



VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION

March 2, 2015

Purpose: ARM 10.55.604.1. A local board of trustees may apply to the Board of Public Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement a variance to a standard or a section of standards, excluding standards stating statutory criteria, standards pertaining to educator licensure or endorsement, and content standards as defined by the Board of Public Education and provided in guidance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

DUE DATES

- First semester implementation; March 2, 2015
- Second semester implementation; July 6, 2015

COUNTY: Flathead

DISTRICT: Fair-Mont-Egan District # 3

LIST THE SCHOOL OR MULTIPLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE REQUESTING THE VARIANCE(S): Fair-Mont-Egan Elementary and Fair-Mont-Egan 7/8

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1. **Is this an initial application (2 years) or a Renewal application (3 years)?**
Initial Application
 2. **Is this for first semester implementation or second semester implementation?**
First Semester
 3. **Standard(s) for which a variance is requested, i.e., 10.55.709. If there is a program delivery standard, be sure to list it as well. For example, 10.55.1801.**
10:55.704 (1)(b)- Administrative Personnel: Assignment of District Superintendent
 4. **Please attach evidence through official minutes of the board of trustees that local school community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance to standards. Stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers, classified school staff, parents, community members, and students as applicable.**
Please find the board meeting minutes from February 9, 2015 attached.
 5. **Please provide evidence that the board of trustees adopted its application for variance at an official, properly noticed meeting of its board of trustees.**
All of our board meetings are properly noticed in the local newspaper, the Daily Interlake. The application was adopted at the February 9, 2015 board meeting, see meeting minutes.



6. Describe the variance requested.

We respectfully request that the current full time principal continues to fulfill her role as principal instead of requiring a .1 superintendent(10.55.704) and a .5 principal (10.55.705)

7. Provide a brief statement of the mission and goals of this proposed variance.

The current administrator has been the sole administrator for the district for the past eleven years. Staffing levels and enrollment have maintained similar levels throughout this time. Our mission is to be fiscally responsible to the district.

8. List at least one specific measurable objective(s) that demonstrates that the proposed variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).

The current principal (acting superintendent) will continue to fulfill the job descriptions of both the principal and superintendent such as:

- completing all of the required paperwork for the district
- attending all the regularly scheduled meetings for the local organizations such as the Northwest Montana Curriculum Cooperative, the Flathead Special Education Cooperative, and the Crossroads Program meetings.
- serving on both management board and executive board for all of the above named entities
- conducting all staff evaluations
- primary responsibility for all student and staff discipline issues
- all other job duties assigned by the board of trustees.

The board of trustees evaluates the principal yearly. There have been no concerns or issues raise with the current level of performance of the principal.

9. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives?

Completion of all required reports such as TEAMS (Terms of Employment And Master Schedule), Title I reports, CSIP (Continuous School Improvement) etc. Principal Evaluations.

10. In what way does this variance to standard meet the specific needs of the students in your school(s)?

The needs of the students have been adequately addressed with the current administrative staffing. We anticipate that to continue.

11. Variance to Standard: Outline how and why the proposed variance would be:

a. Workable. (Sufficient district resources are available for the success of the variance.)

This variance actually permits the district to be fiscally responsible as it would be very difficult to fill a .1 superintendent position, therefore we have sufficient resources available to maintain a full time principal. The variance allows the Fair-Mont-Egan Board of Trustees to allocate current funds towards other, more pressing issues that impact student education more directly.



b. Educationally sound. (Applicant has relied on sound research as a rationale for the variance.)

This proposal cannot be fully based on research or a sound rationale as there is no data available support such a claim. The district has earned high scores on all national and state assessments; the district employs highly qualified teachers and is very involved in curriculum meetings. There is no data that would support increasing administrative time to fulfill a need.

c. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.1901.

ARM 10.55.1101 – 10.55.1901 are the delivery standards for Communication Art, Arts, Health, Math, etc. By employing one full time principal versus a .5 principal and a .1 superintendent, we believe our proposal positively impacts delivery of standards. Principals are typically the administrator who supervises the delivery of standards, not a .1 superintendent.

12. Designed to meet the content standards for this area of the curriculum (only applies to those standards which also have related curriculum content standards).

N/A

RENEWAL APPLICATION ONLY: Please attach a summary of the data gathered to demonstrate that the variance cycle ending June 30, met or exceeded the standard. State the measurable objective for the initial or previous application.



