

**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."

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**DUE DATE:**

First Monday in March

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**COUNTY:** Flathead County

**DISTRICT:** School District 6

**LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:**

Glacier Gateway Elementary

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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 (1)(c)

- 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.**

Glacier Gateway and the community we serve continually work together making improvements throughout the school. During 2019/2020 school year we sought input regarding the success of our school library from our parents and community members during our "Back to School Meet and Greet." We encouraged our parents and community members to provide input helping us accomplish our Library improvement goals. We collected perspectives on how we can make our school library an inviting comfortable environment to enjoy reading and learning through books.

- 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.**

School Improvement Committee meeting was held to present the goals and objectives of the library and given an opportunity to learn more about the accreditation shortfall and comment on the goals, shortfalls, and ask questions regarding school improvement. We reviewed the success in regards to achieving our goals and objective brought before this committee. (Agenda and attendance report attached)

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).**

Librarians in School District 6 gather annually to review, discuss and revise the Columbia Falls Library Media Curriculum to meet the Montana Common Core Standards in Library Media and Information Literacy. Measurable objectives checklist submitted with our initial Library Variance were created at this meeting as a working document for each librarian. It allows us to keep track of when each essential learning expectation is taught under each standard. WE incorporated a space for type of lesson taught, collaborating with teachers, and which trimester this took place. We have used this document since creating it and plan on continuing the use of this document.

Attached are the documents reflecting the last school years work toward measurable objectives and our current years work.

The librarian is meeting the current standards within the library and collaborating with classroom teachers to exceed expectations.

- 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.**

The librarian is meeting the current standards within the library and collaborating with classroom teachers to exceed expectations. Using our checklist, we found a strong base teaching structure meeting our objectives and standards. An area we will continue to work on is increase circulation, although we had a slight increase in certain genres will continue to explore meaningful circulation that supports student and teacher needs. We will collect data for growth in reading through STAR testing. Advancing scores in the area of reading will demonstrate the success of our library and reading instruction. Glacier Gateway staff will monitor the independent reading of students through the Accelerated Reader program. The librarian uses Titlewise Analysis and Alexandria to determine the needs and interests of students.

- 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).**

After our reflection process and library school improvement committee meeting we decided to add a couple adjustment to our library practice and process. We found that providing high interest yet intermediate or beginning readers for our students was difficult and that we need to establish a consistency in independent reading expectations for each grade level.

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

The measurable objective is to allow the staffing of 1.0 (FTE) licensed school library media specialist with a k-12 library media endorsement as we fluctuate enrolled students above and below the standard. Staffing of this degree will allow Glacier Gateway to create an inviting space with staff to help students locate books that fit their academic needs, develop a passion for reading, and explore learning through books. (See attached measurable objectives and goals per grade level.)

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

Measurable objective and standards checklist is attached.

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

We will collect data for growth in reading through STAR testing. Advancing scores in the area of reading will demonstrate the success of our library and reading instruction. Glacier Gateway staff will monitor the independent reading of students through the Accelerated Reader program. (The librarian has also designed a checklist to ensure the instruction and to ensure students are meeting objectives.) The librarian uses Titlewise Analysis and Alexandria to determine the needs and interests.

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

With the fluctuation of enrolled students the continued assignment of the 1.0 FTE paraprofessional allows our librarian time to instruct students, develop a relationship with students, and create an environment that encourage students to become lifelong readers.

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

**a. Workable**

The district has appropriately assigned resources in a manner that is feasible with our budget, curriculum needs, scheduling and school configuration.

**b. Educationally sound.**

Services available through our library are not diminished and the equality of educational opportunity for our Glacier Gateway student population curriculum and student needs are at the forefront of all educational opportunities provided through our school library. Standards and learning objective are closely monitored and inform the instruction and opportunities offered exceeding state accreditation standards.

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

Services available through our library are not diminished and the equality of educational opportunity for our Glacier Gateway students. Our Library program aligns with (10.55.1101) (a) (b) highlighting the following: Promote literacy and language excellence in the spoken, written form, provides experiences in viewing, creating, and critically evaluating different types of media; and encourage co-curricular offerings in drama, speech, debate, journalism, literary publications.

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

Our current library and media classes are focused on collaboration with classroom teachers to provide adequate materials and deliver lessons aligned with content standards under ARM 10.53.405, 10.53.406, 10.53.409, 10.53.601, and 10.53.801.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Lill Roksund

Board Chair Signature: [Signature] Date: 2-24-20

Superintendent Name: Steve Bradshaw

Superintendent Signature: [Signature] Date 2-26-20

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 4/23/2020

Approve  Deny

Board of Public Education Chair [Signature] Date 5/7/2020

Approve  Deny

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6  
FEBRUARY 10, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, February 10, 2020, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund ..... Board Chair  
Dean Chisholm ..... Vice Chair  
Barbara Riley ..... Trustee  
Michael Nicosia ..... Trustee  
Heather Mumby ..... Trustee  
Larry Wilson ..... Trustee  
Keri Hill ..... Trustee  
Steven Bradshaw ..... Superintendent of Schools  
Dustin Zuffelato ..... Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Gail Pauley ..... Trustee

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Rocksund called the meeting to order at 5:58 P.M.

