



VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION Initial Application (two years)

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 (check one)

- First semester implementation; first Monday in March
 Second semester implementation; first Monday in July

COUNTY: 25 Lewis and Clark County

DISTRICT: East Helena Elementary (SS: 0615)

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE: Eastgate School (Sc:1636) and Radley Elementary School (Sc:1465)

- 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)(b)
- Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**
Community input was sought through the East Helena District School Improvement Process (DSIP), contact with the East Helena PTO and at repeated Board of Trustee Meetings where the community and the Trustees had the ability to learn and comment on the annual Accreditation reports that were reviewed and discussed.
- Provide evidence that local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**
Local stakeholders had several opportunities to provide input and suggestions at School Board Meetings. The Board Members, staff and the community were given an opportunity to learn about the accreditation shortfalls and comment on the annual Accreditation reports that were reviewed





and discussed annually at those meetings as well as with the District School Improvement Program Committee.

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

5. Describe the variance requested.

Currently a 1.0 FTE fully licensed School Library Media Specialist is split 1/2 time each (0.5 FTE) at Radley School and 1/2 time (0.5 FTE) at Eastgate school making Eastgate school out of compliance with accreditation standard 10.55.709 (1)(b) which requires 1.0 FTE of Librarian for every 251 - 500 students and that for every 126 - 250 students a 0.5 FTE Librarian is required. The Eastgate Librarian is currently shared at Radley School 3.5 periods per day (0.5 FTE) to cover the 35 extra students out of the 535 student population where a full 1.0 FTE fully licensed School Library Media Specialist is already assigned. There are 266 students at Eastgate School which is 16 students over the accreditation standards ratio. We do staff a highly skilled Reading and Math Tutor and a paraprofessional with years of experience in the library at Eastgate School that assists students with reading and library needs in support of the 0.5 FTE librarian at a rate of 1.5 hours each per day or a total of 3.0 hours per day and 15 hours per week. Because the accreditation standard only allows 1/2 time (0.5 FTE) increments for librarians, she the librarian is counted as 1/2 time (0.5 FTE) at Radley and only 1/2 time (0.5 FTE) at Eastgate. We would like to apply for a variance to more accurately spread services to the Eastgate and Radley children according to actual enrollment similar to the procedure for classroom assignment of teachers such as Music and Physical Education. We request the Board of Public Education and OPI to grant East Helena Schools a variance to count the 1.0 FTE librarian shared between the two schools that are located only 1 mile apart by allowing us to count her assignments in time increments of 0.1 FTE according to assignment like we do currently with teaching staff. In conjunction with this provision the school district will also request that the assignment of highly qualified Tutors and paraprofessionals continue to provide 3.0 hours of highly qualified staff time per day at Eastgate School from the tutor and the paraprofessional, both of whom have exceptional knowledge of the curriculum and the instructional practices of the library.

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

The mission of this variance is to fully comply with the Montana School Accreditation Standards and Procedures in a variance to the standard that is still an appropriate interpretation of the library curriculum needs of the children. The goal of the proposed variance is to fully comply with Montana School Accreditation standards that are appropriate for the needs of the 16 students above the accreditation standards of 250 students for a 1/2 time librarian at Eastgate school and maintains the current accreditation appropriate for the 36 students over a 1.0 FTE requirement at Radley School. Currently a 1.0 FTE Librarian is split 1/2 time each at Radley School and at Eastgate school making Eastgate school out of compliance with the accreditation standards.





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

Current Standards State:

10:55.709 Library Media Services, K-12 (1) The Library shall... and each school shall have a full-time or part-time licensed school library media specialist with a K-12 library media endorsement at the following ration:

- (a) 0.5 FTE for schools with 126-250 students;
- (b) 1.0 FTE for schools with 251-500 students;
- (c) 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students;...

The measureable objective is to allow the staffing in each school of a full-time or part-time licensed school library media specialist with a K-12 library media endorsement at the following ratio:

- (a) 0.6 FTE for schools with 126-275 students;
- (b) 1.00 FTE for schools with 300 -500 students;
- (c) 1.4 FTE for schools with 501-900 students;...

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

The School District will assign licensed school library media specialists with a K-12 library media endorsements at a rate commensurate with the above listed request in addition to the 3.0+ hours per day (15 hours per week) at Eastgate and assign licensed school library media specialists with a K-12 library media endorsements at a rate commensurate with the above listed request at Radley. These assignments will be reflected in the TEAMS report from the EH School District as the report allows.

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

A more proportional assignment of resources and proportional assignment of the licensed school library media specialists with a K-12 library media endorsements, yet still well within the combined total students to be served by our current 2.0 FTE shared librarians, is actually more beneficial to all of the students because the library curriculum is delivered more appropriately. The addition of 1.5 hours of Instructional Tutor FTE and the assignment of 1.5 hours of Instructional Paraprofessional time to accomodate the additional needs of the overage of 16 pupils at a rate of 3.0 hours per day total.

