

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 variance to an assurance standard or a section of assurance 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 DATE

First semester implementation; second Monday in October

COUNTY: COUNTY: RAVALLI

DISTRICT: CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE: RISE CHARTER AND DISTANCE LEARNING ACADEMY

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.**

The Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy is asking for a variance to the following standards:

ARM 10.55.709 Assignment of Library Media Specialists FTE.

ARM 10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff.

2. Describe the variance requested.

ARM 10.55.709 Assignment of Library Media Specialists FTE. This variance is requested because the majority of the distance learning students are not on the physical school district campus to access the library or the Library Media Specialists during any part of the school year. For this reason, the district is confident that the currently allocated 1.0 FTE for the library specialists will be more than enough to serve the Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy students during the school year.

ARM 10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff. This variance is being requested because the majority of the distance learning students are not on the physical school district campus to access the School Counseling Staff during any part of the school year. For this reason the District is confident that the currently allocated 1.79 FTE for the School Counseling Staff will be more than enough to serve the Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy students during the school year.

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

a. Workable.

The district instituted the distance learning program in the 23-24 school year and to date it has proven to be extremely workable, with enrollment increasing each subsequent semester in has been in operation. Currently, the Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy has enrolled 250 K-12 students that were separated from our school community and are now benefiting from a distance learning platform that is the foundation of our Distance Learning Academy. These charter school variances are being requested as the majority of the distance learning students are not on the physical school district campus to access the library, the Library Media Specialists or the School Counseling Staff for any part of the school year.

b. Educationally sound.

The Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy currently meets all assurance standards, except ARM 10.55.709 Assignment of Library Media Specialists FTE and ARM 10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff. These variances do not affect the educational quality or soundness of the Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy as they are only needed due to the large number of on-line students enrolled in the Academy. The district is confident that the currently allocated 1.0 FTE for the library specialists and the 1.79 FTE for the School Counseling Staff will be more than enough to serve the Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy students during the school year.

c. Designed to meet or exceed results under established standards.

The Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy was designed to exceed all established standards. Including using Montana accredited on-line learning platforms for the distance learning students. Current performance indicators for the Charter are upholding the expected result that all established standards except those requested in this application will

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

The Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy will align with all program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.1901 except:

ARM 10.55.709 Assignment of Library Media Specialists FTE. This variance is being requested as the majority of the distance learning students are not on the physical school district campus to access the library or the Library Media Specialists during any part of the school year. For this reason, the district is confident that the currently allocated 1.0 FTE for the library specialists will be more than enough to serve the Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy students during the school year.

ARM 10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff. This variance is being requested as the majority of the distance learning students are not on the physical school district campus to access the School Counseling Staff during any part of the school year. For this reason the District is confident that the currently allocated 1.79 FTE for the School Counseling Staff will be more than enough to serve the Rise Charter and Distance Learning Academy students during the school year.

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 that provides evidence that local school community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance to an assurance standard or a section of assurance standards.

(Stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers, classified school staff, families, community members, and students as applicable.)

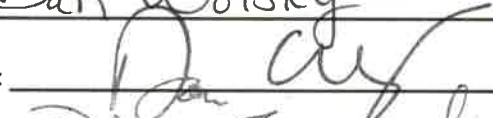
See Exhibit A – Site Based Teaming Agenda Feb & October (with minutes).

and

See Exhibit B – Board Agendas and Minutes - October 2023, September 2024 & October 2024


Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Dan Wolsky

Board Chair Signature: 

Date: 10/14/24

Superintendent Name: Pete Joseph

Superintendent Signature: 

Date: 10/14/2024

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

EXHIBIT A



Site Based Teaming: Collaboration & Vision

February, 28th, 2023

- I. Catch-Up / Good-Vibes**
- II. District Report**
 - A. Site Based Teaming_District Report_2024 February**
- III. RISE Charter**
 - A. PowerPoint / PDF**
- IV. Grants and Endowment**
 - A. Amber**
 - B. School District**

Corvallis SD #1

RISE Charter School

& Academies: * *distance learning academy*
 * *pathway learning academy*



- **Realize** - *Your Potential*
- **Imagine** - *Your Future*
- **Serve** - *Your Community*
- **Explore** - *Your Learning*

RISE Charter School: Academies

Distance Learning Academy: *The distance learning academy meets the needs of all its students by offering an almost infinite number of software program options for distance learning. The DLA also, gives families options for part distance learning and part on campus instruction as an additional flexibility. This academy will provide an educational experience that provides opportunity, with its focus on digital and hybrid learning, that students would not otherwise receive in a traditional brick and mortar setting. In addition, the DLA will provide alternative placements on our campus within our (a) K-12 Learning Centers, (b) our Independent High School, (c) and face to face electives / core classes based on availability.*

