

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."

DUE DATE:

First Monday in March

COUNTY: Missoula

DISTRICT: Bonner elementary

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Bonner School (0794) and Bonner 7-8 (1734)

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.

10.55.1801.,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.**

Our active PTA continues to engage in a strong partnership with our library and supports the current configuration that has worked so effectively over the past years. Attached is a letter communicating that support.

- 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.**

The variance renewal was discussed at a staff meeting and received strong support. (see attached agenda)

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.**

Per conversation with Nathan Miller on 2-25, Trustees will approve at March 9 Board 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).**

Please note that most of the data and fact herein reflect the first two years of the variance as the past year structure and operations have been severely adjusted due to COVID pandemic. Bonner enrollment has declined some since our last variance request, and currently stands at 270 in K-6 and 74 in 7/8. While our numbers require an additional .01 FTE, we feel our existing staffing is meeting and exceeding the intent of the accreditation standards. The system approved under the original variance consists of a 1 FTE librarian, supported by library aides trained in library and media data organization, check-out processes, and our library and media infrastructure. The approved original variance enabled Bonner to provide robust library/media services in a manner that reflected our existing facilities and enrollment situation. Our technology coordinator continues to support student and teacher access to the widest ranges of age-appropriate information through multiple media platforms in the library (Standards 1,2,4).

- 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.**

Our library staff's response to pandemic allowed students access to books throughout remote learning and hybrid learning structures. Student interest in reading was strong and library book totals increased. While student reading levels were at 60% proficient in the 2019-2020 school year test results have fallen to 40% for the 2020-2021 academic year (likely a result of COVID impact). Though these percentages went the wrong direction, the efficiency and accessibility to books continues to expand. With district-level implementation of the Montana Comprehensive Literacy Project Bonner teacher have access to high quality instructional materials, professional development, and support. We are providing students increased structured reading time (Drop Everything and Read), increased support assisting students in selecting reading materials of interest at their level, along with evidenced-based lessons.

- 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).**

Our results support continuation of the current configuration and goals.

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

The mission of the Bonner Library is “to encourage students to enjoy reading, to foster an appreciation for literature, and to provide instruction in the effective use of ideas and information.” The goal of this proposed variance is to rely on an instructional aide to support and assist the librarian with check-out, data entry, organizational processes and shelving books, enabling the librarian to support the Information Literacy/Library Media Standards through direct student instruction, and work closely with classroom teachers in support of their curriculum goals.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM PROVIDED BY LIBRARIAN EXPANDING ON GOALS AND PRACTICES

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

1. Bonner School employs one full time librarian, and one .625 library aide. In addition, our technology coordinator supports student and teacher access to the widest ranges of age-appropriate information through multiple media platforms in the library (Standards 1,2,4). The library aide will assist in check-out, data entry, organizational processes, shelving books, book repair, and other duties as needed.

3. 90% of the librarian’s time during the instructional day will consist of direct student contact in support of the Library Media Standards.

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

Bonner School will monitor student growth through several metrics: MAP data, STAR Reading, and DIBELS.

Teacher lesson plans will demonstrate input of expertise contributed by library/media services and record the implementation of Library Media services by grade level.

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

Bonner School is one building, with one library, and one librarian. With the library aide performing more technical tasks related to check-out, data-entry, and student support, the librarian will be able to increase his/her direct support of all students and firmly support the Library Media Standards and the requirements of 10.55.1801.

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

a. Workable

The district has funded the proposed configuration for more than 13 years at stable student enrollment.

b. Educationally sound.

Bonner School has effectively provided excellent library services to our students for 13 years under the proposed model.

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

Our librarian, along with supporting aide, is intentional about providing students and teachers resources related to fiction and informational texts, Montana American Indian primary resources, and all curriculum subject areas, and her experience allows our librarian to input strong support to classroom teachers' curriculum in the same areas.