APPROVE AGENDA

Superintendent Steve Bradshaw noted that a classified staff member listed under hiring recommendations – Michael Nicosia III is a transfer as opposed to a new hire. As such, Mr. Bradshaw recommended the removal of this person from the hiring recommendations listed under item 8B.

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

APPROVE CONSENT  
AGENDA

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- Approve the January 13, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes.
- Approve January bills.
- Approve student activity account transfer.
- Approve investment reports.

Passed 7-0

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION:

Public Participation:

Justin Lee representing the Boys and Girls Club informed the Board that he was recently elected to lead the Board of the Club. Mr. Lee noted that the Club is actively pursuing a new building to accommodate its members as well as be a hub for the community. Fundraising efforts have occurred through the efforts of Don Bennett-Freedom Bank. Although the Club is still interested in acquiring undeveloped land, they are also interested in pursuing the old Junior High portion of Glacier Gateway Elementary that is slated to be abandoned as part of the K-8 Facility Bond Project. The Club requested assistance from the District to conduct a feasibility analysis of acquiring this space in lieu



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of constructing a brand new building. The District will provide utility costs as well as facility condition reports for the roof, HVAC, flooring, and other interior infrastructure.

Chair Rocksund requested public participation on any agenda or non-agenda items.

There was no additional public participation.

Reports:

The Elementary District Principals submitted written reports to the Board. Penni Anello, Glacier Gateway Elementary Principal, highlighted the details within the report. The Glacier Gateway Elementary received a grant from No Kid Hungry and is serving breakfast in the classroom to Kindergarten students. Doug Hazen, Junior High Principal, highlighted the details within the report.

Scott Gaiser, High School Principal, submitted a written report to the Board.

Dustin Zuffelato, Business Manager/Clerk, submitted a written report to the Board. Mr. Zuffelato provided an update regarding the E-rate program. The program had a five-year budget cycle recently expire. A one-year reappropriation of 20% of this budget was awarded in December 2019. The District will be utilizing this funding to support broadband connectivity by specifically funding the local area fiber optic network lease and the internet service with CenturyLink. The District will likely defer IT infrastructure improvements until the K-8 Facilities are remodeled/constructed.

Curriculum Director, Dorothy Wood, submitted a written report to the Board.

Trustee Barbara Riley updated the Board about the recent proceedings of the National School Board Association (NSBA) and the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA).

Superintendent Steven Bradshaw provided the Board with a written report.

Dow Powell, Owners Representative for the K-8 Bond Project provided an update to the School Board. Mr. Powell has conducted meetings with staff from both Ruder Elementary and Glacier Gateway Elementary to refine the building layout and plans. The Board requested a presentation containing the schematic designs as soon as they are available. Mr. Powell is also working on the design of the multi-sport fields. The current plan develops the entire property between the Junior High and Ruder into a multi-sport athletic field complex. The Board discussed the need to develop a plan for management, scheduling, and maintenance of this sport complex.

REPORTS:

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ACTION /  
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Action/Discussed Items:

Dow Powell led a discussion regarding the selection of a General Contractor for the Ruder and Junior High projects. Although five contractors submitted qualifications, only two provided a proposal-Dick Anderson and Swank. Subsequent to submittal, Dick Anderson requested the proposal be withdrawn due to an unforeseen project that would jeopardize their ability to deliver services. Mr. Powell compared the terms contained within the two proposals to demonstrate that the fixed costs proposed by Swank would be less as a result of numerous employees residing locally. Furthermore, their local presence will improve their ability to self-perform many aspects of the project. Mr. Powell noted that the Long Range Planning Committee met to review the proposals and did share some concerns regarding the quality and workmanship of previous Swank led projects. Mr. Powell as well as a member of the Architecture team will be on-site throughout the project to ensure the work conforms to specifications.

MOTION TO  
AWARD GENERAL  
CONTRACTOR/  
CONSTRUCTION  
MANAGER TO SWANK  
ENTERPRISES

Motion by Wilson, second by Nicosia, to award the General Contractor/Construction Manager contract for the Ruder Elementary and Junior High Projects to Swank Enterprises. Passed 6-1, No-Riley.

MOTION TO  
APPROVE REVISIONS  
TO BOARD POLICY  
2152

The Policy Committee met January 14, 2020 to consider revisions to Board Policy 2152-Post Season Pep Band Travel. The Committee recommended expanding the overnight travel limit from 350 miles to 500 miles. Mr. Wilson expressed concern with the liability associated with student oversight during extended overnight trips.

Motion by Chisholm, second by Mumby, to approve the revisions to Board Policy 2152-Post Season Pep Band Travel on the first of two readings. Passed 6-1, No-Wilson.

