

1 **Stevensville Public Schools**  
2 **School District #2**  
3 **300 Park Avenue**  
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7  
8 **Board Work Session**

9 **May 14, 2024**

**6:00 pm**

**Music Center Choir Room**

10  
11 **1. Opening of Meeting**

12 Chairwoman Cathi Cook called the meeting to order in the MPR Choir Room. The trustees  
13 present were Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Jennifer Gunterman, Ben Meyer (arrived a few minutes  
14 late), Tony Hudson, and Billy Donaldson. Kris McKoy was not present. Superintendent Dave  
15 Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, and Principals Tracey Rogstad, and Sierra  
16 Bauer (Hankinson) were present. Vice-Principal/Athletic Director Dani Smith, and Vice-Principal  
17 Chanda Gum was present.

18 **2. Stevensville School District Activities**

19 Board Chair Cathi Cook asked that tonight's audience keep comments short and to the  
20 point as the work session would be ending promptly at 7:00 pm so that the board meeting could  
21 begin.

22 Superintendent Thennis indicated that he wanted to keep the work session solution  
23 oriented. Work Session packets were made available for attendees.

24 Superintendent Thennis provided a breakdown of the Activities Transportation  
25 expenditures for July 2023 to present (the May expenses are estimates). This list includes both  
26 Co-curricular and Athletic transportation expenditures. Mr. Thennis indicated that the largest  
27 share of activity expenses is in transportation. These expenses include mileage, equipment (van),  
28 driver downtime/overages and meals.

29 The next item reviewed by Superintendent Thennis was expenditures for hotels, meals  
30 and per diem expenses by athletic activity. Mr. Thennis indicated that basketball had no travel  
31 meals or hotel expenditures.

32 Supplies for each athletic activity were then reviewed by Superintendent Thennis. Both  
33 volleyball and cross-country had higher supply expenditures this year as this year uniforms were  
34 replaced for these activities. Basketball had no new supply expenditures. This report also shows  
35 expenditures made for general supplies, such as the trainer, porta-potties for games, etc.

36 The next report reviewed was for baseball supply expenditures so far for FY23-24.

37 An Activity Detail Report showing all fundraised monies for FY23-24 for each athletic  
38 activity was included in the packet. Superintendent Thennis stated that it is the district's  
39 responsibility to ensure that fundraised monies are spent equitably amongst the various activities.  
40 In the past, the district had all fund-raised monies placed into a general account and then  
41 distributed funds from that account to the various activities to do this.

42 The Pay to Play 22-23 Report was included in the packet to show the funds collected and  
43 expended last year. Superintendent Thennis indicated that he didn't want activity fees to be a  
44 barrier to student's participating in activities at the district, so that is why no activity fees were  
45 charged this year.

46 Superintendent Thennis indicated that we are one of the few districts that provide a per  
47 diem when our students stay overnight, most schools do not.

48 Superintendent Thennis has been asked what happens to dormant student activity  
49 accounts. The board of trustees has been discussing this over several recent board meetings. It  
50 was decided that the funds from dormant accounts would be placed in an account for the creation  
51 of a 6" x 6" trophy case. A copy of the new account is included in the packet.

52 Superintendent Thennis indicated we're here tonight to move forward.

53 Public Comment

- 54 • A local citizen asked, how are fundraised monies supposed to be spent?  
55 Superintendent Thennis indicated that this is a confusing topic, but that the district tries  
56 to follow MHSA guidelines. For example, what should be included in "Spirit Packs", the  
57 district and booster club need to work together to decide what items should be included.  
58 • Glen Frost, local citizen, can't equity be done over 3 years' time? Can't a policy or  
59 procedure be written to clarify fundraising moving forward?  
60 Superintendent Thennis concurs.

61 • Nathan Bean, local citizen, could transportation for activities be done in-house less  
62 expensively?

63 Superintendent Thennis indicated that our activity buses are owned by the district. Mr.  
64 Thennis also stated that expenses for all activity-related costs are paid by the General  
65 fund not the Transportation fund.

66 • Keith Chambers, Boys Basketball Coach, indicated that he felt the district needed to stop  
67 adding new activities, when the district is having trouble funding the current activities.  
68 He is concerned about communication. Keith asked about 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation and  
69 never received a response back from anyone. Keith asked if there is a liaison between  
70 the board and the booster club. Recently there was MHSAA communication sent out  
71 regarding Title IX. Keith is wondering if any of the board members received this  
72 information. The district Academic Policy doesn't feel like it is fairly implemented. (If a  
73 student turns homework in, then the teacher needs to record it!) The trophy case in the  
74 foyer was promised five (5) years ago. All other schools have a trophy case to display  
75 awards in. This meeting is long overdue!

76 Board Chair, Cathi Cook, was the unofficial liaison for the past 4 years until last November  
77 when she was removed from the mailing list. Keith indicated that it seemed to work more  
78 smoothly when the AD was the liaison.

79 • Jason Hall, local citizen, if we sanctioned events like Corvallis track meet can funds raised  
80 be donated to district? He also feels that we need to start kids early wearing "Yellow  
81 Jackets" uniforms.

82 • Jill Hughes, local citizen, booster club can coordinate with school on fundraisers so there  
83 aren't problems.

84 • Nathan Bean, local citizen, why are 7<sup>th</sup> graders wearing the same uniforms from 40 years  
85 ago? Why is the superintendent doing the scheduling for events?

86 Superintendent Thennis explained that Dani had a scheduler that left. When the scheduler  
87 left, problems were discovered, and he stepped in to help solve the problems. The  
88 Assistant Principal/Athletic Director position developed because a year ago when Mr.  
89 Thennis tried to hire a TOSA (teacher on special assignment) no one was interested. Mr.  
90 Thennis indicated we do need help to make this position work and he is working on a  
91 solution.

92 • Andrew Shugart, local citizen, asked if the Athletic Director position is a certified position?

93 Superintendent Thennis indicated that an Athletic Director must have an Administrators  
94 license to hire and evaluate coaches, etc.

95 • Glen Frost, local citizen, thinks the district is paranoid. The district is afraid to make a  
96 decision. He believes the district needs a full-time Athletic Director. Communication is  
97 key. Nate Fry used to be the liaison between the district and booster club, but Dr. Moore  
98 stopped that. We need pep rallies again, more school spirit, etc.

99 • Trevor Motley, teacher, we need a nice 15 passenger van.

100 • Michael Edwards, Transportation Supervisor at Harlow's Transportation, 15 passenger  
101 vans are illegal for school districts to have, transportation liaison could be combined with  
102 Athletic Director.

103 • Ty Miller, local citizen, communication is an issue.

104

105 Board Comment

106 • \*\*\*Please email, call, or schedule with Superintendent Thennis with any comments or  
107 possible solutions to the topics discussed tonight. \*\*\*

108 • Trustee Tony Hudson is happy to discuss ideas/his decisions with anyone.

109 • Trustee Dan Mullan believes it is important for dialog and interaction between all affected  
110 parties.

111 • Trustee Ben Meyer asked attendees to keep coming. Better decisions are made when  
112 more voices are involved. Let's work together.

113 • Trustee Stephanie Esch thanked everyone for coming.

114 • Dani Smith, AD/Assistant Principal, thanked the booster club and Brie Gum who has been  
115 very supportive of the school district.

116

117 Stephanie Esch motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Ben Meyer seconded the motion.

118 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

119

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

121 Date: June 11, 2024.

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