

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 **March 12, 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, Jennifer Gunterman, Stephanie
14 Esch, Ben Meyer (via phone), Tony Hudson, Kris McKoy, and Billy Donaldson. Superintendent
15 Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, and Principals Tracey Rogstad and Sierra
16 Bauer (Hankinson) were present. Vice-Principals Dani Smith and Chanda Gum were present.

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

18 **Board Comment**

19 Trustee Dan Mullan commented that the FFA competition last weekend was wonderful
20 and so was the choir performance last Saturday. He wanted to thank the teachers and students
21 that did such a wonderful job at each of these events.

22 **Public Comment**

23 Local citizen, Kacy Schoff, commented that she is concerned about the district's "I Love
24 You Guy's" lockdown protocol for moving students to a safe location offsite for parent's to meet
25 up with their student in the event of an emergency event where students are moved away from
26 the school. She is concerned because the protocol is not on the district website and because the
27 meeting site has not been disclosed to parents. She also asked if the district would be posting
28 board packets on the website. Ms. Schoff was told that the district has not changed how it
29 distributes board packets. If Ms. Schoff would like to discuss the emergency protocol she needs
30 to schedule a meeting with Superintendent Thennis.

31 **3. Recognition**

32 **A. DECA – Students attending the national competition**

33 Superintendent Thennis recognized Stevensville High School Business and DECA teacher
34 Jacki Bauman and the (2) seniors who qualified for the DECA National Convention in Anaheim,
35 California April 25th through May 1st. The students are doing their presentation on Business Law
36 and Ethics.

37 Superintendent Thennis recognized Trustee Stephanie Esch with a "Friends in Education
38 Award" plaque received from the Montana Association of Elementary Principals.

39 **Public Comment**

40 None

41 **4. Approval of Minutes**

42 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to
43 be made regarding the minutes. Stephanie Esch indicated there was an error on line 91 of the
44 minutes and the word "Baseball" needed to be added before "Coach".

45 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the February 13th, 2024; regular board minutes
46 as presented with the revision. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The
47 motion passed.

48 **5. Approval of Claims**

49 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments on the claims or
50 students' accounts. The Business Manager, Christy McLaren, indicated that at a prior board
51 meeting it was asked what was happening to balances remaining in Student Accounts for past
52 High School Senior Classes? Christy indicated that she was working with Bill Schiele, the prior
53 Business Manager to clear out the Class of 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 along with and athletic fund
54 so that these funds could be used towards the building of a custom trophy case for the school.

55 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated the 1st batch of March claim #41071 total \$10,607.26,
56 the 2nd batch of claims #41072 - 41159 total \$168,140.27, the 3rd batch of claims #41160 through
57 #41162 total \$96,776.38, plus the February students' accounts in the amount of \$26,336.36 for
58 a total of \$301,860.27. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts
59 as presented. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

60 **6. Informational Items**

61 **A. Student Representative Report – Cheyenne Sannar**

62 Cheyenne Sannar reported that the February Food Drive done by the High School Student
63 Council and FCCLA collected 1678 pounds of food this year. Cheyenne also indicated that Spring
64 Sports have started.

65 **B. Superintendent Report**

66 **i. Enrollment Report**

67 Superintendent Thennis included enrollment numbers in the board packet for review.

68 **ii. Athletic/Activities budget Report**

69 Superintendent Thennis also included a breakdown of expenses for athletics and activities
70 year to date. Trustee Dan Mullan asked what the expenses included for each activity and was
71 told that they include supplies, meals, and hotels. Trustee Tony Hudson asked if the bus driver
72 was paid for downtime. Superintendent Thennis indicated that bus drivers are paid for downtime.
73 It was mentioned that that basketball was not included in the breakdown and Superintendent
74 Thennis said he would follow up on that.