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

a. Workable.

The district will be able to more appropriately assign resources in a manner commensurate with the assignment of other specialist teachers more customary to teaching staff. A more proportional assignment of resources and proportional assignment of the licensed school library media specialists with a K-12 library media endorsements, yet still well within the combined total students to be





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Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

served by our current 2.0 FTE shared librarians, is actually more beneficial to all of the students because the library curriculum is delivered more appropriately.

b. Educationally sound.

Since the numbers are over the accreditation standards by 16 students at Eastgate School, this allocation of 0.1 FTE as opposed to a 0.5 FTE allocation will not diminish services to the other students 36 students at Radley School in any significant manner. A more proportional assignment of resources and proportional assignment of the licensed school library media specialists with a K-12 library media endorsements is our request. This proportional assignment is still well within the needs of the combined total students of 802 students to be served by our current 2.0 FTE shared librarians. This assignment is actually more beneficial to all of the students because the library curriculum is delivered more proportionately to all students in a manner similar to the assignment of teaching staff. Additionally the proposed changes are doubly covered as the result of a 15+ hour per week highly qualified and experienced Instructional Tutor and the Instructional paraprofessional serving in the library.

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

As Stated in Number 7 above, the ratios are aligne in smaller increments to the 10:55.709 Library Media Services, K-12 (1) standards.

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

We believe that the purpose and intent of the Accreditation Standards to guarentee equality of educational opportunity to each "student" is provided in the establishment of more "equality" by this proportional assignment of library media specialist services.





Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: SCOTT WALTER

Board Chair Signature: Scott A. Walter Date: 2-16-2017

Superintendent Name: RON WITIMROYED

Superintendent Signature: R. Witimroyed Date: 2-16-17

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 Anger Date: 5/15/2017
 Approve Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair: Sharon Carroll Date: 5/11/17
 Approve Disapprove



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, EAST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

Call to Order: Trustees of School District No. 9 met in regular session on February 13, 2017 at the ~~East Valley Middle School~~ Library. Chairman Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. ~~EASTGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL~~ *SW*

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Scott Walter, Trustees Kevin Bokovoy, Mark Diehl, Marcia Ellermeier, Breck Scheet and Ann Marie Thompson. Superintendent Ron Whitmoyer and Clerk, Kim Aarstad.

Principals present: Mike Agostinelli, Joe McMahon, Jill Miller and Dan Rispens and Technology Coordinator, Jeanette Winslow

Visitors: Katy Hauer, Jess Hegstrom, Karen Goldsberry, Marga Lincoln and Keith Allen

Review the Agenda

Hear the Public

No one addressed the Board.

Student Report – No report

Principal's and Technology Coordinator Reports

Principal McMahon reported that on January 28th the Radley Robotics team attended their first competition in Bozeman. Because of inclement weather conditions, students have been kept inside for over 15 days. Principal McMahon also discussed the winter bench mark data.

Principal Rispens reported that High School Registration for all 8th grade students was held on February 8, 2017.

Principal Miller reported that on February 27, 2017 she will be taking a team to Butte Hillcrest Elementary to view the Good Behavior Game, which is a research-based, classroom management system in primary grades. Teachers are very interested to learn more about this program that has proven to be effective in teaching self-regulation skills, with long-term effects on reducing suicide ideations and other risk-taking behaviors.

Technology Coordinator Jeanette Winslow stated that she had been dealing with a couple of different viruses in the last month.

High School Trustee Report

Karen Goldsberry, High School Trustee, reported that the High School District has been talking about the proposed High School Bond and is continuing to have discussions on Central School.

Trustee and Committee Reports of the Board

~~INDEPENDENT ELEMENTARY~~ *EW*

Chairman Walter discussed the ~~Executive~~-Caucus Committee meeting.

Introduction of the Americorp VISTA Volunteer - Jess Hegstrom

Superintendent Whitmoyer introduced Jess Hegstrom to the Board. Jess will be helping with the district's suicide prevention program.

Notifications of Resignations

Superintendent Whitmoyer reported that he had accepted the following retirements and resignations:

- i. Christine Casey - Instructional Tutor

Consent Action Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular meeting – January 9, 2017, Special meetings January 25 & 26, 2017.
- B. Approval of February 2017 former and new warrants (Claims #40413 - 40706) and Payroll 50960- 51085)
- C. Personnel Actions
 - i. Erica Romero - Instructional Tutor
 - ii. Carol Obert - Substitute
 - iii. Sarah Manibusan - Substitute
 - iv. Kristen Loovas - FFVP
 - v. Jon Leslie - Substitute
 - vi. Ellen Leuthard - Substitute
 - vii. Katie Wiedbusch - Substitute
 - viii. Allison Wiedbusch - Substitute
 - ix. Wristine Senecal - Summer School Teacher Leader
 - x. Sarah Sandau - Summer School Teacher Leader
 - xi. Carrie Schwaller - Summer School Pre-K Tutor

Trustee Scheet arrived at the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Trustee Thompson arrived at the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Chairman Walter asked that the Minutes from the January 26, 2017 be removed from the consent agenda because the minutes reflect that Chairman Walter was in attendance for this meeting.