Pathway Learning Academy: *The pathway learning academy allows students to explore educational interests and eventually a career path that best suits their abilities. Beginning in kindergarten and continuing throughout their educational career, students work to spark their imagination by actively participating in their learning. In addition, the PLA is uniquely correlated to our community and provides opportunities for families and students to explore a plethora of school to work pathways. Those pathways include; (a) Farm to Food (b) Salute to Service (c) Medical (d) Construction (e) Stream to STEAM. It is our intent to develop a K-12 academy that provides every student an opportunity to engage in a multitude of educational experiences through direct instruction, field trips, guest speakers, internships, micro-credentials and dual enrollment classes.*

4 Tiers of work-based learning within the RISE Charter & Academies..

- **Career & Pathway Exploration:** *K-6 (Pathway Exposure)*
- **Career Awareness:** *7 - 8 (Interest surveys & Job Site Rotations)*
- **Career Preparation:** *Freshman / Sophomore (Site Based Grading)*
- **Career Implementation:** *Junior / Seniors (Internships and Apprenticeships)*



For more Information go to the Corvallis School District Website and click on the links at the top of the page!

[Corvallis School District #1](#)

Site based team meeting – Community Meeting – Advisory Group

Quarterly meeting

Meeting held in the District Office Conference Room

Minutes 10-9-24 @ 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Attendees: Corvallis Board of Trustees – Chair, Dan Wolksy, Amber Eubanks – Parent, Abe Hinderaker - parent, Dori Shawnaker – community member, Brad Wicks - parent, Corvallis Board of Trustee - Carol Peterson, Jamie Jessop – Parent, Shawn Boleman – Community Member, Corvallis School District Superintendent Pete Joseph, Corvallis School District Director of Business Services, Jolene Tollenaar

Introduction and overview given by Superintendent Pete Joseph.

This group will function as an advisory group for meeting state law.

Over the last three years we have had to find ways to ensure we controlled variables and most of our funding is directly from the state. The state funding model has not changed in 25 years. We are 50 out of 50 for school funding. The State legislature has capped our funding increase at 3%.

We are here to talk about the charters. We have Rise Charter which has two schools under its span. Distance Learning Academy and Pathway Learning Academy.

Transfer students and tuition levies. Starting in 2025-26 schools will have to pay a percentage for their out of district enrollment. For special education there will be no cap for expenses. We have about a net zero out of district in and out. This will probably eliminate the opportunity for an operating levy down the road.

Our Rise Charter has two academies and is a blended model but OPI is requiring us to break up our schools into 9 schools. Which means some student schedules will be in 8 different spots in infinite campus. But really nothing has changed.

Our two academies – Distance Learning Academy is a combination of our Independent High school, k-12 learning centers, Harmony EDU, Montana Digital Academy. Pathway Learning Academy, has tracks including, Farm to Food, Stream to Steam, Construction, Medical, Salute to Service, and Business. Grand Canyon University is also developing asynchronous program the district will facilitate for hybrid students.

GCU will be here November 1, 2024 to write lesson plans and developing curriculum. He invited the team to join.

How this works, it is blended even our at home families still have access to the school system. Our home school can access classes here, they can be at home full time and also be in the pathway academy.

We want to be flexible and make sure everyone knows charter schools are for everyone. That is what we are about. This group is going to be together working through these issues.

We are putting money into the charter facilities, our remodeled blue kitchen will become our food to farm facilities.

For pathways in the lower grades we have field trips and guest speakers. We want to expose our kids to the concept of pathways. In 7th and 8th grade exploratory class to determine each pupil's aptitude.

Chapter 55 establishes minimum requirements for librarians, counselors, and administrators. Because the distance learning is our biggest group we will be asking OPI for a variance to not hire these additional employees. The variance does remove the requirement but it doesn't mean we won't hire more staff in these position if they are needed. Currently, they are not needed as most of the students are fully remote.

Trustee Carol Peterson said is it true that a variance does remove the requirement but it doesn't mean we can't hire more staff in these position if they are needed.

Superintendent Pete Joseph agreed yes if we need the counselor and or the librarian, we will do that when and if a need arises. Both positions are being monitored, the administration on an ongoing bases.

The meeting ended with questions about charter school reporting requirements. Business Manager Jolene Tollenaar explained the quarterly and annual reporting requirements.

Superintendent Pete Joseph invited the meeting attendees to come meet the Board of Public Education on November 6th, 2024.

Community Member Brad Wicks said all his questions have been answered so far.

Parent Jamie Jessop said she is cautiously optimistic.

Trustee Carol Peterson said she thought the charter school's investments in facilities could be highlighted to the public. Maybe another open house.

Parent Amber Eubanks agreed.

Meet adjourned at 2:45 pm

EXHIBIT B



October 19, 2023

TO: Corvallis School District Board of Trustees

FROM: Pete Joseph, Superintendent

"The Core Purpose of the Corvallis School District is to achieve excellence in educating the whole child in a safe environment so that students are prepared to succeed in life and become productive members of society."

SUBJECT: Tuesday, October 24, 2023, Special Board Meeting 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm - School District Conference Room

1. Call to order
2. Public comment on non-agenda items
3. Personnel
4. Kitchen Update
5. Pathways, Academies and Charter Schools
6. Adult Ed Course Approval
7. Adjournment

Corvallis School District #1
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes from 10/24/23

41

42 **7. Pathways, Academies and Charter Schools**

43 Board Chair Dan Wolsky asked the Board to give the Superintendent approval to fill out
44 applications for Charter Schools, and if approved he will bring them back to the Board in
45 the spring of 2024.

46

47 Because House Bill 549 was written to help establish Public Charters, we are working to
48 get approval for a Distance Learning Charter School, an Independent High School and
49 Gifted Charter, and a CTE Charter. If approved, this could mean \$3,000,000 in grant
50 funding for the District.

51

52 Trustee Amy Lewis said this is a way to organize the schools to be in line for the grant
53 funding if the Charters are approved. We will bring a full report to the Board once the
54 State gives final approval.

55

56 **Trustee Amy Lewis made a motion to move forward with the Charter pathways.**

57 **Trustee Stacy Cortes seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.**

58 **(Trustee Mark Fournier left the meeting and did not vote).**

59

60 **8. Adult Ed Course Approval**

61

62 **Trustee Carol Peterson made a motion to approve the Adult Ed Computer Class.**

63 **Trustee Amy Lewis seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.**

64

65 **9. Adjournment**

66

67 **Trustee Amy Lewis made a motion to adjourn at 4:18 pm.**

68

Corvallis School District #1
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - Amended
Minutes from 09/25/2024

September 25, 2024

Special Meeting in the Central Office

The School Board of Trustees of Corvallis School District #1 met in a duly constituted and properly noticed special meeting Wednesday evening in the Central Office Conference Room.

Trustees Present: Board Chair Dan Wolsky, Trustee Amy Lewis, Trustee Stacy Cortes, Trustee Carol Peterson, Trustee Ken Lewis, Trustee Pete Dunn and Trustee Becky Anderson.

Superintendent Pete Joseph was present through all proceedings.
District Clerk Jolene Tollenaar was present through all proceedings.

1. Called to order by Board Chair Dan Wolsky at 4:01 pm.

2. Public comment on non-agenda items

None

3. Personnel Approval

Trustee Carol Peterson moved to approve the personnel agenda as presented. Trustee Ken Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 7-0.

4. Non-district requests

Trustee Amy Lewis made a motion to accept the non-district requests. Trustee Stacy Cortes seconded the motion, and the motion carried 7-0.

5. Bus Purchase

Superintendent Pete Joseph explained we agreed to raise the permissive levy to depreciate the bus fleet at a specific rate. We have also developed a depreciation schedule to give us perspective.

Board Chair Dan Wolsky said this depreciation schedule is only a guide. Moving forward it can be revisited each year.

Trustee Stacy Cortes moved to approve the bus purchase as presented. Trustee Ken Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 7-0.

6. Kitchen Update / Charter School

Superintendent Pete Joseph said he doesn't have any more timelines. The Blue Kitchen remodel is exactly on track with time and money. We will be well within the money we

42 have set aside. All the work on the Academic Center (church property), including all
43 required upgrades, have been completed. We only need to replace the front door.
44

45 Board Chair Dan Wolsky added we had the bid opening yesterday for the Pre-
46 Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) and we are right on budget. Langlas is confident that
47 we are going to come in under the budget. There are some openings for things we did not
48 get bids for, which Dan McGee will be working to add. He is also qualifying every
49 bidder.
50

51 Superintendent Pete Joseph is meeting with Dan McGee on Friday to discuss the
52 guaranteed maximum budget contract. We may have a special session to ensure things
53 keep moving as quickly as possible. This will get us through phase 1 with a gym floor.
54 We agreed to put the gym floor down, not bathrooms. That gives us a functional space,
55 phase 2 will include the bathrooms.
56

57 Superintendent Pete Joseph said we just submitted the last response for the old
58 kitchen/cafeteria and that gives Liberty Mutual another 60 days to make their decision.
59

60 Charter Schools Variance Discussion

61
62 Superintendent Pete Joseph explained the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) requires
63 variances for librarians, facilities, custodians, and counselors if we are not going to meet
64 the required standards. Our School Board must discuss these variances, and they must
65 be approved by the Board Chair. This is happening because the required ratios are
66 offset by Distance Charter students who are not all on site.
67

68 The Board discussed the needed variances for librarians, custodians, and counselors,
69 the meeting was a properly noticed open meeting inviting the public and stakeholders to
70 provide input on the variance. All seven board members agreed to requesting the
71 variances for the two charter schools (Rise and Pathways) from OPI.
72

73 The regular board meeting in October will be a facilities meeting with a half hour of Q &
74 A. It will begin at 5:00 pm.
75

76 **7. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm by Trustee Ken Lewis.**
77
78
79
80
81
82
83

84 
85
86
87

Board Chair


District Clerk

Corvallis School District #1
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes from 10/8/2024

October 8, 2024

Meeting in the High School Library

The School Board of Trustees of Corvallis School District #1 met in a duly constituted and properly noticed meeting Tuesday evening in the High School Library.

Trustees Present: Board Chair Dan Wolsky, Vice Chair Ken Lewis, Trustee Amy Lewis, Trustee Carol Peterson, Trustee Becky Anderson Trustee Stacy Cortes, and Trustee Pete Dunn.

Superintendent Pete Joseph was present through all proceedings.
District Clerk Jolene Tollenaar was present through all proceedings.

Special Session started at 5:30 and included a walk though of district facilities and subsequent discussion meeting in library 6:40 pm.

6:40 PM - Work Session

Superintendent Pete Joseph wrapped up the facilities tour with a question and answer session in the high school library. The discussion included the best way to move forward with all the different facilities projects currently in process, and starting up the facilities committee.

Special Session adjourned 6:55 pm

Regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Board Chair Dan Wolsky.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment on non-agenda items:

Sarah Wicks– 2nd grade teacher and a member of the Corvallis Faculty Group, she spoke for herself. Explaining how well the beginning of the year is going and working on all the 2nd grade standards and her fieldtrip to the teller wildlife refuge last week. In 2022-23 teacher received a zero percent raise and 0% in 22-23. 23-24 1% raise increase on the matrix. 24-25 2% one time payment. Sarah noted this is not an increase and her main concern is that in 25-25 their pay would not be more than 24-25.

Kyla Burgess 1st grade teacher and a member of the Corvallis Faculty Group, she also spoke for herself. This year the school raised enough money for the classes to take five weeks of swim lessons. The matrix is important for various reasons. One reason is to recruit new teachers.

42
43 Dacri Herbstritt 8th grade teacher explained the district has 39 teachers who do not
44 receive a raise each year as they have reached the bottom of the matrix.
45

46 Staff and Student Appreciation- Becky Anderson
47 Trustee Pete Dunn volunteered to be this month's board representative to help in
48 the classroom. He will work with music teacher Natalie Martin in the primary school
49 Primary School Student appreciation – Ivy Warren
50 Middle School Student appreciation – Justin King 8th
51 High School Student appreciation - Julian Henshaw
52

53 **Spotlight:**

54
55 The American Legion explained how their Devil Pups Youth Citizenship Program works.
56

57 **Consent Agenda - Action**

- 58 a. Digital Privacy Act Agreements
59 b. Credit Requests
60 c. Claims
61 d. Vendor List (New Vendors)
62 e. Approval of Minutes
63 f. Non-Resident Requests
64 g. Designated Bus Stops
65

66 ***Trustee Stacy Cortes asked to pull the minutes for corrections.***

67
68 ***Trustee Carol Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda without***
69 ***the minutes. Trustee Stacy Cortes seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.***
70

71 Trustee Carol Peterson asked to amend the minutes to correct the minutes from
72 September 12 Pete Dunn,
73

74 ***Trustee Ken Lewis made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Trustee Becky***
75 ***Anderson seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0.***
76

77 **General Reports – Discussion**

78
79 **Personnel**

80
81 ***Trustee Amy Lewis made a motion to approve the personal agenda as presented.***
82 ***Trustee Stacy Cortes seconded the motion, and the motion passed 7-0.***
83

84 **Trustee Appointment**

85
86 Board Chair Dan Wolsky explained the Board has chosen a new trustee, Pete Dunn to
87 replace Mark Fournier.

88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132

Board Clerk Jolene Tollenaar swore in new trustee Pete Dunn.

Negotiations Update

Attorney Bea Kaleva provided a negotiation update to the Board. She explained the teams met June 5th, 2024 multiple times. At the last meeting at a state facilitated mediation meeting. Public schools must live within that the amount of dollars we receive each year. In addition, in the past the board did make decisions the district couldn't afford. It does not mean no money is on the table this year, only that the district is offering a 2% increase from the 23-24 school year. This is a one year offer including an increase to activity sponsors as well as increases to insurance.

Superintendent Pete Joseph explained 3 years ago we had a million dollar deficit. We have chosen to do our best to stabilize the variables. We fixed some inefficiencies, we non-renewed some non-tenured teachers. Three district administrator positions were eliminated. We raised levies to maintain our School Resource Officer (SRO) and our para's. The Charters have helped with cohort stipends and our enrollment is up almost 200 kids from 2 years ago. In years past we received less than 3% increase from the state. As a result of the teachers, board and community are doing well. We are going to be in an enviable position until next year. Currently, we have already passed our budget so we are locked into what has already been approved by OPI.

Bea Kaleva 9/11 rejected our offer by staff the board could impose but she is not recommending that.

Trustee Amy Lewis asked if the CFG accepts the offer would be up to negotiations if the offer would be retroactive.

Bea Kaleva said yes, it would depend on the negotiations.

Facilities Update

Superintendent Pete Joseph explained the board felt the compromised state of the facility during today's walk though. Regarding the Blue Kitchen it is clear the remodel is close to being finished. He commended Kathy and staff for what they are dealing with.

Trustee Amy Lewis asked about the budget for the Blue Kitchen.

Superintendent Pete Joseph explained the Board allocated 2.9 million for both the blue kitchen and the GMAX contract on phase 1 of the blue metal building. The great news is we are underbudget and are super excited. We will meet all our goals from settlement money, deferred maintenance, or charter facility money, not using any general fund money.

133 Superintendent Pete Joseph explained no settlement yet on the old kitchen. Liberty
134 Mutual emailed today asking for full permits as well as a full schedule. They want actual
135 permits and documents, and there is a very large cost to that. He felt there is no
136 settlement in the near future. Consultant Dan McGee and General Contractor Langlas
137 have done some work but the time line for the design is 6 to 8th months. Our attorney is
138 in negotiations with their lawyer as to what is going to happen. As of now we have no
139 set timeline. The delay tactics are real. The longer they delay the more premiums they
140 collect to offset the payout.

141
142 **GMAX Contract PEMB – moved from item 12**

143
144 **CGGM contract on a design build.**

145
146 **Motion 1:**
147 ***Motion to Authorize the Alternative Delivery Committee to Commit and Negotiate***
148 ***Contracts for Phase 1 Construction.***

149
150 ***Trustee Ken Lewis made the following motion: I move that the Corvallis School***
151 ***Board grants the Alternative Delivery Committee the authority to commit to and***
152 ***negotiate contracts for the erection of the Pre-Engineered Metal Building that***
153 ***includes preparing for and placing a gym floor and any related construction items***
154 ***that are part of Phase 1. The Committee is authorized to negotiate contracts not***
155 ***to exceed a total amount of \$2,159,774.00. Trustee Stacy Cortes seconded the***
156 ***motion. The motion passed 7-0.***

157
158 **Motion 2:**
159 ***Trustee Becky Anderson made the following motion: To Authorize the Alternative***
160 ***Delivery Committee to Negotiate Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMAX) with***
161 ***Langlas & Associates I move that the Corvallis School Board grant the Alternative***
162 ***Delivery Committee the authority to negotiate the Guaranteed Maximum Price***
163 ***(GMAX) and enter into a contract with Langlas & Associates for \$1,903,543.00***
164 ***(One Million, Nine Hundred Three Thousand, five hundred and forty three dollars),***
165 ***using the reviewed and approved AIA contracts, as reviewed and approved by the***
166 ***district's legal counsel. Trustee Ken Lewis seconded the motion. The motion***
167 ***passed 7-0.***

168
169 **Cell Phone Policy / Procedures**

170
171 Superintendent Pete Joseph said at this point and time he isn't ready for another
172 recommendation. We already have a very robust cell phone policy there isn't more we
173 could do. We need time to vet with Admin team and staff on November 1st Cammie has
174 set a time with high school staff to give our teachers time to process and give us some
175 input and we just need to enforce the policy we have. He does not have a
176 recommendation yet. Middle school principal Richie Borden and Assistant Principal Deb
177 Domsalla are already moving toward executing the policy. He added he did not think we
178 need to update the current policy has been in effect 1 year.

179
180 Trustee Amy Lewis asked if this would include enforcement of the policy.
181
182 Superintendent Pete Joseph added the administrative team has had multiple
183 conversations including how to implement the policy and what disciplinary action should
184 look like.

185
186 Trustee Carol Peterson said that a little more work in the middle school would be good
187 teaching cell phone use as a tool. She added, she didn't think our kids are aware of the
188 full use of the technology.

189
190 Middle School Principal, Richie Borden agreed. Home room teachers, like Jake Jessop
191 with Pathways will touch on digital citizenship and digital literacy programs. We also do
192 a handbook highlight speech each year. Yes, we continue to educate them in different
193 ways and the best way to reach the kids.

194 **RISE Charter School & Corvallis K-12 Variances**

195
196 Superintendent Pete Joseph explained the increase in enrollment has been a huge
197 benefit to the district. Our charter initiative has been second to none in the state. He will
198 be talking about public charter schools and keeping charters public at MCEL this year.
199 Chapter 55 which is out lined by BPOE raises the need for administrators and librarians
200 and counselors for variances. We are asking the board to allow the district to ask OPI
201 to grant a variances in the requirement to follow the OPI recommendations for counselors
202 and librarians. One in our regular K-12 schools and two in our Distance Learning
203 Academy.
204

205
206 Trustee Amy Lewis thanked the staff and administration and the invitation from Pete to
207 come to sit in on the site based team meetings. Adding, it is mind blowing to see the job
208 the administration has to do every single day making this work and thinking outside the
209 box.

210
211 Trustee Carol Peterson made a motion that we apply for the variances for the Distance
212 Learning Academy Charter School. Trustee Amy Lewis seconded the motion, and the
213 motion passed 7-0.

214
215 Trustee Ken Lewis made a motion that we accept the variance to standards for the K-12
216 school district. Trustee Stacy Cortes seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0.

217
218 Julie Barcus Kindergarten teacher at primary school added in the future we might need
219 one or two more administrators to help continue with the logistics of these charters.

220 **Grand Canyon University (GCU) 7th Grade Pathway Curriculum –**

221
222 Superintendent Pete Joseph said the Board agreed to 7th and 8th grade Charter teacher
223 Jake Jessop. This motion is for 7th grade curriculum and soon we will be receiving 8th
224

225 and interdisciplinary curriculum for the high school. Currently, we have three cohorts at
226 the high school. Grand Canyon University (GCU) has 100,000 online learners. They do
227 the distance learning better than anyone. On November 1st, GCU will be here. Also,
228 noting it is charter money that was set aside for this curriculum.
229

230 **Trustee Amy Lewis made a motion to approve the 7th grade pathway curriculum**
231 **from GCU. Trustee Becky Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-**
232 **0.**

233
234 **Committees: None**

235
236 **Policy: First Reading – None**

237
238 **Policy: Second Reading - None**

239
240 **Requests for Future Agenda Topics: Facilities set a date in November.**

241
242 **Correspondence: None**

243
244 ***The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm by Trustee Ken Lewis.***

245
246
247
248 
Board Chair

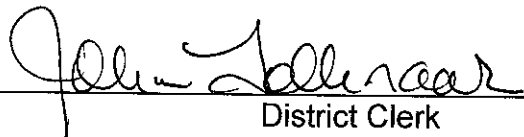

District Clerk

EXHIBIT C



Corvallis School District 1151
Eastside Highway
Corvallis, MT 59828

Strategic Plan 2023

Adopted August 8th, 2023_

The Corvallis School District sits in the heart of the Bitterroot Valley in the unincorporated community of Corvallis. The district has three main buildings: Quentin Brown Primary School (PS - 4), Edna Thomas (5 - 6) and Corvallis Middle School (7 - 8) and Corvallis High School (9 - 12). In the fall of 2022 there were 460 students at the primary school, 435 at the middle school and 485 at the high school. Our district has a superintendent and a special services director. Each of the main buildings has a full time principal. Our primary, middle and high school each have an assistant principal.

The high school assistant is also the activities director. The Corvallis School District is governed by a seven member board.

Free and reduced priced meals are an indicator of community income levels. In 2022 the free and reduced percentages were: 39% for the entire district (42% K-4, 41% 5-6, 42% 7-8, 33% 9-12). From March of 2020 to June of 2022 all students were universal free with covid-19 support to communities. In the fall 2022 free and reduced are at an all time low of 26% for the entire district (30% K-4, 27% 5-6, 24% 7-8, 23% 9-12)

About 15% of our students are identified as IDEA eligible and receive special services. Currently only two students in our district have English as a second language.

The student population is predominantly white, non Hispanic.

All of our schools meet accreditation standards that are set by the Montana Board of Public Education.

In the spring of 2023, Corvallis School District underwent a System Wide Cognia review process. The report showed numerous areas in which the district Meets Expectations while the remaining areas fell in Emerging. An area where we Exceeded Expectations on the report was "Leaders Engage stakeholders to support the achievement of the system's purpose and direction". Cognia identified four priority areas for improvement.

The School Board revised the District Strategic Plan based upon these priority areas:

- High Expectations for student performance and development of higher order thinking skills*
- Development of systemic, data-driven instructional strategies*
- Supervision and Evaluation procedures to improve instructional practices and student outcomes*
- Professional Development opportunities that link directly to student outcomes*

In May of 2016 the district was unsuccessful running a general fund levy with 54.5% against. In November of 2017 the district ran a building reserve levy to purchase land and buildings on an adjacent property The purchase was approved by 65.6% of the voters. The district is currently working on a long-term plan to determine the needs of our facilities. In May of 2023 the district ran an Operations Levy and it failed by 60%. However the Board of Trustees in the Spring of 2023 successfully created an Endowment to help fund district needs and support school personnel as a possible revenue source for the future

Corvallis School District participates in state mandated testing, SBAC (reading and math) and MSA Montana Science Assessment (science 5 & 8) as well as implementing its own testing using NWEA MAP Growth testing. In addition to this, the primary school

uses DIBELS as an early intervention. The ACT is given to all high school juniors and starting in Spring 2023, sophomores are given the PreACT.

Graduation rates in Corvallis are high with 97.78% of students graduating in the spring of 2022 as compared to 85.78% statewide.

Graduation rates for Corvallis have been over 95% for the past five years. The juniors take the ACT in the spring. In 2022 our composite score was 18.6 with math being our strength with 19.2 (36 being highest score possible). Our writing score was a 6.2 (12 being highest writing score possible). In 2022 the state average composite score was 18.1 with math being the highest at 18.5 and writing was 6.0. ACT scores have decreased for the past three years with composite scores of 19.3 in 2021 and 19.5 in 2019. No scores were reported in 2020 due to pandemic and school closure. Typically each year, reading is the highest score, until the last two years, when mathematics has scored highest.

We offer a wide range of classes to address student needs. At the high school level, career technical courses include: accounting, computer technology, business accounting, marketing & entrepreneurship, personal finance, street law, CAD, OIY, small engines, blacksmithing, welding, woods, ag leadership, ag project science, ag vet science, intro to agriculture and ag food science. Fine arts classes include: choir, band, orchestra, percussion ensemble, music tech, guitar, musical theater, ceramics, art foundations, and advanced art. In addition to regular core classes, we also offer many honors and dual-enrollment courses. Our award winning Classroom Without Walls course gives students an opportunity to participate in project work. At the middle school students are exposed to a variety of exploratory classes. These include: band, choir, orchestra, health enhancement, music exploration, outdoor education and recreation, STEAM labs, French, art, tech, and Native American studies.

We also offer rich and diverse extra-and co-curricular opportunities to our students. These offerings are designed to enrich and expand students' areas of interest while at

the same time offering experiences in cooperative ventures, fair play, and doing one's best.

Offerings include: Marching and Pep Bands, Classroom Without Walls, Driver's Education, Interact Club, National Honor Society, Future Farmers of America, National Junior Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Boys/Girls State, Student Council, Spelling Bee, National Geographic Bee, Clay Club, Speech and Drama, Basketball, Baseball, Cheerleading, Cross-Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

At the Primary School level, every student is taught language arts, math, science, and social studies within their grade level content. We also provide students with a variety of specialty classes such as: STEAM, Health Enhancement, Music, Library, and Guidance Counseling lessons. Students attend each of the specialty classes weekly. We provide Title One, Special Education, Gifted and Talented, CSCT, and an Academic Coach to those students who qualify.

Corvallis has a gifted program that offers enrichment activities and accelerated classes to students. Two teachers support the middle school and primary school. The district also uses 21st Century Grant money to provide an after-school tutoring program for high needs middle school students.

With the ever-changing landscape of technology, it is imperative for the district to stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in technology to provide the best possible learning environment for our students and teachers. We are committed to ensuring that our district has the necessary resources to meet the evolving needs of our educational community.

Currently, the district has approximately 1600 Chromebooks and 278 tablets deployed, which are essential tools for our students to access online learning materials and educational software. In addition, we have 3 computer labs with a specific purpose, which are essential for our students to learn important skills such as Business, AutoCAD, Mac Art and Design and PC Art and Design. All teachers have a computer

and projector or interactive display in their classroom, which allows them to provide engaging and interactive lessons for their students.

However, we recognize that technology needs are constantly evolving and we need to keep pace with these changes. As such, the district is committed to regularly upgrading the infrastructure and security to meet the needs of the district. This includes upgrading network infrastructure, such as switches and access points, to support faster speeds and higher bandwidth, as well as investing in cloud-based software and applications to enhance remote learning capabilities.

To ensure that the district is meeting the technology needs of our students and teachers, we will continue to assess our current technology infrastructure and make necessary adjustments as needed. The technology department will work closely with school administrators and educators to identify areas where technology can be leveraged to improve student outcomes and provide a more engaging learning experience.

Overall, we are committed to providing our students and teachers with the best possible technology resources and infrastructure to support their educational goals. With a strategic plan in place, we can ensure that our technology investments are aligned with our educational mission and are helping to drive positive outcomes for our students.



Core Purpose of the Corvallis School District

The Core Purpose of the Corvallis School District is to achieve excellence in educating the whole child in a safe environment so that students are prepared to succeed in life and become productive members of society.

Core Values of the Corvallis School District

Integrity

We value acting in a respectful, honest, trustworthy, responsible and professional manner at all times.

Sense of Community

We value the community in which we live. We believe that a strong sense of community is important to the success of our students.

A Culture of Collaboration

We value collaboration among students, staff, parents and community members. We know that when we all work together, we can accomplish goals that could not be met otherwise.

Students first

We value our students and believe that we can provide for the needs of each and every student attending our schools.

Positive Climate

We value a positive school environment and believe that our students, staff, parents and community benefit tremendously from a safe, welcoming and supportive environment.

Open-mindedness

We value a culture in which people are open-minded, understand the value of diversity, and do not judge others because of differences in background or opinions.

Description of Five-Year Development Process

In 2002 a Five-year Plan committee was established. The committee meets yearly to review and document progress on the goals of the district. In 2014-2015 the plan was updated with new goals. In 2018-2019 the committee reconvened to work on new goals to align to the newly adopted Strategic Plan that addresses the AdvancED priorities. The most current revision occurred in 2023 after the district was reviewed by Cognia (formerly AdvancED).

The committee consists of: the superintendent, special services director, and building principals. Consultation of the plan will include parent groups (Site Based Teaming) lead teachers (DLT) and selected student groups.

Focus Areas / Goals: Strategic Plan

Focus Area I Goal #1 Academics

The Corvallis School District's academic programming will promote student learning through a rigorous curriculum, high standards, effective instruction strategies and meaningful assessments that are based on data research.

The Corvallis School District will provide programming and services that ensure our students are prepared for the next step in life when they exit our system. In addition to having a strong academic program, we will promote the importance of citizenship, character, positive attitudes and hard work.

Intended outcome:

Academic programming promotes student learning through a rigorous curriculum, high standards, effective instructional strategies and meaningful assessments based on data and research.

Programs and services ensure that our students are prepared for post-secondary opportunities by providing diverse academic programming, promoting and modeling the importance of citizenship, character, positive attitudes, higher-order thinking skills and hard work.

ACTION PLAN:

We will establish a College & Career Readiness for transformational learning (School To Work), provide skill development through meaningful informational text, and continue to review and interpret test scores.

Measurement tool linked to intended outcome:

- By the end of 2028 ACT Composite scores will increase to 22, with sub group scores of Math > 22, English > 20, and Science > 23.
- By the end of 2028 K-9 NWEA scores will reflect 70% proficiency for 50% of the grade level from end of year Fall to Spring RIT scores.
 - K-4 increase RIT scores by 3 points
 - 5-8 increase RIT scores by 2.5 points
 - 9 increase RIT scores by 2 points
- Analyze data on a year to year basis and determine new benchmarks if appropriate.

- Transformational Learning Outcomes will be based on fall and spring ELEOT observations
- ***Grade level enrollment will be maintained at 90% capacity of State Accreditation Standards set by OP/ and the Board of Public Education.***

Focus Area I Goal #2 Behavior

The Corvallis School District will promote a school climate that is positive and welcoming to students, staff, parents and community. By providing numerous pathways and alternative placements it is the intent of Corvallis School District #1 to improve student behavior by meeting every student's needs.

Intended Outcome:

Student interventions and providing transformational learning pathways are essential to student success and promoting positive behavior patterns. Engaging in Restorative Practices (RP) may be used informally by individuals, best practice suggests that a school-wide approach to Restorative Practices should be implemented intentionally and systematically to create culture change and ensure success of all students. Restorative Practices can easily be embedded into a Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. Corvallis School District #1 is already implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and can integrate RP. Our current district policies, procedures, and handbooks are the backbone for data, systems and practices across a hierarchy of supports for all students.

1. Tier 1: Focuses on prevention of problem behavior by emphasizing universal supports.
2. Tier 2: Designed to prevent the development and escalation of problem behaviors for students who are identified as being at risk for developing chronic behavior problems.
3. Tier 3: Designed to reduce the intensity, frequency, and/or complexity of problem behaviors by providing individualized behavior supports using evidenced-based interventions.

ACTION PLAN:

We will use behavioral interventions and attendance data to improve school involvement by our entire school community.

Measurement tool linked to intended outcome:

- By the end of 2028 quarterly attendance rates will be at 95% for K-12th grades.

- By the end of 2028 Extra-Curricular Program, Athletics and Activities rates will beat 75% for K-12th grades.
- By the end of 2028 discipline office referrals will decrease by 10%.
- School-Wide Information System (Primary School and Middle School), Infinite Campus (High School) behavioral, survey data and Montana Behavioral Initiative(MBI) program evaluation will continue to be determined by Administration in order to generate a District wide annual decrease in referrals.
- Weekly intervention and prevention meetings will be required in the K-12 schoolsystem and monitored through Infinite Campus.
- Establish and sustain pacing requirements for teachers and students on a weeklybasis. The pacing requirements will include grade checks, weekly gradebook entries, and weekly student reports monitored through Infinite Campus.
- Analyze data on a year to year basis and determine new benchmarks if appropriate.

Focus Area I Goal # 3 Community

The Corvallis School District has a strong partnership with the community and will continue to build upon this relationship by inviting stakeholders to the table when discussing district interests. The community's support of our programs and services is vital to the success of our students.

Intended Outcome:

Strong partnerships provide a welcoming environment and encourage communityengagement at all levels, resulting in support of school programs and services.

Transformational learning fosters individualized pathways for career and postsecondary educational opportunities and that honors individual interests, passions, strengths, needs and culture *and* is supported through relationships among teachers, family, peers, the business community, postsecondary education officials and other communitystakeholders.

Embed community-based, experiential, online and work-based learning opportunities and foster a learning environment that incorporates both face-to-face and virtual connections. Ensure equality of educational opportunity to participate by all qualifyingpupils of the district. Corvallis School District #1 is committed to connecting with the greater community. Active engagement with facilities, events and community gatheringsare a priority.

ACTION PLAN:

We will use Transformational Learning Pathways (Farm to Food, Salute to Service, Outdoor Recreation, Medical & Construction)

Measurement tool linked to intended outcome:

- By 2028 35% of all K-12 students will be actively participating in Transformational Learning Programs. These connections will be executed through groups, instruction, mentoring and internships.
- By 2028 100% of all K-12 students will be engaged in a transformational learning curriculum.
- The District will establish and create a facility master plan for both short and long term goals. An annual priority report will be given to the Board of Trustees in June of each school year.
- The District will continue to provide opportunities for community engagement.
- The District will continue to use traditional and social media communication with the public.
- Site based teaming events will be on a quarterly basis for community support with appropriate personnel.
- The Corvallis School System will continue to meet the expectations of our Cognia Accreditation and the standards and policies established by the Board of Trustees.
- Student and Staff Surveys will continue to be utilized.
- Analyze data on a year to year basis and determine new benchmarks if appropriate.
