

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 **May 14, 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, Tony Hudson, Kris McKoy, and Billy Donaldson. Superintendent Dave Thennis,
15 Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, and Principals Tracey Rogstad and Sierra Bauer
16 (Hankinson) were present. Vice-Principals Dani Smith and Chanda Gum were present.

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

18 **Board Comment**

19 Trustee Ben Meyer thanked the administrative staff, staff, and audience who attended the
20 work session tonight. It makes for a long day, and he appreciates that everyone has chosen to
21 attend.

22 **Public Comment**

- 23 • Sean Lenahan, local citizen, meetings like tonight help reduce ambiguity. He feels that
24 the district needs to evaluate paring down activities in the future. It is time to submit
25 information to MHSAA regarding the activities that the district will be participating in next
26 year and the district needs to decide if we can participate in certain sports again next Fall.
27 He is concerned about whether there are enough players to have a varsity football team.
- 28 • Nathan Bean, a local citizen, would like to be contacted regarding the building of the
29 trophy case.
- 30 • Michael Edwards, Harlow's Transportation Supervisor, thank you to everyone from
31 Harlow's. June 6th there will be a yearend BBQ at the Bus Barn.
- 32 • Christina Shucar, a local citizen, is the last day of school a full day or a half day?

33 Superintendent Thennis stated that June 6th will be a half day.

- 34 • James Mestrich, a local citizen, indicated that many of the students are very concerned
35 about whether there is going to be a football team next Fall. It is causing anxiety and
36 stress for kids.

37

38 **3. Approval of Minutes**

39 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to
40 be made regarding the minutes. There was an error on line 345 of the April 9th board minutes.
41 Christy will remove "and the 2024-25" and the "s" from "seasons". There was also an error on
42 line 131 and "he" needs to be added after the word "that".

43 Christy indicated that on the April 25th special board minutes, on line 119, after the word
44 premium it should read, "but is okay with the 4% increase". On line 128 it should read, "Cathi
45 Cook, Billy Donaldson, Kris McKoy, Jennifer Gunterman, Stephanie Esch, Ben Meyer, and Tony
46 Hudson voted aye. Dan Mullan voted no".

47 Tony Hudson motioned to approve the April 9th, 2024; regular board meeting minutes
48 with as presented with the revisions. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye.
49 The motion passed.

50 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the April 25, 2024; special board meeting
51 minutes as presented with the revisions. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted
52 aye. The motion passed.

53 **4. Approval of Claims**

54 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to
55 be made regarding the claims or students' accounts. Trustee Dan Mullan asked about
56 claim#41323 for SHI International Corp for \$46,948.00 for Dell Laptops. Superintendent Thennis
57 indicated this purchase was for the teacher laptop replacements.

58 Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated May claims #41253 - #41367 total \$313,540.33, plus
59 the April students' accounts in the amount of \$30,844.03 for a total of \$344,384.36. Stephanie
60 Esch motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Kris McKoy seconded
61 the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

62 **5. Informational Items**

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

64 Cheyenne Sannar reported that this is her final board meeting. Cheyenne indicated it has
65 been a great experience being involved as a student representative on the board.

66 **B. Superintendent Report**

67 **i. Enrollment Report**

68 Superintendent Thennis reviewed the enrollment report with the trustees. Trustee Dan
69 Mullan asked what the implications of the decreased enrollment in the high school might have on
70 the 3-year rolling average for the district ANB. Superintendent Thennis indicated that he is
71 hopeful that we can stimulate students to back to our district through programs like the ALC
72 (Alternative Learning Center). Trustee Stephanie Esch added that decreasing enrollment is a
73 state-wide issue. She asked if there were ways that the district can do online classes.
74 Superintendent Thennis indicated that he is looking into this as an option. Trustee Dan Mullan
75 asked if we can get ANB funding for home school students. Superintendent Thennis indicated
76 that the district does receive partial ANB funding for home school students participating in
77 Stevensville athletics and attending classes. Trustee Ben Meyer asked if there was any way that
78 we could set up a charter school. Trustee Meyer also asked if Principal Kaney could provide
79 enrollment data like the information received in this month's board packet in the future.

