

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: Ravalli County

DISTRICT: Stevensville Public School District #2

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Stevensville Elementary K-8

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 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students

10.55.1801 Library Media Program Delivery

- 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.**

The Stevensville School Board meeting agenda and minutes from February 8, 2022 are included.

- 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.**

The Stevensville School Board meeting agenda and minutes from February 8, 2022 are included. The minutes will include discussion of the proposed variance and the Board of Trustees approval.

Administration has discussed applying for the variance because we have been unable to hire a certified librarian to fill a vacancy. The variance would also allow us to put some funds from salary into other areas such as additional sections to reduce class sizes or provide academic interventions.

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.**

Stevensville School District is requesting approval for an alternative standard regarding our library staffing. We are proposing to staff the K-8 library with a 1.0FTE librarian and 1.0FTE library aide.

The current standard requires 1.5FTE certified librarian for over 500 students. Stevensville K-8 enrollment approximately 500-550 students.

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

Stevensville Public Schools are committed to creating a safe, collaborative learning environment centered on students, facilitated by staff and supported by community to ensure growth and achievement for all.

District Goal #1: Student Achievement - We are committed to ensuring that all students will achieve at their highest potential socially, academically and professionally.

The library a component of student achievement. Our library is a resource center for students and teachers, a media center and comfortable area for recreational reading and research.

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

1. The 1.0FTE librarian and 1.0FTE library aide will provide full time library access for all students K-8. The library can be staffed from 8:00-4:00pm each day, including recesses and lunch periods to provide adequate time for students to access the library resources.
2. The librarian and aide will work closely to maintain the library collection and a variety of media for grades K-8 students and teachers. This structure will continue to allow classroom teachers to collaborate with the librarian and bring classes to the library on a routine basis. The librarian will be able to fulfill the administrative needs of the program (10.55.1801)
3. The district will provide time for the librarian and aide during professional development days throughout the school year.

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

1. Full library access 8:00-4:00 -
The building principal will assign the librarian's classes and the library aide's hours and duties.
2. Provide and Maintain Library Collection -
Circulation data is available from Destiny Library Manager. A schedule of classes and master schedule for the year will be provided.
3. Professional Development -
We will review Montana Content Standards for Library Media to ensure our students are receiving adequate education in the required areas.

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

a. Workable.

This variance is fiscally responsible for the district by allowing us to hire an aide instead of a .5-1.0FTE librarian. The current library aide transferred from a classified position within the district and is familiar with district staff, policies and procedures.

b. Educationally sound.

The 1.0FTE librarian and 1.0FTE aide has been in place since fall 2021 when we were not able to find a certified librarian. It has been successful in meeting the needs of our students and teachers this year.

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

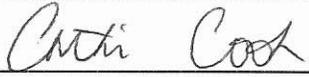
The librarian is fulfilling the administrative duties as outlined in 10.55.1801

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

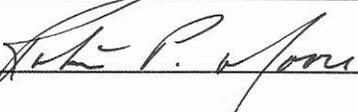
The current District librarians will continue to work together to ensure we have aligned instructional resources.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Cathi Cook

Board Chair Signature:  Date: 3/3/2022

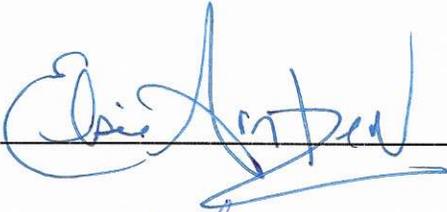
Superintendent Name: Robert P. Moore

Superintendent Signature:  Date: 3-2-2022

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: Apr 13, 2022

Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair:  Date: 5/13/22

Approve Deny

1 **Stevensville Public Schools**
2 **School District #2**
3 **300 Park Street**
4 **Stevensville, Montana 59870**
5 **Telephone: (406)777-5481**
6 **Fax: (406)258-1246**

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Regular Board Meeting

February 8, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Music Center Choir Room

1. Opening of meeting – call to order – present – salute to flag:

Chairwoman Cathi Cook called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Center Choir Room (Also Broadcast via Zoom). Cathi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustees present were Dan Mullan, Sean Lenahan, Jennifer Gunterman, Stephanie Esch, Sarah Armijo, Ben Meyer, and Kris McKoy. Superintendent Bob Moore, Eric Larson, Angie Armour, Tracey Rogstad, Jessica Shourd, and Business Manager/Clerk Bill Schiele were present.

2. Recognize Visitors/Public Comment:

Board Comment:

Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the audience the district has selected four candidates for the district superintendent position. Cathi read the names of the four candidates. Cathi also told the audience they will be conducting interviews on February 15 and February 17, 2022.

Public Comment:

There was no Public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 11, 2022

B. February 1, 2022

Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the trustees if they had any questions or comments on the Regular Board Meeting minutes held on January 11, 2022 as presented. Sean Lenahan made a motion to approve the January 11, 2022, Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All voted aye.

