.53 and the 2nd batch of January claims #40960 - 40968 total \$4,634.47 plus the
67 December students' accounts in the amount of \$32,130.53 for a total of \$393,404.53. Jennifer
68 Gunterman motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Kris McKoy
69 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

70 **5. Informational Items**

71 **A. Student Representative Report**

72 Cheyenne Sannar indicated that the semester will be ending soon so students are
73 beginning to take finals. Cheyenne indicated that there had been a winter formal recently and
74 that the students were preparing for a talent show.

75 **B. Superintendent Report**

76 **i. MHS A Update**

77 Superintendent Thennis reviewed each MHS A proposal with the trustees to let them know
78 what his view of each proposal was and why. Superintendent Thennis' view of each proposal
79 was as follows:

- 80 1. Not supporting
- 81 2. Support
- 82 3. Support
- 83 4. Support
- 84 5. Support
- 85 6. Support
- 86 7. Not supporting
- 87 8. Support
- 88 9. Support
- 89 10. Not supporting

90

91 **Public Comment**

92 An audience member indicated that some e-sports are very good for hand/eye
93 coordination. Referred to Gran Turismo movie and the fact that gaming is a great avenue for
94 many students/people.

95

96 Tim Hancock, public member, is supportive of e-sports, but no Call of Duty games.

97

98 **ii. Enrollment Report**

99 Superintendent Thennis reviewed the enrollment report with trustees. Overall, the
100 enrollment has been stable. We have had several ALC student's graduate.

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

102 Christy reviewed the budget report with the trustees and indicated that she had no
103 concerns at this time.

104 **C. Lone Rock School District Report – Trustee Gunterman**

105 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman indicated that she was unable to attend the last Lone Rock
106 Board Meeting. She did attend a Policy Meeting and knows that Lone Rock is currently reviewing
107 the district policies.

108 **6. Consent Agenda**

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

111 **i. Substitutes**

112 **ii. Jordan Williams – Volunteer Assistant High School Softball Coach**

113 **iii. Jacob Wallace – Part-time Custodian**

114 **iv. Dylan Crotto – Part-time Custodian**

115 **B. Resignations**

116 **i. Leda Turnage – District Support Staff**

117 **ii. Jessica Shourd – K3 Principal**

118

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

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

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

122 they would like to remove from the list. Trustee Dan Mullan asked to have Jessica Shourd's

123 resignation removed from the consent agenda. Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee

124 pertains only to the items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the

125 agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent. There were no objections, and the consent

126 agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

127

128 Trustee Dan Mullan questioned the resignation letter that Jessica Shourd had written to
129 the district. In the 2nd paragraph of the resignation letter, she wrote "I have accepted an offer
130 to teach here for the next school year (2024-2025) if a position becomes available."
131 Superintendent Thennis clarified that Jessica understands that this means she can apply for any
132 openings that become available for the 2024-2025 school year like anyone else.

133

134 Ben Meyer motioned to approve the resignation of Jessica Shourd, K3 Principal. Tony
135 Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

136

137 **7. Business: Action Items**

138 **A. Out of District Students**

139

140 **i. Elementary**

141

142 The elementary out-of-district applications were reviewed. Kris McKoy motioned to
143 approve the elementary out-of-district applications as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the
144 motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, Kris McKoy, and
145 Stephanie Esch voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

146

147 **ii. High School**

148

149 There were no out-of-district applications.

150

151 **B. MOU – Paraprofessional – Secretaries and LIUNA**

152 Superintendent Thennis explained that the district was having a difficult time finding
153 custodial staff. To help provide custodial staff for the district, staff from the Paraprofessional-
154 Secretaries bargaining group agreed to work additional hours to help with custodial duties to
155 reduce workload on current full-time custodians and to create a cleaner environment for the
156 district. Superintendent Thennis indicated that since this change was instituted there have been
157 fewer complaints from staff about classrooms and buildings being left unclean. Superintendent

158 Thennis explained how overtime is being calculated and that the district policy has been updated
159 to reflect this change.

160

161 Trustee Stephanie Esch thanked all parties involved in coming up with this positive
162 solution.

163

164 **Public Comment**

165 Jessica Martinez asked if the MOU was required until 2025? Superintendent Thennis
166 stated that that date pertains to the date of the collective bargaining agreement, which is dated
167 from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. The MOU will remain in place for six months, from
168 December 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024, and can be extended if necessary and agreed to by
169 both parties.

170

171 Stephanie Esch moved to approve the MOU between the Stevensville School District and
172 the Para-Secretaries and LIUNA unions as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All
173 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

174

175 **C. Sinking Fund Investment**

176 Superintendent Thennis explained new tax revenue in the amount of \$250,000.00 needs
177 to be invested into a CD to pay off our sinking fund bond. Christy McLaren provided information
178 to the trustees regarding the interest rates that both Farmers State Bank and Rocky Mountain
179 Bank could offer at this time for a CD for these funds. Christy recommended combining these
180 funds with a current CD being held with Farmers State Bank that is earning 5.15% for 12 months.

