

VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION
Renewal Application (three years)

Purpose: ARM 10.55.604(4) "Following the second year of implementation of a variance to standards, the school district shall provide evidence to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the methods selected by the district implement, meet, or exceed results that could have been achieved under established standards."

DUE DATE:

First Monday in March

COUNTY: Yellowstone

DISTRICT: Laurel Public School 7 & 7-70

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

South Elementary School

1. **Standard(s) for which a variance is requested, e.g., 10.55.709. If there is a program delivery standard, be sure to list it as well, e.g., 10.55.1801.**

10.55.709: Library Media Services - .5 FTE for schools with 126-250 students

- 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

The need to submit a renewal application was discussed at the School Board Committee for Learning and Leadership on Feb. 17th, 2022. The renewal application was presented to the full School board on the Feb. 28th, 2022 meeting.

- 3. Provide evidence local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**

The sign in sheet for the February 28th meeting of the Laurel School District Board of Trustees will be included. Review meetings were held with the South & West elementary librarian and administration of both buildings to review the variance renewal application and also current practices to best identify ways in which we could support service delivery for students.

4. Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees approved the application for a renewal variance at an official, properly noticed meeting.

5. Reflection upon initial variance:

a. Describe the specific measurable objectives that were listed in the initial variance application that demonstrated how the proposed variance was to meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).

The specific objectives of the initial application were for all students to have weekly scheduled resource time in the library media center with instruction delivered by the para-professional library assistant in direct collaboration and support from the licensed library media specialist. The licensed library media specialist has maintained a collection that is current and balanced in accordance with specific reading objectives for kindergarteners that can be supported through the library services. These reading objective include but are not limited to RF.K.1a & RI.K.2 retell familiar stories, RF.K.2a rhyming words, RF.K.4 read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding, RL.K.3 Identify story elements.

We feel we are able to meet the needs of students and also adress educational standards with the present plan for support.

b. Provide a summary of the evidence or data gathered to demonstrate that the initial variance meets or exceeds results that could have been achieved under the established standard.

Collaborative and flexible scheduling arranged between administrators of South and West elementary schools has occured to provide consistent availability of services in the library media centers. We have maintained a shared folder of lesson plans during the time of the initial variance to ensure that student's needs are being met. Our pre/post data of Kindergarten reading scores has been challenging mostly due to COVID -19 and limitations of accessibility to the library media center, but we have supported alternatives to resources as appropriate and outlined in our return to schools plan.

- c. After reflection on the initial variance, describe any adjustments that need to be made to meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s).**

The initial variance indicated " Weekly support and direct instruction from the licensed library media specialist at South elementary four days a week for 30 minutes." We found this limited flexibility in scheduling and would adjust this to read, Weekly support of 2 hours each week, from the licensed library media specialist at West elementary to create lesson plans for the para-professional to deliver at South elementary school.

We found that putting a set daily time created more conflict in the scheduling aspect of shared staff. The amount of time allocated is the same, however, the wording allows more flexibility in scheduling.

- 6. Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed renewal variance.**

The mission of this proposed renewal variance is to continue to ensure all students have weekly scheduled resource time in the library media center. The goal is to ensure the instruction is consistent and aligned with our state standards and that as little disruption to student learning as possible is mitigated through collaborative planning and shared scheduling commitments.

- 7. List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed renewal variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).**

A shared schedule of the library media specialist is maintained and supported by both South Elementary and West Elementary administrators.

Weekly support is provided from the library media specialist to the para-professional at South Elementary

Lesson planning is aligned to state standards specific to reading objectives and are maintained for the duration of the variance.

8. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives of the renewal variance?

Copies of the master schedules for both schools to include shared time weekly for the library media specialist.

Lesson plans from the library media specialist including identified reading goals for students.

Benchmark data from Fall and Winter segments to ensure Reading skills are continuing to be a priority for South elementary students.

9. In what way does this variance meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s)?

Students will continue to consistently access the library media center without disruption. The focused instruction aligned with reading standards will support classroom instruction for all students.