MOTION TO  
APPROVE  
RESOLUTION #373

Motion by Riley, second by Wilson, to approve Resolution #373-Disposal of abandoned, obsolete, and undesirable property. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO ESTABLISH  
STUDENT ACTIVITY  
ACCOUNT 262

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to establish Student Activity Account 262-Junior High Student Store. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO  
APPROVE GRANT  
APPLICATION  
WITH WHITEFISH  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

High School Principal Scott Gaiser presented a grant application with the Whitefish Community Foundation. Tamara Sundberg, Student Advocate and Homeless Student Liaison has championed more resources to effectively serve homeless students grade K-12. Ms. Sundberg has presented the details of the current homeless student program to members of the Whitefish Community Foundation who have encouraged her to apply for funding. The grant proceeds would fund one additional full-time equivalent to support and bolster the homeless student program. The Board discussed the sustainability of this funding source and it appears that if the District can demonstrate the achievements of this program, the Whitefish Community Foundation could continue to support the program. This program also has the potential to allow this organization to get a foothold in the Columbia Falls community.

Motion by Riley, second by Nicosia, to approve the grant application with the Whitefish Community Foundation. Passed 7-0

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Business Manager Dustin Zuffelato presented the FY 2021 budget projections. The Elementary District ANB for budget is projected to increase by 36 as a result of more students at Ruder and the Junior High Schools. Contrarily, the High School District ANB is projected to be down by 5. Trustee Riley expressed concern with the loss of 28 students in the High School from the Fall count date to the Spring count date. Superintendent Steve Bradshaw noted that he will pull historical enrollment data but it is not unusual to lose high school students between the Fall and the Spring count date. Mr. Zuffelato presented the general fund budget projections for fiscal year 2021 based on the enrollment data and the statutory state funding increase of 1.83% during the second year of the biennium. The overbase levy authority is \$148,233 for the Elementary District and \$27,662 for the High School. The Board discussed the additional on-going resources that will be needed to operate the new and expanded K-8 buildings. It would be important to secure as much of the budget authority as possible to remain at 100% of the general fund budget limit.

The Board considered the annual school election to be conducted on May 5, 2020. Three Elementary District School Board members have expiring terms (Riley, Chisholm, Hill). The deadline to file a Declaration of Intent is March 26, 2020. Mr. Zuffelato informed the Board that they are required to call for an election prior to February 25, 2020 and have until April 3, 2020 to set the mill levy amount or cancel the election.

Motion by Chisholm, second by Mumby, to call for an over-base General Fund Election for the Elementary District and the High School District to be conducted on May 5, 2020. Passed 7-0

Motion by Mumby, second by Wilson, to approve Resolution 371 -calling for the annual trustee election on May 5, 2020. Passed 7-0

The Board considered an application for a variance for accreditation standard related to the Glacier Gateway and Junior High Library. The Board reviewed the educational objectives and ability to meet educational standards with current staffing levels of 1.0 FTE Librarian and a para-educator at each library.

Motion by Wilson, second by Mumby, to renew the variance for accreditation standards for the Glacier Gateway Library. Passed 7-0

Motion by Wilson, second by Mumby, to renew the variance for accreditation standards for the Junior High Library. Passed 7-0

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations accepted by the Superintendent: Karen Hill - Paraeducator, Lei Elmore - Paraeducator, Jackson Schweikert - Assistant Track Coach, and Colleen Finberg-Assistant Track Coach.

MOTION TO  
CALL FOR AN OVER-  
BASE GENERAL  
FUND ELECTION  
FOR ELEM AND HS  
DISTRICT

MOTION TO  
APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 371

MOTION TO  
RENEW THE  
VARIANCE FOR  
ACCREDITATION  
STANDARDS FOR GG  
LIBRARY

MOTION TO  
RENEW THE  
VARIANCE FOR  
ACCREDITATION  
STANDARDS FOR JH  
LIBRARY

PERSONNEL:

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MOTION TO  
APPROVE  
ELEM AND HS  
DISTRICT HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Riley, second by Mumby, to approve the following Elementary and High School District hiring recommendations: June Olsen –Long-term Substitute, Logan Hays-Long-term Substitute, Bradley Foss – Long-term Substitute, Hannah Rhoads-Paraeducator, Logan Williams – Paraeducator, Emily Eisenschenk-Paraeducator, Katherine Slater-Custodian, Josiah Osborne-Assistant Track Coach, and Kati Knutson-Assistant Track Coach. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO  
APPROVE  
SUBSTITUTE HIRING  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Mumby, second by Wilson, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations. Passed 7-0


MISC / FUTURE  
PLANNING:

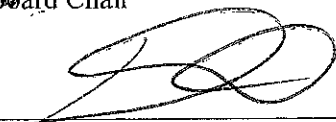
Miscellaneous and Future Planning:

HR Symposium-MTSBA in Whitefish	February 12, 2020	
Work Session Meeting	February 24, 2020	6:00 P.M.
Health Insurance Committee Meeting	February 27, 2020	4:00 P.M.
Regular Board Meeting	March 9, 2020	6:00 P.M.

MEETING  
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rocksund adjourned the meeting at 8:03 P.M.

  
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Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager/Clerk