Motion by Trustee Scheet , seconded by Trustee Bokovoy to approve the consent agenda as amended. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Thompson to approve the January 26, 2017 minutes as amended. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of GCCM Contract

Superintendent Whitmoyer updated the Board on the negotiations with Dick Anderson Construction. Negotiations have been completed and a contract is ready for the Board consideration.

Motion by Trustee Scheet, seconded by Trustee Bokovoy to approve Superintendent Whitmoyer recommendation and enter into a contract for GCCM Services with Dick Anderson Construction.

Variance to Standards Application Approval

RAW

Superintendent Whitmoyer updated the Board on a request for a variance of standards from the Office of Public Instruction . Currently Eastgate School does not meet Accreditation Standards for the library position, the issue revolves around the fact that the accreditation standards 10.55.709 (1)(b) requires 1 FTE of Librarian for every 500 students. And that for every 250 students a 1/2 FTE is required. Current Radley enrollment is at 535 students, so the Eastgate Librarian is being shared at Radley School for 2 periods per day to cover the 35 extra students at Radley. Because the accreditation standard only allows 1/2 time increments for librarians, the librarian is being counted as 1/2 time at Radley and as 1/2 time at Eastgate. The District would like to apply for a variance to more accurately spread services to the Eastgate and Radley children, by asking that the Board of Public Education and OPI grant us a variance to count the librarians time in .01 FTE increments according to assignment like they currently do with teaching staff.

Motion by Trustee Thompson , seconded by Trustee Diehl to have Superintendent Whitmoyer send an application for variance to the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Ed. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Projected Budget 17-18 School Year

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented the projected 17-18 Preliminary Budget.

Assignment of the Superintendent as the District Lobbyist

Superintendent Whitmoyer asked that the Board consider assigning him as a lobbyist for the School District this legislative session.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer , seconded by Trustee Bokovoy to appoint the superintendent as a lobbyist on the behalf of the district for issues that would have a financial, educational or affects the best interests of the school district during the 2017 Legislative session and beyond.

Unanimous vote for the motion.

Update on the Legislative Session

Superintendent Whitmoyer update the board on the current bills and those being drafted prior to transmittal in this 2017 Legislative Session.

New Business

2017-2018 School Calendar

Motion by Trustee Thompson , seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to adopt the 2017-2018 school calendar. (Copy of calendar is attached to minutes) Unanimous vote for the motion.

Approval of Resolution #191 Budget Transfer for Security

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented Resolution #191, transfer of funds from the Bus Depreciation Fund to the Building Reserve for improvements to school safety.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer seconded by Trustee Bokovoy to approve Resolution #191. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Approval of Resolution #192 Calling for a Mail Ballot Election

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented Resolution #192, calling for a mail ballot election, for the board's consideration.

Motion by Trustee Thompson , seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve Resolution #192 calling for a mail ballot election. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Approval of Resolution #193 Calling for a Bond Election

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented Resolution # 193 call for a bond election to be held on May 2, 2017 for a \$12,000,000 for construction of a new elementary school, safety and additional space needs at the three other schools.

Motion by Trustee Scheet, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to approve Resolution #193, calling for a 12,000,000 bond election. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Approval of Resolution #194 for the Sale of Obsolete Equipment

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented Resolution #194, Obsolete Equipment, for the boards consideration.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Thompson to adopt the obsolete equipment Resolution #194. Unanimous vote for the motion.

First Reading of Board Policy 5037 & 5055

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented board policy 5037, Electronic Resources and Social Networking and board policy 5055, Leave of Absence for the boards consideration.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Thompson to approve the first reading of board policy #5037. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Motion by Trustee Ellermeyer, seconded by Trustee Bokovoy to approve first reading of board policy #5055. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Land Acquisition for Egress from Dartman Field

Superintendent Whitmoyer updated the Board on the current building construction concerns regarding connecting to the intersection at the corner of Prickly Pear Avenue and Valley Drive as an egress from the new school construction site.

Clerk Evaluation

Chairman Walter adjourned the meeting to go into executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman Walter called the meeting back to order at 7:32 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Scheet to approve the evaluation of Kim Aarstad, District Clerk/Business Manager for 1 year. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on March 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the East Valley Middle School Library.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Submitted by: Kim Aarstad
District Clerk, Kim Aarstad

Approved by: Scott A. Walter
Chairman, Board of Trustee

MARCH 13, 2017
Date

R. Whibmoyer, Superintendent.