80

81 **ii. Election Report**

82 Congratulations to Fran Schmitz and Nathan Bean, our new trustees! We are unable to
83 canvass the votes until later in the month due to legislative HB 172, which allows for the boards
84 of county commissioners to request a random-sample audit of vote-counting machines after
85 nonfederal elections.

86 Superintendent Thennis checked with trustees in attendance to see what date later in May
87 would work for a special board meeting. It was tentatively decided to schedule the special board
88 meeting for Tuesday, May 21st at 10 am in the District Office Conference Room.

89 Superintendent Thennis discussed that the school district attorney has recommended that
90 the superintendent act as the board chair until the board chair is selected during the
91 reorganization of the board at the next board meeting. Board Chairwoman Cathi Cook indicated
92 that we could have the existing board select a temporary chair right after the canvass of votes,
93 but we should check with the attorney to make sure this would be appropriate.

94 Trustee Ben Meyer asked a question about the dirt being removed at the back of the
95 school. Superintendent Thennis indicated that the Stars Foundation indicated that the base is
96 not needed for the tennis court project.

97

98 **iii. Audit Report**

99 Business Manager Christy McLaren discussed the audit report and reviewed the (3) three
100 findings that the auditors had cited the district for in the audit.

101

102 **iv. Budget Report (Christy McLaren)**

103 Business Manager Christy McLaren distributed copies of the April Budget Reports for
104 trustees to review. Christy distributed a list of expenses by object code #300 & 350 for both the
105 elementary and high school year-to-date. This had been requested by Trustee Ben Meyer at a
106 previous Board Meeting. Christy answered questions pertaining to these lists and budget reports.

107 Board Chairwoman Cathi Cook distributed a letter Bill Schiele had written to the Board.
108 Cathi indicated that year-to-date Bill had been paid \$11,295 as a consultant for the school district
109 to assist in the district office. Those wages were paid with no taxes, no retirement, no vacation
110 leave, no sick leave, and no health insurance.

111 Bill's letter clarified the agreement between Bill and the superintendent at that time and
112 how it was decided for Bill to fill the third assistant clerk vacancy in the district office
113 on a part-time basis once Bill retired.

114

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

116 Trustee Jennifer Gunterman reported on Lone Rock School District. She indicated that a
117 new elementary principal has been hired. The audit for last year has been completed and was
118 presented at their last meeting. The school year ends on May 22nd. Dr. Dobell has been able to
119 go home from the hospital.

120

121 **6. Consent Agenda**

122 **A. Employment** * *All employment is pending completion of satisfactory*
123 *background checks.*

- 124 **i. Substitutes**
- 125 **ii. Madison Hayworth – Middle School Technology Teacher**
- 126 **iii. Kyla Frandsen – Middle School Teacher**
- 127 **iv. Bradford Fruechte – high School Science**

- 128 v. Tyler Joyner – High School Science Teacher
- 129 vi. Robert Ryan – High School Counselor
- 130 vii. Jody Ross – Elementary School Special Education Teacher
- 131 viii. Laraine Adams – High School Special Education Teacher
- 132 ix. Kyra Nishimoto – Assistant High School Girls Soccer Coach
- 133 x. Chris Talbot – High School Summer School Teacher
- 134 xi. Sydnie Heidtke – High School Summer School Teacher
- 135 xii. Wes Wells – High School Summer School Teacher
- 136 xiii. Peggy Diepstraten – Kindergarten Readiness Camp Paraeducator
- 137 xiv. Candace Briggs – Kindergarten Readiness Camp Teacher

