

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 **February 13, 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, and Billy Donaldson. Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk
15 Christy McLaren, and Principals Tracey Rogstad, Eric Larsen, and Sierra Bauer (Hankinson) were
16 present. Vice-Principals Dani Smith and Chanda Gum were present.

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

19 **Board Comment**

20 Superintendent Thennis extended condolences to the family of Nancy Fisher, a former
21 teacher at the Stevensville School District, who recently passed away.

22 Trustee Ben Meyer thanked the Key Club and Vickie Vernon for their recent support of the
23 Valentine’s Day activities at Fort Harrison in Helena to support our veterans.

24 **Public Comment**

25 Kay Gibbons, a local citizen, also indicated that she went to Helena on Valentine’s Day,
26 and it was wonderful to see the Stevensville students interacting with the veterans.

27 Keith Chambers, Stevensville boys high school basketball coach, offered his condolences
28 to Mr. Larsen (High School Principal) on the recent loss of his mother. Mr. Chambers also thanked
29 everyone for allowing him to coach the high school basketball team. He wanted to suggest a
30 solution to the 8th grade participation in high school basketball. He thinks it would be beneficial
31 for there to be 8th grade try-outs. Keith feels that it would behoove the community to allow 8th

32 graders to try out in all sports, since what the boys' basketball team went through this year is not
33 good for the kids.

34 **3. Recognition**

35 **A. Stevensville School District Board of Trustees – Golden Gavel Award**

36 Superintendent Thennis congratulated the Board of Trustees for receiving the Golden
37 Gavel Award in 2021-2022 because trustees completed Montana School Board Association
38 trainings that year.

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. There were no questions or comments.

42 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the January 9th, 2024; regular board minutes as
43 presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

44 **5. Approval of Claims**

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

47 Trustee Dan Mullan asked a question about claim #40990 to DJ's Electric for \$13,780 for
48 Pole Light Upgrade. Superintendent Thennis explained that this was to upgrade the lights to LED.
49 There have been complaints because the lights were out and needed to be replaced for safety
50 reasons, this was the most cost-effective solution. The district will get a rebate for these lights.
51 Trustee Dan Mullan also asked about when the old student accounts would be cleared up. Dan
52 sees these balances on the monthly reports and wanted to know when they will be removed.
53 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the funds from these accounts are to be used towards the
54 purchase of a custom trophy case. Measurements are still being taken to get quotes for the
55 trophy case.

56 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the 1st batch of February claims #40969 - #40969 total
57 \$8,869.23 and the 2nd batch of February claims #40970 - 41069 total \$408,250.30 plus the
58 January students' accounts in the amount of \$19,288.24 for a total of \$436,407.77. Ben Meyer

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

61 **6. Informational Items**

62 **A. Student Representative Report**

63 Cheyenne Sannar was not present to give her report.

64 **B. Superintendent Report**

65 **i. Enrollment Report**

66 Superintendent Thennis reviewed the enrollment numbers. He indicated that the district
67 had (7) seven early graduates in high school, one student moved away, and a few switched to
68 home schooling, thus leading to our lower enrollment numbers.

69

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

71 Business Manager Christy McLaren reviewed the budget reports with trustees. Christy
72 indicated that she has been reappropriating funds set aside for health insurance to other areas.
73 Christy also indicated that a journal voucher is done annually to account for utilities used in the
74 bus barn since they are not metered separately (Changing funds 210 & 110 and crediting funds
75 201 & 101). Trustee Ben Meyer was concerned that this might not be being handled correctly.
76 Christy indicated she would do some research and follow up with the trustees on this matter.

77

78 **iii. Denning, Downey, and Associates Audit Letter**

79 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the letter in the packet was for the trustee's review.

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

81 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman was not present at tonight's meeting to give the report.

82 **7. Consent Agenda**

83 **A. Employment * *All employment is pending completion of satisfactory***
84 ***background checks.***

85 **i. Substitutes**

86 **ii. Melody Johnston – District Office Support Staff**

87 **iii. Luke Thomasson – Long Term Substitute Teacher – High School**

88 **iv. Adrienne Rohbock – Long Term Substitute Teacher – Middle**

89 **School**

90 **v. Jeff Umland – Assistance High School Baseball Coach**

91 **vi. Ben Guenzler – Volunteer High School Baseball Coach**

92 **vii. Bob Field – Volunteer High School Baseball Coach**

93 **viii. Danny Mellinger - Volunteer High School Baseball**

94 **ix. Jeremy Kuchel – Volunteer 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach**

- 95 **x. Tylor Olsen – High School Track Assistant Coach**
- 96 **xi. Nathaniel Smith – Part-Time Student Custodian**
- 97 **xii. Arnold Vernon – Volunteer Custodian**
- 98 **xiii. Steve Lewis – Middle School Track Head Coach**
- 99 **xiv. Sarah Daman – Middle School Track Assistant Coach**
- 100 **xv. Clayton Curley – Middle School Track Assistant Coach**

101

102 **B. Resignations**

- 103 **i. Drew Kendall - High School Science Teacher - Retirement**
- 104 **ii. Eric Larson – High School Principal – Retirement**
- 105 **iii. Tracey Rogstad – Middle School Principal – Retirement**
- 106 **iv. Mary Pat Osler – Assistant High School Track Coach**
- 107 **v. Shannon Jessop – High School Girls Volleyball Head Coach**
- 108 **vi. Harry Miller – Middle School Teacher – Retirement**
- 109 **vii. Frosty Hance – Elementary Teacher (ESSER Recovery)**

110

111

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

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

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

115 they would like to remove from the list. No items were removed from the list. Cathi told the

116 Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the authority to decide on

117 and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent. There were

118 no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

119

120 Board Comment

121 Trustees Stephanie Esch and Cathi Cook thanked the administrative staff for their

122 dedication and years of service with Stevensville School District.

123 Trustee Dan Mullan asked if the district was going to develop a volunteer coach policy.

124

125 Public Comment

126 High School Principal Eric Larson thanked Mr. Drew Kendall for his years of services to

127 Stevensville High School Science Department. Mr. Larson also thanked Tracey Rogstad for her

128 service as a Middle School Principal.

129 Assistant High School Principal/Athletic Director Dani Smith indicated that there will be an

130 “Hour Thon” later this year for the Spring athletic teams to raise funds for their teams. Ms. Smith

131 indicated that there aren’t many overnight trips scheduled for the spring sports teams.

133 **8. Business: Action Items**

134 **A. Out of District Students**

135

136 **i. Elementary**

137

138 There were no out-of-district applications.

139

140 **ii. High School**

141

142 There were no out-of-district applications.

143

144 **B. Consideration of BID for Disposed Property**

145 Superintendent Thennis indicated that we received a bid for the Dell Printer that was listed
146 on the District property for disposal from our January Board Meeting. The bid was included in
147 the packet for the trustee's consideration. Superintendent Thennis supported accepting the bid
148 as presented.

149 Ben Meyer moved to accept the bid as presented for the Dell printer 1110. Billy Donaldson
150 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

151

152 **C. Policy 1st Reading (5336, 3210)**

153 Superintendent Thennis indicated that policy #5336 guides payroll procedures for
154 compensating employees performing duties in two different bargaining units. The previous policy
155 blended the wages to produce a weighted average for overtime wages. The policy presented
156 reflects current business office practice compensating employees for overtime work based on the
157 higher hourly wage. Policy #3210 is an updated model policy provided by Kaleva Law. This is a
158 foundational policy that relates to policies being discussed in committee. It also updates language
159 to include the Universal Complaint Form (1700).

160

161 Stephanie Esch moved to advance policy #5336 and #3210 to 2nd Board Reading as
162 presented. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

163

164 **D. Farmers State Bank CD Investment**

165 Superintendent Thennis explained that during the January 9th Board Meeting it was
166 suggested that we consider breaking the terms of two certificates of deposit and reinvest at high
167 interest rates. The information about CD 8619150 was inaccurate and needs clarification. CD
168 8619150 is a sinking fund investment not an endowment CD as presented. Trustees should
169 rescind the previous motion and create a new motion to break the terms of the current CD then
170 reinvest these funds. Superintendent Thennis recommended the terms of CD 8619150 be broken
171 then reinvested into CD 7002003270 at 5.15%. This CD matures 12/15/2024.

172 Ben Meyer moved to rescind the previous motion made on January 9th, 2024, to invest CD
173 8619150 into a CD at 4.55% for a term of 13 months. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All
174 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

175 Dan Mullan moved to break the investment terms for CD 8619150 and invest funds from
176 CD 8619150 into CD 7002003270 at 5.15% until the CD matures on December 15th, 2024. Ben
177 Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. Dan Mullan abstained. The motion passed.

178

179 **E. Substitute Wage Increase for Paras, Teacher, Kitchen, and Custodial Staff**

180 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Montana minimum wage increased as of
181 January 1, 2024, to \$10.30/hour. The Business Manager, Christy McLaren evaluated wages
182 earned by our substitute teachers, paras, custodial and kitchen staff. Wages for these staff were
183 increased. A chart showing the old rates and the new rates was included in the board packet.