10. Describe how and why the proposed variance would be:

a. Workable

We currently employ one full time library media specialist, one .5 para-professional library assistant and would like to continue staffing the library for both buildings in this same manner. The para-professional library assistant is highly qualified, and has been employed in the school district for the past 4 years and has been the same employee involved with the variance from the onset.

b. Educationally sound.

The current staffing arrangement has worked well for supporting student learning and flexibility of access to resources.

- c. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101.**

10.55.1801 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM DELIVERY STANDARD(1) In general, a basic program in library media shall:(a) meet the following condition:(i) establish flexible scheduling to ensure that libraries respond to information needs, foster intellectual curiosity, and support learning.

The fulfillment of further duties as outlined in 10.55.1801 are dependent upon this first item of establishing flexible scheduling to meet the needs of our students.

- d. Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.**

The current licensed library media specialist in Laurel Public Schools has aligned instructional resources with the Montana content standards, and this practice will continue at South Elementary school.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Karen Teeters

Board Chair Signature: [Signature] Date: 3-2-22

Superintendent Name: Linda Filpula

Superintendent Signature: [Signature] Date 3/2/22

Mail the signed form to:

**Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501**

OPI USE ONLY

Superintendent of Public Instruction: [Signature] Date April 13, 2022
 Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair [Signature] Date 5/13/22
 Approve Deny

MINUTES

I. Call to Order, Pledge to Flag, Welcome

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Karen Teeters.

Trustees present: Dale Ahrens, Dan Fettig, Brittani Hunter, Dak Fike, and Mike Creeden
Trustees absent: Emilee Sarkela

Administration Present: Superintendent Linda Filpula and Business Manager Julie Jones

Others present: Zada Stamper, Wayne Fjare, Loir Kraft, Peggy Pollock, Stacy Hall, Lynne Petersen, Rene Roth, Allyson Robertus, Charla Wetsch, Sara Evans, Riley Mayo, Karla Miller, Lindsey McNeiley, Maggie Lowell, Bruce Teeters, Shawnda Zahara, Guy Atkins, Jessical Contreras, Connie Love, Lori Hodges, Justin Klebe, Brett Scott, Kethleen Linger, Traci Salo, and Devan Rodabough

II. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

III. Correspondence- Chairman Karen Teeters stated that she is always thankful for the donations contributed to the Laurel Schools.

- a. CHS, Inc. - T Beach
- b. Test Donation

IV. Presentation - Employee Engagement Survey – HR Director Peggy Pollock presented the results of the employee engagement survey taken in December. Of 277 surveys sent out, 201 were returned, which equates to 74%. All results of the 95 page survey would be sent out to staff on Tuesday, March 1st.

V. Action Items

- a. Laurel Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan
 1. LPS Capital Improvement Plan
 2. South Timeline and Funding
 3. West Timeline and Funding
 4. Graff Timeline and Funding
 5. MS Timeline and Funding
 6. HS Timeline and Funding

It was moved and seconded to accept the Laurel Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan.
Motion: Dan Fettig Second: Dale Ahrens Passed 5-1 with Mike Creeden voting no.

- b. Policy 3141: Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance
 1. 3141 Discretionary Nonresident Students Attendance

2. Tuition Rates FY 21-22

It was moved and seconded to accept the change in tuition rates to the Kinderboost Program.

Motion: Brittani Hunter Second: Dak Fike Passed: 5-1 with Mike Creeden voting no.

c. Library Variance Renewal

1. Renewal Variances to Standards Application for South

It was moved and seconded to accept the renewal variances to standards application for the library at South.

Motion: Brittani Hunter Second: Dak Fike Passed: 6-0

d. One to One Device Handbook Changes

1. One to One Device Handbook

It was moved and seconded to accept the handbook changes to the one to one device handbook.

