

VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION Renewal Application (three years)

Purpose 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:

Carbon

DISTRICT: Joliet Public School

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

1. **Standard(s) for which a variance is requested, e.g., 10.55.709. If there is a program delivery/content standard, be sure to list it as well, e.g., 10.55.1801.**
10-55-709
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 variance to standards was discussed during a regularly scheduled board meeting held on February 12th, 2018. The consent agenda was posted in five different locations (school website, school hallway, 3 locations downtown Joliet), and public comment was accepted during the meeting. This year the district reconfigured a couple of departments to maximize human resources, so there are two different people serving the library at .5 FTE to total one full-time librarian for the K-12 population. Though Joliet Public School is technically two separate districts, most stakeholders perceive Joliet Public as one K-12 school. We have several community members who assist in the library, so many stakeholders know that the variance to standards is how we maximize our operation.

3. **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.**

Included in this application is a copy of the consent agenda and draft minutes from the February 12, 2018 Joliet School District No. 7 regularly scheduled board meeting. The minutes will be officially accepted at the next Joliet Board Meeting on March 12th, 2018.

4. **Reflection upon initial variance:**

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- a. Describe the specific goals, measurable objectives, and rationale that describe the initial variance and how the proposed variance was to meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s). Include how the variance was workable and educationally sound.

The goals for the Joliet School Library: 1) to provide materials and services which meet the information and recreational needs of the learning community. 2) To provide opportunities for collaboration between the library media specialist and classroom teachers to incorporate information literacy into instruction. 3) To promote information literacy.

The measurable objective is that students at Joliet Public School will continue to show gains in reading and digital/media mastery.

The rationale:

The Joliet Public School serves two districts that are housed in one building, and shares one large, centrally-located library between the two. According to OPI accreditation requirements, there exists a need for a 1+ FTE librarian. However, the entire Joliet School District has less than 400 students K-12, and the district does well with one librarian (actually 2 people serving .5 FTE each).

We encourage community volunteerism, and have people assist with *Boxtops for Education* and the yearly book fair. The Beartooth Humane Alliance also brings dogs to comfort and encourage students while they read. The fostering of a strong *Accelerated Reader* program has expanded student literacy on-campus, and the *Battle of the Books* was a newly founded team that took first place at the recent annual competition. Fictional book checkout is on target and the Chromebook and Laptop checkout is up by 200+ uses this school year (year to date). The Accelerated Reader usage has dropped in age targeting younger readers, and students are using the PCs for *EdReady* and other college coursework.

Overall, the Joliet librarians more than adequately serve the school community, and the Joliet School Library meets the needs of the students through: maintenance of literacy standards, careful scheduling, technological conscientiousness, and a commitment to excellence. The library and librarians are dynamic in equal measure, and our school community is more than adequately served.

- b. How were these goals and objectives met or exceeded? (Implementation)

The Joliet Librarians have implemented (and continued the implementation) the following: Super 3, World Book, GALE, Montana Shared Catalog for digital and audio books, OPAC, the Big6, Google Aps for Education, Montana Digital Academy, and Accelerated Reader. In addition to the implementation of the aforementioned programs, the librarian's research instruction is efficient. Students come to collaborate on individualized research projects throughout the year, and the librarian assists students in inquiry-based research methods.

The flexible library schedule accommodates classes K-8 weekly as the librarians deliver regularly scheduled lessons that demonstrate how to locate information and materials in the library, how to effectively use online resources and knowledge of the internet (including online safety), and how to utilize materials that best meet a student's research needs. Moreover, students will read for recreation as well as for learning (at the appropriate lexile).

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December 2017

Many of the high school teachers schedule time for formal lessons delivered by the librarian. Many of these high school lessons are inter-disciplinary in their scope and further the teaching of scrupulous consumption and production of information. The librarians deliver formal, regularly scheduled lessons about ethical use of information, adherence to copyright laws, and respect for intellectual property. By teaching a variety of informational formats and by collaborating with other disciplines, the librarians serve the K-12 student body while teaching the Joliet students to interact responsibly in a global society.

- c. **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. (Examples may include, but are not limited to: student performance trends, if applicable, specific goals being addressed through AdvancED, etc. Do not include lesson plans, library monthly checkout logs, or calendars).**

Using Smarter Balanced data, one out of five cohort groups (3rd-8th) experienced growth in ELA by the end of 2016-2017. Overall, two out of five cohort groups experienced positive growth in MA by the end of 2016-2017.

Using MAP data, three out of six cohort groups (3rd-8th) experienced positive growth in ELA and MA by the end of 2016-17.