138 **B. Resignations**

- 139 i. Trae Williams High School PE Teacher, High School Head Football
- 140 Coach, High School Head Track Coach
- 141 ii. Kelsy Mahan – Middle School Teacher
- 142 iii. Jeff Gum – High School Assistant Football Coach and High School
- 143 Assistant Basketball Coach
- 144 iv. Stephen Schlotterer – High School Math Teacher
- 145 v. Tylor Olsen – High School Head Wrestling Coach
- 146 vi. Keith Chambers – High School head Boys Basketball Coach

147
148 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.
149 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.
150 There were no questions or comments. Trustee Dan Mullan commented that he was concerned
151 about the turnover in coaches at the school district. Cathi asked the Board if there were any
152 consent items they would like to remove from the list. No items were removed from the list.
153 Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the authority
154 to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent.
155 There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

156

157 **7. Business: Action Items**

158 **A. Request for Out-of-State Travel – National FFA Convention**

159
160 Superintendent Thennis indicated that during 2024-2025 the Stevensville FFA students
161 and advisors plan to travel to the national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference
162 is scheduled for October 23-26, 2024. Approval of out-of-state travel may impact up to twelve
163 (12) students. Stevensville FFA requests approval for October 18 -27, 2024, including travel and
164 attendance at the conference. Superintendent Thennis is in support of this opportunity for the
165 students to experience leadership and career training.

166 Tony Hudson motioned to approve out-of-state travel for FFA officers to attend the
167 National FFA convention in Indianapolis, IN from October 18th, 2024, to October 27th, 2024.
168 Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

169

170 **B. Policy 1st Reading - 3141**

171 Superintendent Thennis indicated that this updated policy guides the district to comply
172 with HB 203 which changes out-of-district enrollment. This law states that districts must accept
173 out-of-district (nonresident) students unless enrollment negatively impacts the quality of
174 education for resident pupils by grade level or school. According to the Montana Code, there are
175 three ways enrollment of out-of-district students can negatively impact the quality of education
176 for resident pupils. These include stressing construction limits (space), impeding educational
177 improvement efforts (ISAP – Accreditation Document), or hindering educational quality through
178 truancy, expulsion, and suspension. At the previous meeting, Trustees sent policy 3141 back to
179 the Policy Committee to establish flexibility with timelines. The policy presented tonight provides
180 flexibility while maintaining the ability to consider how out-of-district enrollment could harm
181 educational quality. Trustee Dan Mullan asked who is responsible for costs associated with
182 educating special education students. Superintendent Thennis indicated that the resident district
183 is responsible for reimbursing the district of attendance for any of these expenditures.

184 Stephanie Esch motioned to move policy 3141 as presented for 2nd Reading. Jennifer
185 Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

186

187 **C. Classified Staff Recommendation for Rehire**

188 Superintendent Thennis recommended that the rehiring of the employee groups listed.
189 He recommended each group be approved with a separate motion.

190 **i. District Secretaries**

191 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the rehiring of District Secretaries as presented. Kris
192 McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

193 **ii. High School Paraprofessionals**

194 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the rehiring of the High School Paraprofessionals
195 as presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

196

197 **iii. Elementary School Paraprofessionals**

198 Kris McKoy motioned to approve the rehiring of the Elementary Paraprofessionals as
199 presented. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy
200 Donaldson, Stephanie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did
201 not vote. The motion passed.

202 **iv. Food Service Staff**

203 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the rehiring of Food Service Staff as presented. Kris
204 McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

205 **v. Custodial, Grounds and Maintenance Staff**

206 Tony Hudson motioned to approve the rehiring of Custodial, Grounds and Maintenance
207 Staff as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion
208 passed.

209 **vi. District Office Staff**

210 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the rehiring of District Office Staff as presented.
211 Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

212 **vii. IT Staff**

213 Stephanie Esch motioned to approve the rehiring of IT Staff as presented. Tony Hudson
214 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

215 **viii. Nursing Staff**

216 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the rehiring of Nursing Staff as presented. Jennifer
217 Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

218 **D. District Infinite Campus Administrator Contract**

219 Superintendent Thennis recommended a second contract be approved for Angie Armour
220 to serve as the administrator for Infinite Campus. Infinite Campus is the student management
221 system that houses important human resource records. The administration and upkeep of this
222 program requires time beyond the principal duties and the skills to maintain compliance measures
223 established by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). It was noted that there were errors in the

224 contract that needed to be corrected before the contract could be presented to Ms. Armour, so it
225 was discussed that changes need to be made and then the contract brought back to the board
226 for approval.