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

76 Business Manager Christy McLaren reviewed the budget reports with trustees. Christy
77 indicated that she has been reappropriating funds set aside for health insurance to other areas.
78 Christy did note that Fund #112 has a negative balance currently that we will need to watch and
79 may need to be supplemented with general funds at the end of the year. Christy also indicated
80 that this is partly because claims reimbursement and expenses always lag.

81
82 **C. Lone Rock School District Report – Trustee Gunterman**

83 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman indicated that at the last Lone Rock Board Meeting it was
84 indicated that the district was hiring an Elementary School Principal, and that Dr. Dobell will be
85 both the Superintendent and Middle School Principal. Ms. Gunterman indicated that the district
86 is finishing up their school calendar for FY24-25. She also indicated that the Foxtail neighborhood
87 will be requesting the addition of an out-of-district bus stop, which is on our agenda later tonight.

88 **7. Consent Agenda**

89 **A. Employment * All employment is pending completion of satisfactory**
90 **background checks.**

91 **i. Substitutes**

92 **ii. Cely Jackson – High School paraprofessional – Returning to full-**
93 **time employment after being granted leave of absence.**

94 **iii. Shaun Madruga – Assistant Tennis Coach**

- 95 **iv. Megan McCollaum – Volunteer Track Coach**
- 96 **B. Resignations**
- 97 **i. Jessi Voss – Elementary Paraprofessional – June 6, 2024**
- 98 **ii. Anna Swisher delaRosa - Paraprofessional**
- 99 **iii. Lori Jetter – Elementary Librarian - Retirement**
- 100 **iv. Vickie Vernon – High School Secretary - Retirement**
- 101 **v. Mary Miller – High School Counselor**
- 102 **vi. Diane Warren – Middle School Special Education**
- 103

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

111

112 Board Comment

113 Superintendent Thennis thanked Lori Jette for 40 years of dedicated service and thanked
114 Vickie Vernon for 43 years of service with the district.

115

116 **8. Business: Action Items**

117 **A. Out of District Students**

118

119 **i. Elementary**

120

121 The trustees reviewed the elementary out-of-district application. There were no
122 questions. Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the elementary out-of-district application as
123 presented. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. Trustees Cathi Cook, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson,
124 Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Trustee Ben Meyer abstained. Trustee
125 Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

126

127 **ii. High School**

128

129 There were no out-of-district applications.

131 **B. Consideration to Deposit Lisa Thompson Funds into Charles Schwab**
132 **Advantage Account**

133 Superintendent Thennis described the generous donation that Lisa and Kirk Thompson
134 made to the Stevensville School District in 2022 to establish a grant to provide staff the
135 opportunity to request funds for special projects. Staff can submit applications for funds three
136 times per year. There is a small committee who reviews the applications and purchases are done
137 through the business office. The Certificate of Deposits established to fund these grants is
138 managed by Charles Schwab in Missoula. These CD's generate funds twice per year. These
139 funds are not always needed immediately, so after a discussion with Kirk Thompson and Christy
140 McLaren it was realized there is an opportunity to deposit these funds into a Charles Schwab
141 Advantage Account, which is like a Money market account, where funds can earn approximately
142 5% interest until withdrawn and deposited with the district. Superintendent Thennis
143 recommended the trustees direct the Business manager to manage this process.

144 Stephanie Esch motioned to direct the Business Manager to manage generated funds from
145 the Lisa Thompson Certificate of Deposit housed at Charles Schwab into a Charles Schwab
146 Advantage Account. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The
147 motion passed.

148

149 **C. Consideration to add an Out of District Bus stop – Lone Rock**

150 Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Lone Rock School District approved a new bus
151 stop intended to improve safety for three of its students. The addition of this stop benefits
152 students' safety and improves pick-up conditions for both kids and the bus driver. The board
153 packet included a description of the location, rationale for the special request, and photos of the
154 original stop compared to the new stop. The change does not alter the current route it simply
155 adds a new stop. By approving this adjustment, the Lone Rock District and Stevensville District
156 can include it in our transportation agreement. Michael Kammerer, a Lone Rock parent affected
157 by this change, spoke to the trustees, and explained why the new stop would be best for student
158 safety. Superintendent Thennis indicated that the transportation agreement would need to be
159 renewed annually.

