

**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:** Lincoln

**DISTRICT:** Troy School District #1

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

**Troy Junior High School**

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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.**

A variance is being requested for 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12.

- 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.**

Minutes from the February 21, 2023 Board Meeting are attached.

- 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.**

Minutes from the February 21, 2023 Board Meeting are 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).**

The measurable objective that demonstrates that the proposed variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standards:

We will increase the use of the library/media centers by 20%. We will measure this by how many visitors come to the libraries. We will also measure this by monitoring and evaluating the amount of materials that are checked out.

We plan to continue with the previously improved variance.

- 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.**

Troy Public Schools has monitored the library/media centers usage over the past three years and have noticed a steady increase of student and faculty use at the high school. At the elementary school we have seen a consistent stream of student use. The school libraries perhaps are not getting used as much for non-fiction use since each student has been issued a Chromebook. However, at the elementary school, non-fiction checkouts have continued to increase. Further, the library is getting visited more often at both schools for material checkout--Chromebooks, research material, and pleasure reading books.

- 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).**

On reflection, the staffing variance in place at Troy Public Schools continues to meet the needs of our school, library program, students and staff. The current librarian has been working in the district for over five years and our part-time paraprofessional has been in the district for over two years. The library staff are highly valued as they provide an exceptional level of support to students and staff.

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

Troy Public Schools Mission Statement: "Empowering students to develop good character, achieve academic excellence, and succeed as lifelong learners."

The goals of this proposed variance are to continue to provide the best quality education as possible. It would be very difficult to hire a 0.1 part-time librarian to meet this standard. We feel that we meet the district mission and the needs of the district with a full-time librarian.

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

We will increase the use of the library/media centers by 20%. We will measure this by how many visitors come to the libraries. We will also measure this by monitoring and evaluating the amount of materials that are checked out.

We plan to continue with the previously improved variance in the following ways:

1. Troy Public Schools have a District Improvement Team and administration teams that meet regularly and oversee the implementation of the Library Variance.

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

**FORMATIVE:**

- The Library and Research Center Usage documentation will be used to measure the number of hours each department works in collaboration with the librarian each quarter.
- Book check-outs will be tracked on a quarterly basis to determine if library usage for reading appreciation has increased.
- Lexile levels will be monitored by classroom teachers to track individual student progress and growth relating to reading appreciation.

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

This variance meets the needs of our students because it allows them more access to technology and additional guided support from the librarian. This enables students to be well-prepared to access and use technology in a safe and responsible manner. With the implementation of the ELA component of the Common Core standards, we are better able to meet the emphasis on research skills and support research writing across the curriculum.

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

**a. Workable**

There are sufficient district resources available to continue to implement this variance; we currently employ one full time librarian, a part-time paraprofessional specifically dedicated to the library. We will simply continue staffing the library in this manner.

**b. Educationally sound.**

As shown through the data and evidence section of the application, the variance has worked well in supporting student learning outcomes in our school.

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

We are better able to deliver a Library/Media Program in accordance with 10.55.1801 through implementation of this variance. The library has truly become a flexibly scheduled, multi-purpose media center for students and staff. The collaborative teams that meet regularly have increased our ability to incorporate Library Media and Technology standards into the content area. Our librarian makes a concerted effort to keep our library balanced, current, and culturally representative.

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

Although our request for a variance is not specifically related to curriculum content standards, our team did consider how our variance would impact our ability to deliver the content standards. We chose to include standard alignment in items 7-16 on question #8 above to clarify how delivery and implementation of the variance would exceed our previous ability to deliver the curriculum content standards.

**Required school district signatures:**

Board Chair Name: Lori S. Damon

Board Chair Signature: Lori S. Damon Date: 2-21-2023

Superintendent Name: Jacob Francom

Superintendent Signature: J Francom Date 2-22-2023

**Mail the signed form to:**

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

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**OPI USE ONLY**

Superintendent of Public Instruction: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approve  Deny

Board of Public Education Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approve  Deny

**Required school district signatures:**

Board Chair Name: Lori S. Damon

Board Chair Signature: *Lori S. Damon* Date: 2-21-2023

Superintendent Name: Jacob Francom

Superintendent Signature: *J Francom* Date 2-22-2023

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Helena, MT 59620-2501**

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**OPI USE ONLY**

Superintendent of Public Instruction: *Elsie Arntzen* Date 5/10/23  
 Approve  Deny

Board of Public Education Chair *Madalyn Quinlan* Date 5/12/23  
 Approve  Deny



A special meeting of the Board of Trustees for School District #1- Lincoln County was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Troy High School Library on February 21, 2023, by Board Chair Damon. Others present were Trustees Storkson, Orr, Foote and Holmes, virtually; Superintendent Francom; Clerk Higgins; and Jr/Sr Principal Lewis.

Guests present were Kelly Palmer, Officer Henry Roy, Parent A, Student A

The regular meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m.

Call to order and pledge of allegiance by Board Chair Damon

Recognition of guests

Storkson moved that the Board Consider and Approve the Library Variance to Accreditation Standards. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Board Chair Damon found that the right of privacy exceeded the public's right to know in this matter in accordance with Section 2-3-203, MCA.

Parent and Student A asked for privacy.

The regular meeting closed at 5:33 p.m.

The regular meeting re-opened at 6:20 p.m.