1 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the trustees if they had any questions or comments on the
2 Special Board Meeting minutes held on February 1, 2022 as presented. Stephanie Esch made a
3 motion to approve the February 1, 2022, Special Board Meeting minutes as presented. Sarah
4 Armijo seconded the motion. All voted aye.

5

6 **4. Approval of Claims:**

7 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments on the claims or
8 students' accounts. Cathi told the Board the district has claims in the amount of \$496,291.05
9 starting with claim #38807 and ending with claim #38897 and students' accounts in the amount of
10 \$34,613.19. There were no questions or comments on claims. Sarah Armijo made a motion to
11 approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. All
12 voted aye.

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14 **5. Consent Agenda**

15 **A. Resignation – Angela Marble – Assistant Clerk**

16 **B. Employment**

17 **i. Steve Lewis – MS Track**

18 **ii. Steve Lewis – MS Track**

19 **iii. Steve Lewis – MS Track**

20 **iv. Steve Lewis – MS Track**

21 **v. Substitute List**

22 ***All employments are pending Background Checks**

23 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.
24 Cathi asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items.
25 Cathi asked the Board if there were any consent agenda items they would like to remove from the
26 list. There were no items to be removed. Cathi told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains
27 only to the items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda
28 items will be adopted by unanimous consent. There was no objection and the consent agenda
items were approved by unanimous consent.

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1 **6. Informational Item**

2 **A. Board Committee Reports**

3 Negotiation Committee – Cathi told the Board the districts negotiations team has met with
4 the teacher’s negotiation committee and talked about the upcoming negotiations and that both
5 committees have set ground rules for the upcoming negotiations.

6 Resource Committee – Did not meet in January.

7 Facility Committee – Cathi talked about the punch lists they have been working on, the
8 moving of the High School office to the new entry, the moving of teachers into the southwest
9 classrooms, the welding booths, the new gas hookup for the welding booths, the bus barn remodel
10 and the girl’s locker room showers.

11 After a comment from the Board on the High School girl’s locker room showers, Cathi
12 moved onto the next agenda item.

13 Calendar Committee – No report from the calendar committee.

14 **B. Student Representative Report**

15 Garrett Schreiber, the student representative, was not present tonight.

16 **C. Athletics and Activities – Mr. Edman**

17 **i. Long Range Planning Document**

18 Chance Edman, the District Athletic Director, went over the long-range planning report
19 that was in the board packet. Chance talked about the sports programs that he feels need attention
20 and talked about the sports programs that are doing a good job at the district. Chance also talked
21 about how to implement the changes into the sports program for the district. After comments from
22 the Board on what Chance means by making the sports programs more successful programs, how
23 and when to implement the changes, the long term changes to the sports programs, encouraging the
24 students to stay eligible for the sports program they are in, how does the district know they are
25 meeting the needs of all students including curricular and co-curricular activities and doing a
26 student survey, Cathi moved onto the next agenda item.

27 **ii. Baseball Cost**

28 Chance told the Board if the district was to implement a district baseball team the upfront

1 cost would be around \$20,000.00 dollars and the yearly expense would be around \$12,000.00 to
2 \$15,000.00 dollars. Superintendent Bob Moore told the Board this is just information for them at
3 this time and the district will come to the Board with a recommendation to consider starting a
4 baseball sports program here at the district.

5 **iii. Shot Clock Cost Analysis**

6 Chance told the Board that MHSAA is making it mandatory for all school districts to
7 implement a shot clock for next year's basketball season. Chance told the Board it will cost
8 around \$5,725.00 dollars for the High School gym shot clocks and around \$1,000.00 dollars for the
9 Elementary shot clocks. After comments from the Board on if there is a phase-in timeline to make
10 this happen, will it be for all school districts in Montana, when will the new shot clock requirement
11 start and if the school district can find donations to help with the cost of the purchase, Cathi moved
12 on to the next agenda item.

13 **D. Enrollment Information**

14 Superintendent Bob Moore went over the ANB enrollment numbers that was taken on
15 February 7, 2022. Bob told the Board there was a decrease of 25 students in the High School and
16 that the Elementary numbers were holding steady.

17
18 **7. Business Items for Action:**

19 **A. Recommendation for Leave of Absence – Cathy Ballinger**

20 Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board and the audience as Chairwoman of the
21 Stevensville School board and according to Montana Code 2-3-203 that she determined that the
22 demands of the individual's privacy clearly exceeds the merit of public disclosure and closed the
23 meeting. Cathi reopened the meeting. Cathi asked the Board if anyone would like to make a
24 motion. Ben Meyer made a motion to grant a leave of absence for classified employee Cathy
25 Ballinger to June 30, 2022. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. All voted aye

26 **B. Transportation Contract**

27 Superintendent Bob Moore told the Board the district only received one bus contract bid
28 and that was from Harlow's Bus Service Inc. Bob and the Harlow's representatives went over
the contract. After comments from the Board and the audience about the contract the different bid