160

161 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve a new bus stop located at Eastside Highway and
162 Foxtail and adjust the current transportation agreement with Lone Rock District. Kris McKoy

163 seconded the motion. Trustees Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie
164 Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion
165 passed.

166

167 **D. Middle School Cross-Country Cooperative with Lone Rock District**

168 Superintendent Thennis explained that he and Superintendent Dobell have discussed on
169 multiple occasions a cooperative for 7th and 8th grade cross county. We have an existing
170 cooperative agreement in place for football. The addition of cross-country is revenue neutral as
171 it does not increase costs for the Stevensville School District. These students will eventually be
172 enrolled in Stevensville High School. Superintendent Thennis believes this can help improve
173 participation rates for high school cross-country.

174 Board Comment

175 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman feels this will help ease the transition to high school for
176 participating students.

177 Tony Hudson motioned to approve a cooperative agreement between the Lone Rock
178 School District and Stevensville School District for 7th and 8th grade cross-county. Billy Donaldson
179 seconded the motion. Trustees Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie
180 Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion
181 passed.

182 **E. Policy 2nd Reading (5336, 3210)**

183 Superintendent Thennis indicated Policy #5336 guides payroll procedures for
184 compensating employees performing duties in two different bargaining units. The previous policy
185 blended the wages to produce a weighted average for overtime wages. The policy presented
186 reflects current business office practice compensating employees for overtime work based on
187 the higher hourly wage. Policy 3210 # is an updated model policy provided by Kaleva Law. This
188 is a foundational policy that relates to policies being discussed in committee.

189 Board Comment

190 It was noted that on Policy #5336 on line 18 the word "or" needed to be changed to the
191 word "at".

192 Stephanie Esch motioned to adopt policies 5336 and 3210 as presented with edit. Kris
193 McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

194

195 **F. Stevensville School District Calendar for 2024-2025**

196 Superintendent Thennis explained that building leadership teams and classified staff were
197 given the proposed calendar draft. The key topics of their discussions were: parent teacher
198 conferences, dates of spring break, timing of open house, and the end of year on June 10th.
199 Although the proposed calendar does not adjust for all the input provided, modifications were
200 made to winter break to accommodate the end of the school year. Optimum dates for parent-
201 teacher conferences and open house still need to be determined.

202 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to adopt the 2024-2025 Stevensville School District
203 Calendar as presented with the understanding that open house and parent teacher conferences
204 will be added. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

205 **G. Senate Bill 307 Resolution to Impose Levies**

206 Superintendent Thennis explained that Senate Bill 307 requires school districts that intend
207 to impose an increase in a non-voted levy in FY2025 for the purposes of funding the
208 Transportation, Bus Depreciation, Tuition, Adult Education, and/or Building Reserve funds, shall
209 adopt a resolution and provide notice no later than March 31, 2024. This resolution is an estimate,
210 and the actual amounts may vary based on the final FY2025 budgeting. If approved, the District
211 is required to provide public notice of the intent to increase the identified permissive funds (Tuition
212 Fund, Adult Education Fund, Transportation Fund, Bus Depreciation Fund and Building Reserve
213 Fund). The District is only required to report estimated increase to the levy amounts in each
214 permissive area. However, we also report decreases when they occur. These levies will be used
215 to fund increasing student transportation costs, increasing special education costs, deferred
216 maintenance, and school safety measures. The change in mills is based on certified taxable
217 valuations from FY2024. Therefore, it is likely fewer mills will be needed because taxable
218 valuation is likely greater in FY2025 than FY2024. A sheet listing each fund and the recommended
219 changes in each mill levy was included in the board packet.

220 **i. Elementary**

221 Stephanie Esch moved to adopt the Resolution of Intent to impose an increase in
222 permissive levies in the Elementary District as presented. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. Cathi
223 Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Tony
224 Hudson voted nay. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. Motion passed.