Motion: Dak Fike Second: Dale Ahrens Passed: 6-0

e. Activity Account Addition

1. Science Inquiry Class

It was moved and seconded to accept the Science Inquiry Class as an activity account addition:

Motion: Dan Fettig Second: Brittani Hunter Passed: 6-0

f. Superintendent Search - Discussion and Selection of Candidate Interviews

After a discussion of the candidates that were interviewed for Superintendent among the Board and the Public, it was moved and seconded to request a 2nd in person interview with Monte Silk and Michael Robey and to have MTSBA repost the position as opened until filled, with first day of review after 14 days.

Motion: Brittani Hunter Second: Dak Fike Passed: 6-0

VI. Superintendent's Report – There were no comments regarding the Superintendents report.

- a. Resignations
- b. Laurel School District Safe Return to Schools and Continuity of Services Plan
- c. Yellowstone County Report

VII. Discussion Items

- a. MHSA Rules and Policies
 - 1. 8th grade Participation
 - 2. Shot Clock
 - 3. HS Baseball Addition

Athletics Director, Riley Mayo explained to the Board the new MHSA Rules and Policies. 8th graders are now allowed to participate in all high school sports with the exception of football.

It is now a rule that all schools have to have a 35 second shot clock for all levels of play. Riley stated that the cost to the district would be around \$7,000 to purchase the additional clock.

MHSA has also added High School Baseball as a sport. Riley estimated it would be between \$25,000 and \$30,000 for start up cost and \$13,000 to \$16,000 a year to maintain the Baseball program.

All three of these new rules would be brought back to the Board for approval at the next regular Board meeting.

b. Capital Improvement Plan - Transportation and Land Development

The Board and Public discussed the Capital Improvement Plan extensively from moving the Bus Barn to selling the land that was purchased to building a CTE School where the existing bus barn is. It was decided that Facilities Director, Wayne Fjare and Transportation Director, Zada Stamper would look into how big a footprint is needed for a new Bus Barn at West School or Mogan Field.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Claims
 - 1. Claims Warrants #7074431-7074463
 - 2. Claims Warrants Direct Deposit
- b. Personnel Hiring
 - 1. LHS Assistant Track Coach - A Curtiss
 - 2. LHS Assistant Track Coach - J Gage
 - 3. 8th Grade Science Teacher -A Lorash
 - 4. LHS Long-Term Substitute-Science - C Fourbear
 - 5. MS Softball Coach - H Gregerson
- c. Substitute List
- d. Financial Information
 - 1. Payroll Fund Totals
 - 1. July
 - a. Payroll Vouchers 1001-1027
 - b. Gross Pay
 - 2. August
 - a. Payroll Vouchers 1029-1045
 - b. Gross Pay
 - 3. September
 - a. Payroll Vouchers 1047-1078
 - b. Payroll Vouchers 1088-1091
 - c. Payroll Voucher 1088
 - d. Gross Pay
 - 4. October
 - a. Payroll Vouchers 1080-1087
 - b. Payroll Vouchers 1092-1104
 - c. Payroll Vouchers 1124

- d. Gross Pay
- 5. November
 - a. Payroll Vouchers 1107-1123
 - b. Payroll Vouchers 1128-1146
 - c. Gross Pay
- 6. December
 - a. Payroll Vouchers 1148-1154
 - b. Payroll Vouchers 1156-1162
 - c. Payroll Vouchers 1165-1180
 - d. Payroll Vouchers 1182-1184
 - e. Payroll Vouchers 1183
 - f. Gross Pay
- 7. January
 - a. Payroll Vouchers 1187-1204
 - b. Payroll Vouchers 1208-1213
 - c. Gross Pay

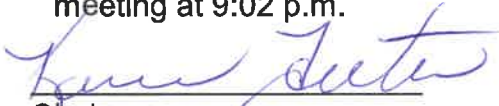
It was moved and seconded to accept the Consent Agenda with removing Joy Fike off the Substitute list.


Motion: Dan Fettig

Second: Dale Ahrens

Passed: 6-0

IX. Adjournment – With no further business, Chairman Karen Teeters adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.


Chairman


District Clerk