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

Our current library and media practices are focused on supporting all our teachers in the implementation and enrichment of all instructional areas. (Please see attached addendum)

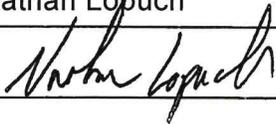
Our librarian will continue to participate in professional development such as those listed below in which she has participated in the past:

- K-12 IPad Integration class
- Library of Congress class
- Indian Education for All conference
- What's New in Children's Literature
- What's New in Young Adult Literature
- Technology in the Classroom
- MLA conference
- Montana State Librarian retreats
- PNLA conference
- Meetings with MCPS librarians

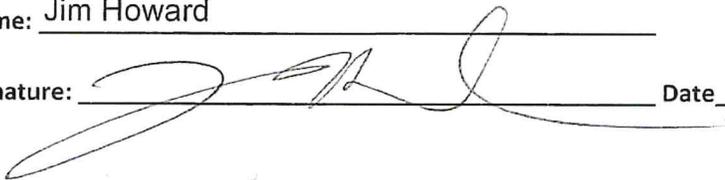
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Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Nathan Lopuch

Board Chair Signature:  Date: 3/1/2021

Superintendent Name: Jim Howard

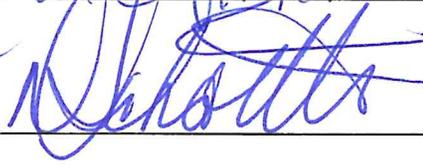
Superintendent Signature:  Date: 3/1/2021

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:  Date: May 3, 2021
 Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair:  Date: 5/14/21
 Approve Deny

Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2021
Zoom Online Meeting

This regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair, Nathan Lopuch. Members present were Nathan, Laurie Gendrow, Teri Schuster, and Josh Marcussen. Troy Adam was absent. Also present were Jim Howard, Superintendent, Shelly Andres, Principal, and Carrie Ruff, District Clerk.

Call to Order

Nathan and vice-Chair, Laurie, both stated they had no new comments since the February 25th special meeting.

Comments from the Chair

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 regular meeting; and the February 25, 2021 special meeting. Josh seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Josh made a motion to approve March payroll warrants #12580-12591 and electronic warrants for \$250,029.75, and March claims warrants #21372-21409 for \$101,587.63. Teri seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Laurie made a motion to approve the extracurricular fund reports for the month ending February 28, 2021. Josh seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motions to Approve Minutes, Bills, and Extracurricular Fund Report

Guest, Jenae Bagby, Literacy Coordinator, reviewed assessment data from MAP testing (last year) and STAR assessments (this year) for reading and math for the fall/winter months.

Guest, Jenae Bagby

Laurie made a motion to hire Doug Golie as custodian/lunchroom aide for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Josh seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Custodian/Aide

Motion

Josh made a motion to raise the hourly wage for classified staff by \$1.00 per hour, effective retroactively to March 1, 2021, excluding the staff given an increase on February 25th. Teri seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Classified Wage Increase

Motion

Josh made a motion to approve a resolution of intent to impose an increase in levies as stipulated in the supporting document. Teri seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution of Intent to Impose Levy Increases
Motion

Laurie made a motion to approve Bonner School's application for renewal of a library/media accreditation variance. Josh seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Library Variance
Motion

Mrs. Andres reported on statewide testing, parent teacher conferences, PTA updates, athletic update on possible track season, and enrollment.

Principal's Report

Mr. Howard commented about looking back at our March meeting last year and how we prepared and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, he is very proud of how the students, staff, and parents responded to the pandemic and is confident that we will recover well as a school and community; area schools are discussing a shortened track season; he and Bill met with Eric of EPIC Construction about work starting on the bus unloading zone over spring break.

Superintendent's Report

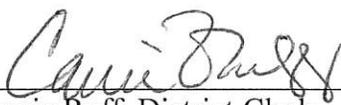
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Jacob Hunter, parent, expressed concerns about his son being bullied, Chair Lopuch interrupted him to let him know that the board will be dealing with this issue at another time. Mr. Huisken introduced to the board, Harlan Bidwell from the student council. Mr. Bidwell commented to the board about coming to class feeling good about school, student council's morning announcements, and opportunities to bring forward ideas and ask questions. Mr. Howard commented that he appreciates student council's leadership and their preparedness when presenting their thoughts and ideas.

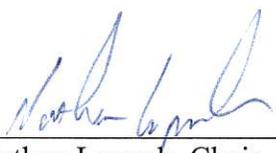
Public Comment

Josh made a motion to adjourn. Laurie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Adjournment



Carrie Ruff, District Clerk



Nathan Lopuch, Chair