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Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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

Board Chair Name: Dan Artsdale Denise VanArtsdale

Board Chair Signature: Dan Artsdale Date: 2/27/15

Superintendent Name: Christine Schmidt-Anthony

Superintendent Signature: Christine Schmidt-Anthony Date: 2-27-15

OPI USE ONLY

Superintendent of Public Instruction: _____ Date _____

____ Approve ____ Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair _____ Date _____

____ Approve ____ Disapprove



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FAIR-MONT-EGAN SCHOOL

Christine Schmidt-Anthony
Administrator
Susan Clanton
District Clerk

District #3
797 Fairmont Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901
(406) 755-7072
Fax 755-7077

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OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**



Honorable Superintendent Juneau,

On behalf of the Fair-Mont-Egan School District #3, I hereby submit this request for relief from Accreditation Standard 10.55.704 (1)(b) " *School system with more than 14 and fewer than 18 FTE licensed staff shall employ a part time, at a minimum of .1 FTE, licensed superintendent. One individual may serve as both superintendent and principal as defined in ARM 10.55.705 (2)(a) or (2)(b)*"

Supporting this request is the fact that we are exceeding standard 10.55.705(2)(b) (Assignment of Administrator/Principals) " a .5 FTE principal shall be assigned to school with enrollments of 175 to fewer than 250 students".

As you and the review board consider this application, please take into account the following demographic facts for the district.

The current K-8 enrollment for the district is 178 students; the highest enrollment number in the past ten years was 186, therefore only requiring a .5 administrator to meet that accreditation standard. The district houses the K-6 program and the 7/8 program in the same building, operating for all intents and purposes as one school. The school is a small, rural district with one class per grade. The district currently employs 17 fully certified and highly qualified employees with a total FTE of 15.3. Our FTE only exceeds the standard by 1.3.

The Fair-Mont-Egan school district presently employs a full time certified administrator who has fulfilled all administrative duties for the district for the past 11 years. A full time administrator can support all district stakeholders more readily than a combination of a part-time principal and part-time superintendent could. Policies and administrative assignments are already in place to support the principal in performing the duties of a superintendent. The district has not needed the assistance from the county superintendent to fulfill any duties in the past 11 years.

Respectfully submitted,


Christine Schmidt-Anthony, Principal

FAIR-MONT-EGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #3
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 9, 2015

Front Entry

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Denise VanArtsdale at 5:00 p.m. Present were board trustees, Andy Goolden, Liz Walter, Todd Spangler, and Margo Dyer. Clerk Susan Clanton and Principal Christine Schmidt-Anthony were present.

The **Agenda was adopted** without any changes.

Minutes The minutes from the regular meeting on January 19, 2015 and the special minutes from February 2, 2015 were moved for approval by Andy, seconded by Margo, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence was a thank you letter from Marcia Sheffels

Public Comment None

Old Business

1. There was nothing to update for maintenance.
2. The Hiring Committee noted that they had interviewed three candidates for the Clerk's position and would like the other board members to meet informally with two of the candidates.
3. The Facilities Committee notes are in new business.
4. The Legislative update was written.

New Business

1. Margo moved to approve the proposed variance to the standard 10.55.704 (1) (b) as written in the "variance to standards" application and supporting documents. Todd seconded the motion and clarification was given by Christine. The board unanimously approved the motion.
2. Christine continued board effectiveness training with some self-assessment skills and drawings
3. Susan will draft a letter of response to the FMETA regarding the letter to open negotiations
4. The Enrollment Count Day data of 178 students was reviewed showing preliminary ANB will be better at current Year instead of 3 year averaging.
5. A Bruin's Den Committee meeting was set for Friday, February 13th, 2015 at 8:20 a.m. and a Safety Committee meeting date was set for February 18th, 2015 at 8:40 a.m.
6. Denise and Susan reviewed the testimony given in Helena before the Long Range Planning Committee and the concern that the Quality Schools Grant will not be funded due to possible division of the revenue.
7. Andy moved to approve the Hammerquist Casalegno pre construction contract, seconded by Todd, and unanimously approved.
8. The request to hire a clerk was tabled until second interviews could be completed.
9. The principal's topic was assessment and reviewed formative and summative testing.
10. The clerk's topic was the accounting for Bruin's Den showing YTD profit and a beginning balance of \$41,889.62

Principal's Report None

Clerk's Report None

Bills were moved by approval by Andy, seconded by Todd and unanimously approved.

Adjournment was at 6:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Susan Clanton, District Clerk _____

Approved by Chairperson Denise VanArtsdale Denise VanArtsdale