227 Ben Meyer motioned to table the Infinite Campus Administrator Contract until the next
228 Board Meeting. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

229

230 **E. District Curriculum Coordinator Contract**

231 Superintendent Thennis recommended that a second contract be approved for Jon Konen
232 to serve as the District Curriculum Coordinator. Mr. Konen's responsibilities for this contract will
233 include monitoring, evaluating and implementing the District's approved curriculum. Mr. Konen
234 would perform these responsibilities corresponding to the calendar and timeline set by the Office
235 of Public Instruction (OPI). Mr. Konen has an extensive background in curriculum and instruction
236 and will be a wonderful asset to the Stevensville District.

237 Board Comment

238 Trustee Dan Mullan asked if the Strategic Plan should be updated.

239 Public Comment

240 Vicki Motley Asked why the difference of \$5,000 for the Infinite Campus Administrator
241 Contract and \$7,000 for the Curriculum Coordinator Contract. Tracey Rogstad commented that
242 there hasn't been a separate contract/compensation in the 10 years that she has been acting as
243 the Infinite Campus Administrator for the district.

244 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the contract as the Curriculum Coordinator for
245 the Stevensville Schools as presented to Jon Konen. Ben Meyer seconded the motion. All trustees
246 voted aye. The motion passed.

247 **F. District Adult Education Contract**

248 Superintendent Thennis presented the Adult Education Coordinator Contract for Mike
249 Mickelson for the 2024-2025 school year. This contract increases the stipend from \$7411 to
250 \$8448 for these duties. Funding for this position comes from the adult education fund. It was
251 noticed that there were errors in the contract that needed to be corrected and brought back to
252 the board for approval before presenting it to Mr. Mickelson.

253 Stephanie Esch motioned to table the District Adult Education Coordinator Contract until
254 the next Board Meeting. Jennifer Gunderman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The
255 motion passed.

256 **G. MOU for Health Benefits with STA**

257 Superintendent Thennis explained that there was an MOU in the board packet that will
258 alter the contribution the district makes to the health benefit premium with the STA (Stevensville
259 Teachers Association). The Negotiation Committee and the STA met last week to discuss the
260 District's contribution and as a result the District will provide \$844/month toward the district
261 approved health insurance for each full-time teacher.

262 Kris McKoy moved to approve the MOU between the District and the Stevensville Teachers
263 Association as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The
264 motion passed.

265 **H. MOU for Health Benefits with Custodial Maintenance (LIUNA)**

266 Superintendent Thennis included an MOU for the health insurance premium change with
267 the LIUNA collective bargaining agreement in the board packet. It is for the same amount as the
268 STA's agreement.

269 Billy Donaldson moved to approve the MOU between the District and the Custodial and
270 Maintenance Association (LIUNA). Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted
271 aye. The motion passed.

272 **I. MOU for Health Benefits with Secretarial and Paraeducator Union**

273 Superintendent Thennis included an MOU for the health insurance premium change with
274 the Secretarial and Para-Educators Association collective bargaining agreement

275 Stephanie Esch moved to approve the MOU between the District and the Secretaries and
276 Para-Educator Association as presented. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted
277 aye. The motion passed.

278 **J. Consideration of Supervisor Contracts**

279 Superintendent Thennis met with each of the District’s supervisors to discuss renewing their
280 contracts for the 2024-2025 school year. The contracts were included in the board packet for
281 the trustee’s consideration.

282 **i. Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor**

283 It was noted that the contracts were written with the old medical contribution of
284 \$9732/year, which needed to be updated to \$10,128/year.