184 Stephanie Esch moved to increase the substitute teacher, para, kitchen, and custodial
185 wages as presented to comply with Montana minimum wage law. Ben Meyer seconded the
186 motion. All trustees voted. The motion passed.

187

188 **F. MOU – Sick Leave Adjustment for Stevensville Teachers Association for** 189 **2022-2023**

190 Superintendent Thennis explained that during the interest based bargaining session last
191 spring with the Stevensville Teachers Association, the District and STA agreed that teachers
192 employed during the 2022-2023 school year would receive four additional sick days as
193 compensation for increased instructional time during the 2022-23 school year. The bargaining
194 team agreed to address this agreement using a Memorandum of Understanding between the

195 District and the Stevensville Teachers Association. The MOU was included in the packet for
196 trustee review.

197 Dan Mullan motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the
198 Stevensville School District and the Stevensville Teachers Association as a one-time compensation
199 for additional instructional time during the 2022-2023 school year. Tony Hudson seconded the
200 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

201 **G. Resolution for Trustee Election**

202 Superintendent Thennis indicated that in January the Board entered into a contract with
203 Ravalli County to administer the 2024 school election. Currently the trustees must consider the
204 issues presented in the Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election. Montana Code Annotated 20-
205 20-201 requires the Board to call for an election seventy days prior to the election stating the
206 date and purpose of the election. The election will be held on Tuesday, May 7th, 2024, by mail-
207 in ballot. The draft resolution includes consideration of three (3) school trustee positions expiring
208 in May 2024. The expiring three-year terms are held by Trustee Cathi Cook, Trustee Kris McKoy,
209 and Trustee Jennifer Gunterman, Lone Rock High School District. In addition, the draft resolution
210 contains language for running a mill levy. An operational mill levy may not be needed or
211 necessary, but including language in the resolution allows the trustees to consider if necessary.

212 Board Comment

213 Trustee Stephanie Esch recognizes that it would be hard to pass a levy and that a levy
214 would be a lot of work. She recognizes the great work the staff does and isn't sure what the best
215 way to proceed is.

216 Trustee Ben Meyer would like it if a Budget Work Session were scheduled soon to review
217 the 24-25 Budget. Superintendent Thennis indicated he would look at potential dates and let
218 trustees know.

219 Ben Meyer motioned to call for a Trustee and Mill Levy Election for the Stevensville
220 Elementary and High School District to be conducted Tuesday, May 7th, 2024. Billy Donaldson
221 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

222 **H. Out of State Travel for DECA National Competition**

223 Superintendent Thennis indicated the Stevensville High School DECA students recently
224 competed at the state competition in Missoula. Students in DECA club are enrolled in CTE courses
225 in business, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, and or economics who create projects and
226 compete with other Montana high school students. Jacki Bauman is the club advisor and CTE
227 teacher. Twelve students attended the Montana competition and two students qualified to
228 compete at the national event. The national competition is scheduled in Anaheim, California April
229 25th through May 1st. Ms. Bauman and the students were asked to attend the March Board
230 meeting to discuss their projects. Since the national competition is out of state, trustees will need
231 to approve their travel. Superintendent Thennis supports sending the students to Anaheim to
232 compete in this competition.

233 Tony Hudson motioned to approve out of state travel for qualifying students to attend the
234 National DECA competition in Anaheim California April 25th – May 1st, 2024. Billy Donaldson
235 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

236 **I. Consideration to Terminate a Probationary Employee**

237 Superintendent Thennis indicated that he was recommending the termination of a
238 probationary employee without cause. Ms. Struzynski was notified in writing on Friday, February
239 2, 2024, of his intent to terminate her employment. This action requires approval from the Board
240 except Trustee Gunterman because Mrs. Struzynski is an elementary district employee.

241 Dan Mullan motioned to terminate the employment of Ms. Valorie Struzynski, a classified
242 probationary employee, without cause on February 13, 2024. Tony Hudson seconded the motion.
243 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

244 **J. Consideration of Policy 1700 Uniform Complaint Process – (Closed** 245 **Session)**

246 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the individual requesting the session was not
247 present tonight, so this item will need to be tabled until the March Board Meeting.

248 Stephanie Esch motioned to table the consideration of Policy 1700 Uniform Complaint
249 Process until the March 12th, 2024, Board Meeting. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All
250 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

251 **9. Adjourn**

252 Ben Meyer motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Tony Hudson seconded the motion.
253 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

254

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

256 Date: March 12, 2024.

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