225 **ii. High School**

226 Board Comment

227 Trustee Ben Meyer commented that he does not want to see the district transfer funds to
228 the interlocal fund from the elementary district when there are items that need support within
229 the k-8 district and money should be spent in the elementary district.

230 Ben Meyer moved to adopt the Resolution of Intent to impose an increase in permissive
231 levies in the High School District as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. Cathi Cook,
232 Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Tony Hudson
233 voted nay. The motion passed.

234 **H. Elementary Budget Recommendations**

235 Superintendent Thennis explained that due to the end of ESSER funding, the following
236 elementary positions funded by ESSER would be eliminated in FY25:

237 Certified

- 238 • 1.0 FTE – Early Kindergarten Teacher
- 239 • 1.0 FTE – 2nd Grade Recovery Teacher
- 240 • 1.0 FTE – 3rd Grade Recovery Teacher
- 241 • 1.0 FTE – Middle School Intervention Teacher

242 Classified

- 243 • 1.0 FTE – Early Kindergarten Paraprofessional

244 It was Superintendent Thennis' recommendation that the following new positions be added for
245 the Stevensville Elementary District for FY25:

- 246 • 1.0 FTE – Early Kindergarten Teacher
- 247 • 1.0 FTE – Early Kindergarten Teacher
- 248 • 1.0 FTE – Middle School Teacher

249 Billy Donaldson moved to approve the budget recommendations as presented. Kris McKoy
250 seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, Tony
251 Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

252 **I. High School Budget Recommendations**

253 Superintendent Thennis explained that due to the end of ESSER funding, the following
254 high school positions funded by ESSER must be eliminated:

255 Certified

- 256 • 1.0 FTE – Alternative Learning Coordinator
- 257 • In addition, 0.5 FTE will be reduced in Social Studies

258 Superintendent Thennis recommended that the following new positions be added to the
259 Stevensville High School District for FY25:

- 260 • 1.0 FTE – Alternative Learning Coordinator
- 261 • 0.50 FTE – Special Education
- 262 • 1.0 FTE – Industrial Technology Teacher (CTE) Interlocal Funds

263 There was concern amongst the trustees regarding the reduction of 0.50 FTE Social
264 Studies position, since Social Studies is a core subject, and no one knew what impact it would
265 have on students.

266 Ben Meyer motioned to table the elimination of 0.50 FTE Social Studies position until more
267 information is obtained. Stephanie Esh seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion
268 passed.

269 Ben Meyer motioned to eliminate the 1.0 FTE Certified Alternative Learning Coordinator
270 position being funded with ESSER at the end of FY24. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All
271 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

272 Ben Meyer motioned to approve the addition of the 1.0 FTE Alternative Learning
273 Coordinator for the High School for FY25. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees
274 voted aye. The motion passed.

275 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the addition of the 0.50 FTE Special Education
276 Teacher for the High School for FY25. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted
277 aye. The motion passed.

278 Ben Meyer moved to authorize the district for 1.0 FTE out of the interlocal fund to advertise
279 for multiple CTE instructors only after collaborating with current CTE staff and following the
280 guidance laid out in the CLNA that was completed last year. Job postings for this FTE will be
281 highly detailed to focus on hiring the right people, not just people who have a qualified class 4
282 license from OPI. Postings for these openings shall be written in collaboration with the current
283 CTE staff. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

284 **J. Consideration of Policy 1700 Uniform Complaint Process – (Closed**
285 **Session)**

286 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated that the board would be entering a Closed Session as
287 per Montana Code Annotated 20-3-203, the agenda item relates to a matter of individual privacy.
288 Cathi indicated that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public
289 disclosure. Cathi asked the public to leave the room. The time was 9:10 pm. The public re-
290 entered at 10:12 pm.

291 **9. Adjourn**

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

294

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

296 Date: April 9, 2024.

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