285 Ben Meyer moved to approve the contract for Mr. Dave Haacke as presented. Kris McKoy
286 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed. Ben Meyer moved to amend
287 the medical insurance contribution to \$10,128/year on Dave Haacke’s contract. Kris McKoy
288 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

289 **ii. Food Service Supervisor**

290 Ben Meyer moved to approve the contract for Mrs. Debbie Van Sickle as presented.
291 Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed. Ben Meyer
292 moved to amend the medical insurance contribution to \$10,128/year on Debbie Van Sickle’s
293 contract. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

294 **iii. Technology Supervisor**

295 Ben Meyer moved to approve the contract for Mr. Greg Sheller as presented. Stephanie
296 Esch seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed. Ben Meyer moved to
297 amend the medical insurance contribution to \$10,128/year on Greg Sheller’s contract. Kris McKoy
298 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

299 **iv. Business Manager**

300 Ben Meyer moved to approve the contract for Mrs. Christy McLaren as presented. Billy
301 Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed. Ben Meyer moved
302 to amend the medical insurance contribution to \$10,128/year on Christy McLaren’s contract. Kris
303 McKoy seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

304

305 **K. Transfer of School Safety Funds to Building Reserve (Senate Bill 213)**

306 Superintendent Thennis explained that Montana Code allows schools to transfer state or
307 local revenue from any budgeted or nonbudgeted fund to the building reserve fund, excluding
308 the debt service or retirement funds. The amount is not to exceed the district’s estimated cost
309 of improvements for school and student safety and security. The law states that transferred
310 funds can be used for school resource officers, counselors, staff training, installing and
311 maintaining locking mechanisms for ingress or egress, and updating emergency response
312 systems. The law provides flexibility and efficiency of funds to maintain and improve important
313 security measures. Superintendent Thennis proposed a transfer of funds that will pay for safety
314 and security measures for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. In the past, budget
315 transfers for safety and security covered expenses incurred during the current school year. This
316 request covers expenses from this fiscal year along with projected expenses for the next fiscal
317 year. A contract for SRO (school resource officer) is being discussed with both the Town of
318 Stevensville and the Ravalli County Sheriff’s Office for 2024. Transfer resolutions for both the
319 high school and elementary school are included in the board packet. The elementary resolution
320 requests the transfer of funds from the bus depreciation and transportation. The high school
321 resolution requests the transfer of funds from adult education and transportation. The purpose
322 of the transfers is to fund the following safety and security measures:

- 323 • School Resource Officer
- 324 • Upgrades to Campus Cameras, Doors, and Communication Systems
- 325 • Staff training- First Aid, and other professional development training related to safety.

326 **i. Elementary**

327 Stephanie Esch motioned for the transfer of funds from the transportation and bus
328 depreciation funds totaling \$94,751.67 to the building reserve fund for safety. Ben Meyer
329 seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephnie Esch, Tony
330 Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

331 **ii. High School**

332 Jennifer Gunterman motioned for the transfer of funds from the adult education and bus
333 depreciation funds totaling \$102,680.27 to the building reserve fund for safety. Stephanie Esch
334 seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

335 **L. Budget Amendment Safety Funds**

336 Superintendent Thennis indicated that if the board agrees to transfer funds to the building
337 reserve for safety and security measures, it must also authorize spending authority for the
338 elementary and high school districts. Montana law requires two readings for a school safety
339 budget amendment. The first readings of the budget amendment for both the elementary and
340 high school were included in the board packet.

341

342 **i. Elementary**

343 Tony Hudson moved for the approval of the first reading of the Elementary District budget
344 amendment as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. Cathi Cook, Ben Meyer, Dan
345 Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Stephnie Esch, Tony Hudson, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer
346 Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

347 **ii. High School**

348 Kris McKoy moved for the approval of the first reading of the High School District budget
349 amendment as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye.
350 The motion passed.

351

352 **8. Adjourn**

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

355

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

357 Date: June 11, 2024.

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