181 Kris McKoy moved to invest \$250,000 of new tax revenue with Farmers State Bank with
182 existing CD with balance of approximately \$1,038,531.00 for the period of 12 months at 5.15%
183 interest rate. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Jennifer Gunterman,
184 Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Dan Mullan and Billy Donaldson
185 abstained. The motion passed.

186

187 **D. Farmers State Bank CDs**

188 Superintendent Thennis indicated that during a previous Board meeting it was suggested
189 we consider breaking the terms of two of our current certificates of deposit and reinvest at higher
190 interest rates. There are currently two CDs invested at Farmers State Bank that we could consider
191 breaking and reinvesting. The penalty to reinvest the CD for \$138,529.19 is \$700. We have the
192 option to reinvest one of the following two scenarios:

- 193 • 7 months at 4.8% APR
- 194 • 13 months at 4.55% APR

195 Christy McLaren, Business Manager recommended the longer term, as we don't know
196 what rates will be in 7 months and so the district isn't constantly redoing CDs.

197 Stephanie Esch moved to break the investment terms for CD 8619150 and reinvest it in a
198 CD at 4.55% for a term of 13 months. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben
199 Meyer, Jennifer Gunterman, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted
200 aye. Dan Mullan abstained. The motion passed.

201 Ben Meyer moved to break the investment terms for CD 8358360 (FFA) and reinvest it in
202 a CD at 4.55% for a term of 13 months, with the guidance and direction of students of FFA.
203 Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Jennifer Gunterman, Billy
204 Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Dan Mullan abstained.
205 The motion passed.

206

207 **E. Rocky Mountain Bank CD**

208 Superintendent Thennis indicated that during a previous Board meeting it was suggested
209 we consider breaking the terms of two of our current certificates of deposit and reinvest at higher
210 interest rates. There are currently two CDs invested at Rocky Mountain Bank that we could
211 consider breaking and reinvesting. The penalty to reinvest the CD for \$120,426 is \$359.64 and
212 the penalty to reinvest the CD for \$134,396 is \$431.19. We have the option to reinvest one of
213 the following three scenarios:

- 214 • 3 months at 4.97% APY
- 215 • 6 months at 4.8% APY
- 216 • 12 months at 4.10% APY

217 Christy McLaren, Business Manager, recommended the longer term, as we don't know
218 what rates will be in 6 months and so the district isn't constantly redoing CDs.

219 Kris McKoy moved to break the investment terms for CD 8529 and reinvest it in a CD at
220 4.10% for a term of 12 months. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer,
221 Jennifer Gunterman, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye.
222 Dan Mullan abstained. The motion passed.

223 Kris McKoy moved to break the investment terms for CD 8531 and reinvest it in a CD at
224 4.10% for a term of 12 months. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer,
225 Jennifer Gunterman, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye.
226 Dan Mullan abstained. The motion passed.

227

228 **F. Policy – 2nd Board Reading (3120, 3125)**

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

236 Superintendent Thennis indicated that updates to policy 3125 include language regarding
237 the child's right to remain at the school of origin. The update is based on MTSBA model policy.

238 Stephanie Esch motioned for the adoption of policies 3120 and 3125 as presented. Ben
239 Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

240 **G. Approval to support the VFW and American Legion's effort to provide new 3'** 241 **by 5' American flags**

242 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the VFW and American Legion along with Trustee
243 Hudson are seeking approval to begin an initiative to bring new American flags to all Stevensville
244 School District classrooms. Although we have flags in classrooms, these are larger and will be
245 displayed respectfully. Superintendent Thennis supports and appreciates the idea and the effort
246 from our veterans' organizations and Trustee Hudson.

247 Trustee Tony Hudson indicated that he would like to see as much student involvement as
248 possible in the replacement process.

249 Board Comment

250 Stephanie Esch thanked the VFW and American Legion for replacing current flags in
251 classrooms.

252 Public Comment

253 Kay Gibbons, local citizen, member of Post 94, asked if the district could create a policy
254 regarding the size of flags in classrooms. Ms. Gibbons indicated that flags can be disposed of
255 locally at Memorial Park.

256 Skip Gibbons, local citizen, indicated that all flags were purchased through funding from
257 the American Legion.

258 Tony Hudson motioned to support and accept new 3' by 5' American flags donated by the
259 American Legion for all Stevensville School District classrooms. Kris McKoy seconded the motion.
260 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

261 **H. Disposal of District Property**

262 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the list of items presented for disposal are included
263 in the board packet. These items are abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable for school
264 purposes. These items are beyond repair or unused and don't offer value to the district.
265 Superintendent Thennis recommends disposal of these items.

266 Jennifer Gunterman motioned for the disposal of the district property as presented. Tony
267 Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

268 **I. Superintendent Evaluation – Closed Session**

269 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that the board would be entering a Closed Session as
270 per Montana Code Annotated 20-3-203, the agenda item relates to a matter of individual privacy.
271 Cathi indicated that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public
272 disclosure. Cathi asked the public to leave the room. The time was 8:50 pm. The public re-
273 entered at 10:45 pm.

274 **8. Adjourn**

275 Billy Donaldson motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Kris McKoy seconded the
276 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

277

278

Board Chairman: Signed Copy on File in District Office.

279

Date: February 13, 2024.

280

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