- d. **What evidence, do you anticipate, will be collected for the renewal application's goals/objectives?**

The Joliet District plans to use the same Smarter Balanced and MAP cohort data for the next renewal, in addition to more behavioral data pulled from *Infinite Campus*. The Joliet District just restored MAP testing in the high school last year, so cohort groups will be established for comparison and analysis.

5. **After reflection of the evidence/data gathered on the initial variance, what is the status of your renewal application?**

- Continue with current goals and measurable objectives (state)**
- Propose new goals and measurable objectives for renewal application (state)**
- Adjustments to implementation need to be made to meet or exceed standard (state)**

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: MELVIN N STENE

Board Chair Signature: *Melvin N Stene* Date: 27 Mar 2018

Superintendent Name: Allison B. Evertz

Superintendent Signature: *Allison B. Evertz* Date: 3/2/18

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:

Elsie Arntzen

Date

5/15/2018

Approve Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair

Sharon Carroll

Date

5/10/2018

Approve Disapprove

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF JOLIET SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 12th, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
JOLIET SCHOOL LIBRARY

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order**
 - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
 - Expression of Welcome
- II. Public Comment**
- III. Consent Agenda**
 - 1. Addition & Acceptance
 - 2. Approval of Bills/Warrants
- IV. Reports:**
 - a. Student and Faculty Reports
 - b. Building Update
- V. Correspondence**
- VI. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Fiber Installation Update
 - b. Negotiations Update
 - c. Incentive Package
- VII. New Business**
 - a. Prom Location Approval
 - b. Bus Request for Senior Celebration
 - c. Equipment Loan for Ski-Joring Event
 - d. MOU w/ YWCCSSC
 - e. Variance to Standards Application
 - f. Softball and Wrestling Co-op
 - g. Policy Committee Minutes Approval 1-22-18
 - h. Executive Session Minutes Approval of 1-29-18
- VIII. Personnel**
 - a. Middle School Assistant Track Coaches
 - b. Superintendent's Evaluation
- IX. Superintendent/Principal/Business Manager Reports**
- X. Items for the Next Agenda**
 - a. Policy Committee Meeting
- XI. Set Time and Location of Next Board Meeting – March 12th, 2018- School Library**
- XII. Executive Session – As prescribed by School Laws of Montana**
- XIII. Adjournment**

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting –February 12, 2018

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on February 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Melvin Stene, Dawn Blain, David Schaible, Doug Whitehead, Sharon Songstad, Kathy Grewell and Justin Oswald. Also present were Allison Evertz, Superintendent, Felicia Smith, District Clerk/Business Manager, Marilyn Vukonich, High School Principal, and Darlene Hartman, Elementary Principal. Visitors in attendance were Samantha Anttila, Nikki Bailey, Kevin Carpenter, Ally Carpenter, Cloee Blain, AJ Kananen, Dixie Brookings, Kayleen Torbert, Becky Frank, Keith Frank, Lee Stevenson, Walker Antilla, Rylan Olson, Kallie Zinne and Skylar Foos.

Melvin Stene called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Stene welcomed guests and explained and asked for public comment. There was none.

Justin Oswald made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

IV. Reports

a. Student and Faculty Reports

Expedition Yellowstone – AJ Kananen, Keith Frank, Cloee Blain and Ally Carpenter each gave a report of their experiences on the Expedition Yellowstone trip. Parents and faculty expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to go to Yellowstone. The Board expressed appreciation for all the work of faculty and Lee Stevenson put forth.

Student Council –Kallie Zinne and Skylar Foos reported on Student Council activities. The beanie hat fundraiser went well and the hats will be ordered soon. Winter formal brought in about \$300 and it was suggested that an earlier date be looked at for next year. Valentine grams are currently being sold. There will be a pep assembly on February 14th for the girls' and boys' basketball teams prior to the district tournaments.

Athletic Director -- Samantha Anttila commented that Speech and Drama concluded in January. She reviewed the results from the State Speech and Drama meet: Kayla Bertolino placed 11th; Brigham Smith placed 10th; and Raiden Ovitt placed 6th. Middle school basketball has finished. High school basketball tournaments will begin this week. Only two teams from our district will advance to divisionals.

b. Building Report – Supt. Evertz reviewed the monthly maintenance log. The middle school boiler required repairs and is now operating well.