Storkson moved that the Board Consider and Approve Administration's Recommendation for Disciplinary Action Discussed in Closed Session, with modifications. Seconded by Orr. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Orr moved to adjourn the special meeting.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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Chairperson

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District Clerk

early retirement incentive offer. There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Mr. Tom Keiser, 6th grade teacher at the conclusion of the 2022/2023 school year. There was a no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Diane Beck. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLASSIFIED RETIREMENT INCENTIVE CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer a one-time retirement agreement opportunity for Mr. Bruce Parks, Hellgate Elementary Director of Facilities/Maintenance Supervisor in accordance with the district's early retirement incentive. Mr. Bruce Parks has worked for Hellgate Elementary for the past 19 1/2 years and I am respectfully requesting that the school board approve the same insurance package offered to certified staff. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE SCIENCE FAIR COACHES:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Ms. Devon Honzel and Ms. Laci Willett to be the coordinators of the Science Fair for grades 2 and 3 and Ms. Katie Matthews for grades 4-6 for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the item. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE CERTIFIED STAFF HIRING SY 23-24:**

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Mr. Lucas Bewley to conduct his school psychologist internship at Hellgate Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was brief discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE CLASSIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignation of Alexandria Hanson, paraprofessional, effective January 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignation of Erika Kirst, food service employee, effective January 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Mr. Bruce Parks as the Director of Facilities/Maintenance Supervisor at Hellgate Elementary effective June 9, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE CLASSIFIED STAFF HIRES:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Rebekah Mickel, paraprofessional, effective January 16, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Megan Matteo, paraprofessional, effective February 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE BUS ROUTE MILEAGE CHANGE SY 22-23:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the adjusted Hellgate Transportation school bus route mileage for the 2022/2023 school year (see board packet for full details). The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDER ACCREDITATION VARIANCE REQUEST FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (BLDG 3):**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to authorize the superintendent to submit an accreditation variance waiver (for two years) to the Montana Office of Public Instruction to standard 10.55.604 (Variances to Standards) and 10.55.709 (Library Media Services, K-12)(see packet for full detail). The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. There was brief discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT FOR SY 22-23:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer an Individual Transportation Contract (TR-4) to the parent/guardian of a student who requires transportation per the student's IEP. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was brief discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDER MTSBA MEMBERSHIP FOR SY 23-24:**

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the superintendent's recommendation to authorize Hellgate Elementary to renew the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) membership for the 2023-2024 school

year. The annual membership dues for Hellgate Elementary to renew membership with MTSBA will be \$9,453.00, a 2.3% increase from last year's dues. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSIDER SY 23-24 CALENDAR:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve one of four calendar options for the 2023-2024 academic year (options attached and data from staff survey attached). The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. There was discussion on the topic related to the 4 options presented. Katy Reddy spoke on behalf of the HEEA and the teachers' feedback. Erin Ellis spoke on behalf of the Calendar Committee. Superintendent Blakely answered questions related to the 4 options presented. The adopted calendar was **HESD OPTION #1** (see full board packet for detail). Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LIST**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the proposed substitute list for the 2022-2023 school year. There was no discussion on the item.

Afzal, Zaima	Schatz, Sara
Keeling, Malia	Guga, Anna
Akane, McKenna	Smith, Gary "Scooter"
Kerns, Drue	Harper, Joshua
Arlint, Elisabeth	Smith, Michelle
Loyson, Shelley	Harper, Zachary
Arnold, Fred	Spletto, April
McLaverty, Annie	Harris, Laurie
Curry, Taina	Vidlak, Jaaden
Merkley, Maria	Hitt, Heather
Deden, Alexis	Werner, Tara
Miller, Michelle	Johnson, Candy
Dennis, Sarah	Whitney, Kristen
Minckler, Kimberly	Johnston, Lexi
Devlin, Sherry	Woods, Hilary
Morton, Melissa	Kahle, Kim
Erskine, Sandra	Kallas, Kayla
Polanchek, David	
Finnerty, Ashley	Total Count: 38
Powers, Desiree	
Grados, Shelley	

The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Missoula Children's Theatre presenting Hercules, March 6-10, 2023 at Hellgate Elementary:* Superintendent Blakely discussed the upcoming theatre presentation and noted students and staff would be participating in the production.

*Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) January 30-31, 2023:* A company from Helena that completed a walk-through of the campus' safety protocols. REMS will provide Superintendent Blakely with a full report once completed.

*Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit, \$65,000:* Hellgate Elementary received donations from four very generous community members for a total of \$65,000. These funds will be allocated towards technology improvements. Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the Tax Credit program.

*5 Valleys Honor Band; \$2,100 grant:* Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the opportunity. Kristen Guidoni spoke on behalf of the program: 100 students in total auditioned, 45 were selected, and half of the selection were Hellgate Elementary students.

*Robotics Program:* There was recognition of Jordan Capp and great efforts put forth related to the Robotics Tournament that was held at Hellgate Elementary.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports discussed.

**PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

Trustees reviewed the monthly report of building Principals and listened to updates and staff recognitions from Building Principals: Julie McCarthy-McLavery (Building 2), Chris Clevenger (Building 3), and Damian Droessler (Building 1).

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

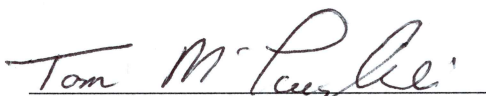
The next regular meeting of the Board will be March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.


**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Tiffany Manthie spoke on behalf of the PTA. Tiffany provided an update of PTA projects that are on-going: STEM night/Planetarium presentation at the end of March, the Talent Show in April, and the Fun Run in May.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

  
Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

  
Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk