

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: Yellowstone

DISTRICT: Elysian School District # 23

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE: Elysian Middle School

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.
10.55.709
2. 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. Parents, stakeholders and community members had an opportunity to discuss and make recommendations concerning requested variance on February 13, 2018. Please see attachment #1.
3. 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. Administrators, teachers and classified school staff were provided the opportunity to discuss and make recommendations concerning requested variance on February 7, 2018. Please see attachment #2
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. Elysian School Board met on February 6, 2018 and approved the adoption of the application for the requested variance. Board minutes from

the February 5th. board meeting will not be approved until the March 6th. board meeting, please see attached Board meeting minutes for February. Please see Attachment #3

5. **Describe the variance requested.** Elysian School currently has one elementary school of 266 students that requires a 1.0 FTE Librarian. In addition we have 85 students in middle school in grades (6-8) which requires .001 FTE Librarian. Hiring a .001 Librarian at this time is not practical for our district and therefore we are requesting that a .1 Para-Professional to be assigned to assist in the Library delivering Library services and meeting content standards.
6. **Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed variance.** Research supports that reading is the foundation and backbone for all other learning. It is one of the top educational priorities at Elysian School. Continuing to provide student access to Library services and promote reading at Elysian is an essential part of our Mission statement.
7. **List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).** With the additional help in the Library we will increase the number of books checked out by 10%. We will also have quarterly grade level meetings between Elysian's classroom teachers and Librarian to develop additional Library lessons.
8. **What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives?** The Para-Professional and Librarian will gather and report Library data and present to the administration on a semester bases. Grade level lessons will be reviewed by the administration on a semester bases.
9. **In what way does this variance meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s)?** The variance will allow students in our elementary and middle school to have access to a well maintained library that is capable of meeting their academic needs and also meet the state program delivery standards.
10. **Describe how and why the proposed variance would be:**
 - a. **Workable.** Due to the fact that Elysian Elementary and Elysian Middle School are housed in the same building, we are able to schedule .1 FTE Para Professional time in the Library. This will allow the Library to to remain open to assist students the entire school day and will continue to allow the Librarian to work with her PLC and grade level teachers a assist in providing equal access to all students at Elysian K-8.
 - b. **Educationally sound.** Researcher supports that reading is the foundation and backbone for all other learning. It is one of the top educational priorities at Elysian School. Continuing to provide

student access to Library services and promote reading at Elysian is essential as part of our Mission Statement.

- c. **Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101. By increasing the Librarian to 1.0 FTE for grades (K-5) and assigning .1 Para-Professional FTE to the Library for grades (6-8), this variance will allow Elysian to continue to meet the Library standards. Working as a team, Elysian’s Administration, Librarian, and Teachers will be able to improve Elysian’s current Library during the term of this variance.**
- d. **Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54. By following the Montana Literacy / Library Media Content Standards this variance it will allow students to access and evaluate information and gain an appreciation and respect for diverse ideas and creative expressions using literacy skills in all aspects of learning, and assist students to become life long learners. These standards will be aligned under (ARM 10.54.6510-6513 through ARM 10.54.6601-6660)**

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Bryan Wilson
Board Chair Signature: [Signature] Date: 2/6/18
Superintendent Name: [Signature]
Superintendent Signature: [Signature] Date: 2/6/18

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: [Signature] Date: 5/15/2018
 Approve Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair [Signature] Date: 5/10/2018
 Approve Disapprove

Elysian Elementary School
Board of Trustees
February 6, 2018

Vice Board Chair, Bryan Wilson, called to order at 6:02PM the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #23, Yellowstone County, Montana. Trustees present were Vice Board Chair Bryan Wilson, Brad McCall and Louie Watt. Trustee Becky Abrams and Chair Jeremy Vannatta were absent. Superintendent Bob Whalen, Principal Luke Shelton and Clerk Laurie Hickethier were present. Guest present were Bethany Joy, Charlene Ingraham and Jennifer Sundsted.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Teachers Jennifer Sundsted and Charlene Ingraham presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board describing the Math Counts program they have started at Elysian School.

Correspondence

Thank you card from the Staff was presented to the board.

Consent Agenda

Brad McCall motioned to approve the consent agenda. Second from Louie Watt, all trustees present voting yes, motion passed. Consent agenda items were the minutes from the January 10th regular board meeting, Warrants 23024471 - 23024491 (January 8th), Warrants 23024492 – 23024507 (January 23rd), Expenditure Report as of January 31st and Activity Account Balances as of January 31st.

TR-5 Individual Contract Reimbursement 1st Semester

Louie Watt motioned to approve the 1st Semester TR-5 Individual Contract Reimbursement for a student to attend the Yellowstone Co-op Preschool Services. The total of the reimbursement was \$154.70. Second to the motion was Brad McCall. All trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement 1st Semester

Brad McCall motioned to approve the 1st Semester TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claim. Bus route 1 had a reimbursement of \$8650.80, Bus Route 2 had a reimbursement of \$8010.00, and bus route 3 had a reimbursement of \$7689.60 for a total of \$24350.40. Second to the motion was Bryan Wilson. All trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

TR-35 Tom (John) Feeney

Clerk Laurie Hickethier has not received the information for a new bus driver that will be starting 2nd Semester 17-18. As soon as information is received, the TR-35 will be placed on the agenda.

Yellowstone West Carbon County Special Services Co-op Agreement 18-19

Louie Watt motioned, seconded by Bryan Wilson, to approve the Yellowstone-West Carbon County Special Services Co-op Agreement for 18-19. For the 2018-2019 school year, the Elysian School District will contribute 100% of the costs minus federal preschool funds to the Cooperative-run, center-based special needs preschool program located in Laurel, MT. Arrangements for transporting and associated costs will be the responsibility of each participating school district. All trustees present voting yes, motion passed

State Accreditation Standards – Request for Variance

Superintendent Whalen presented to the board information in regards to state accreditation standards. The state accreditation standards currently require 1.001 FTE to meet our elementary and middle school library needs at Elysian. Mr. Whalen is submitting a variance of standards application in accordance with ARM 10.55.604.1 to the Board of Public Education requesting a .001 variance. This variance will allow Elysian School to appoint a Para-Professional to the .001 requirement in the library. Brad McCall motioned to approve this request for variance in regards to the library needs at Elysian. Second to the motion was Bryan Wilson. All trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

Trustee Resolution Requesting County Conduct Election May 8, 2018

A motion has been made by Brad McCall, that be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for School District #23 of Yellowstone County will hold the annual regular school election on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 by mail ballot under the direction of Yellowstone County Election Administrator. The purpose of the election is to elect Two (2) Trustees for a Three (3) Year Term.

Be it further resolved if, by Friday, April 6, 2018 at 5PM, it is determined that any portion of this election is not required; the Board of Trustees authorizes the clerk to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with MCA 13-1-304 and 20-3-313. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's 18-19 School Year – Luke Shelton

Louie Watt motioned, seconded by Bryan Wilson, to rehire Luke Shelton as Superintendent of Elysian School for the 18-19 School Year. Mr. Shelton's contract was

negotiated for a three-year term, with 17-18 being the first year of the contract. All Trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

Science Curriculum – Pearson \$28,723.27

Principal Shelton presented to the board the recommendation given by the Curriculum Committee for the Science Curriculum. The Curriculum Committee recommended the purchase of the new science curriculum through Pearson in the amount of \$28723.27 for K-8. Louie Watt motioned to accept the recommendation from the committee, seconded by Brad McCall. All trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Hickethier stated she will be attending budget seminars in the month of March.

Superintendent Whalen's Report

Assistant Superintendent Whalen reported the following to the board:

- A parent of a new transfer student, living within the district boundaries, is asking about the common core curriculum followed by Elysian School District.

Principal Shelton's Report

Mr. Shelton reported to the board the following:

- The ski trip was a success! Thanks to the PTO for the purchase of the pizza for the students at Red Lodge Pizza Company after a fun, safe day on the mountain!
- The new .5 PE/ .5 Elementary Education position has been posted on OPI
- 15 Students will be heading to Washington DC this spring on the annual Washington DC trip – chaperoned by Charlene Ingraham and other staff with Riverside Middle School

Before the Vice Chair adjourned, Trustee Watt asked Principal Shelton and Superintendent Whalen about lunches – and making sure that all students have plenty of time to finish their lunch at school.

The next regular scheduled board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6th at 6:00PM.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Vice Chair Bryan Wilson called to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

.Approved: _____



ATTEST:

Sam A. Hull

Date:

3/6/18