V. Correspondence – Supt. Evertz reviewed the correspondence which included thank you notes; a letter from OPI on the budget amendment; a letter regarding IDEA assistance; a letter recognizing our paraprofessional/teacher team as being nominated for the 2018 Region III Team of the Year; two letters regarding teacher negotiations, along with notes; and a thank you letter from the NAAE for allowing Mr. Massar to attend the national convention. A letter was forwarded from attorney Jeff Weldon today to Supt. Evertz; the same letter was sent to trustees by the writer.

VI. Old Business

a. Fiber Installation Update – The fiber installation card/port problem has been resolved and we should be going "live" on February 15, 2018.

- b. Negotiations Update - An unfair labor practice complaint has been filed by the MEA-MFT. The negotiations are at a standstill until this Complaint is resolved by the DOL Board of Personnel Appeals.
- c. Incentive Package - It was decided to table the offer of early retirement incentives until negotiations have reached a conclusion.

VII. New Business

- a. Prom Location – Walker Antilla and Rylan Olson of the junior class requested permission, on behalf of the class to have prom at the Carbon County Fairgrounds.

Justin Oswald made a motion to allow the junior class you have prom at the Carbon County Fairgrounds, pending approval of the Fair Board. Dave Schaible seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- b. Bus Request for Senior Celebration – The senior parents requested a bus to transport students to Laurel and back for the Senior Celebration.

Dawn Blain made a motion to allow a bus to be utilized for the Senior Celebration. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

- c. Equipment Loan for Ski-Joring Event – Nikki Biale requested use of the aluminum bleacher for use at the ski-joring event. The Board decided against providing bleachers for the event.

- d. MOU w/YWCCSSC – Superintendent Evertz discussed the need and history of providing funding to the co-op preschool.

Justin Oswald made a motion to contribute 100% of the costs, minus federal preschool funds to the Cooperative-run, center-based special needs preschool program located in Laurel, MT. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

- e. Variance to Standards Application – A variance is being requested to appease the standards of accreditation for our shared librarian.

Justin Oswald made a motion to grant a variance for the standards of accreditation for the shared librarian. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

- f. Softball/Wrestling Co-op – Preliminary discussions are happening in regard to the possibility of a softball and wrestling co-op with Columbus, or possibly Red Lodge and Roberts.

- g. Policy Committee Minutes Approval – The Board reviewed the minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting held January 22, 2018 and approved the same.

- h. Executive Session Minutes Approval – Melvin Stene determined that the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure and closed the public meeting and went into Executive Session.

Executive Session began at 8:09 p.m. The trustees returned to regular session at 8:16 p.m.

VIII. Personnel

- a. Middle School Assistant Track Coaches – Interviews were held for the position and two candidates were recommended to the Board.

Justin Oswald made a motion to hire Ben Herrington and George Warbuton as Assistance Middle School Track Coaches for the Spring 2018 track season. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

- b. Superintendent's Evaluation – This business was conducted during the Executive Session listed below.

IX. Superintendent/Principal/Business Manager Reports

Allison Evertz reported that winter MAP testing concluded February 1st and went as smoothly as can be expected with our slow bandwidth. She discussed the MHSA annual meeting; gave an E-Rate update; discussed standards based grading for K-2; presented calendar options for the Board to consider, of which, Option B was approved; discussed the Science Fair and possible changes for next year in that program; presented results of the My Voice survey; discussed upcoming requisitions for the upcoming school year needs; relayed that the Masons donated 8 Kindles this year, one for each per K-6 and one will be utilized as a prize; and relayed information relative to school cancellation guidelines.

Marilyn Vukonich handed out her report and reviewed it. The preliminary numbers for middles school track are 56 participants. Sophia Gillespie was chose for the Youth Leadership Council Board for the State of Montana. Sophia was instrumental in coordinating the library pantry in association with the Fight Against Childhood Hunger. The United Steelworkers Union at the Laurel CHS Refinery donated \$1,200 towards this program. Other avenues for individual donations will also be explored.

Darlene Hartman provided her report to the Board and discussed MAP testing, standards-based report cards, and scheduling completion of Year-Long Context Maps. She indicated they are also gearing up for development and proficiency scales.

Felicia Smith provided the Board with reports of all claims paid, payroll disbursements, and a financial statement.

X. Items for Next Agenda

Retirement incentive packages
Negotiations Update

XI. Next Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will be held March 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library

XII. **Executive Session** - Melvin Stene determined that the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure and closed the public meeting and went into Executive Session.

Executive Session began at 9:04 p.m. The trustees returned to regular session at 9:22 p.m.

XIII. **Adjournment**

Justin Oswald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Doug Whitehead seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Approved 03/12/2018

Clerk _____

Chairman _____