1 options and the fair market of the yellow buses, Sarah Armijo made a motion to approve the RFP
2 submitted by Harlow's for a five-year contract as presented. Sean Lenahan seconded. After more
3 discussion on the motion and what it should state, Sean withdrew his second and Sarah withdrew
4 her motion. Sarah Armijo made another motion to accept to accept the RFP submitted by
5 Harlow's Bus Services with Bid Option One in recognition that it isn't feasible for the district to
6 operate its own transportation program and to direct the Superintendent to negotiate the sale
7 prices of the current district's yellow bus fleet, (not including the two activity busses and one
8 yellow bus) bussing equipment and the occupation of the district's bus barn upon completion of
9 the construction. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. Dan Mullan, Sean Lenahan, Stephanie
10 Esch, Jennifer Gunterman, Cathi Cook, Sarah Armijo, and Kris McKoy voted aye. Ben Meyer
11 abstained from voting.

12 **C. Out-of-District Enrollments**

13 **i. Elementary**

14 **ii. High School**

15 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the Board if they had any questions on the
16 Elementary out-of-district students as presented. After comments on some of the enrollment
17 forms, Sarah Armijo made a motion to approve student A and C and to decline student D
18 enrollment into the district for the 2021-2022 school year. Dan Mullan seconded the motion. All
19 voted aye. Dan Mullan, Sean Lenahan, Stephanie Esch, Cathi Cook, Sarah Armijo, Ben Meyer,
20 and Kris McKoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman could not vote.

21 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the Board if they had any questions on the High School
22 out-of-district students as presented. Sean Lenahan made a motion to approve the High School
23 out of district students for the 2021-2022 school year as. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion.
24 All voted aye.

25 **D. Call for Election**

26 Superintendent Bob Moore told the Board they need to call for a trustee election that will
27 be held on May 3, 2022. Bob told the Board there are three positions open for the
28 Elementary/High School district. Cathi Cook asked the Board if they had any questions on the

1 election resolution as presented. Jennifer Gunterman made a motion to approve the resolution
2 calling for a trustee election on May 3, 2022. Sarah Armijo seconded the motion. All voted aye.

3 **E. Alternative Standard Library Staffing**

4 Superintendent Bob Moore explained the situation to the Board about the 4-8 library
5 position and that the State of Montana allows school district to propose alternative standards to
6 accreditation standards under unique circumstances. Bob told the Board it has been very difficult
7 to find a certified librarian to fill the open position. Bob told the Board the alternative staffing
8 would include a 1.0 FTE paraprofessional to fill the position but the Board needs to approve it.
9 After comments from the Board on alternative standard library staffing, if this is a yearly waiver
10 and if the person in this position becomes tenure after three years, Stephanie made a motion to
11 direct the Stevensville Administration to file for an alternative library staffing standard to include a
12 1.0 FTE certified librarian for the K-8 district and 1.0 FTE library paraprofessional for the K-8
13 district. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. Dan Mullan, Sean Lenahan, Stephanie Esch, Cathi
14 Cook, Sarah Armijo, Ben Meyer, and Kris Mckoy voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman could not vote.

15 **F. Sinking Fund Reinvestments**

16 Superintendent Bob Moore told the Board the district has received three quotes from the
17 local banks. Bob went over the rates. After comments from the Board on the term of the CD's
18 and the interest rates, Ben Meyer made a motion to invest the money at .25 percent for a term of
19 one year with Farmers State Bank. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. All voted aye. Dan
20 Mullan abstained from voting.

21 **G. Policy – Seconding Reading Policies 2140, 2240, 2332, 3233, 3550, 3550F and 4331.**

22 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the Board if they had any questions on the second reading
23 of the policies as presented. After a question on some of the policies, Jennifer Gunterman made a
24 motion to approve policies 2140, 2240, 2332, 3233, 3550, 3550F, and 4331 as presented. Sarah
25 Armijo seconded the motion. All voted aye.

26 **H. Obsolete Equipment and Materials Disposal**

27 Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the Board if they had any questions on the disposal list as
28 presented. Sean Lenahan made a motion to dispose of the School District property as obsolete,

1 undesirable, or unsuitable for school purpose as presented. Kris McKoy seconded the motion. All
2 voted aye.

3 **I. Election Contract with Ravalli County**

4 Superintendent Bob Moore told the Board the district needs to have a contract with
5 Ravalli County election office for them to run the school election. Chairwoman Cathi Cook
6 asked the Board if they have any questions on the election contract as presented. Stephanie Esch
7 made a motion to approve the Ravalli County election contract as presented. Jennifer Gunterman
8 seconded the motion. All voted aye.

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10 **8. Adjourn:**

11 Sarah Armijo a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. All
12 voted aye.

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Board Chairman: Cathi Cook

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Date: 3/8/2022

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School Board Clerk: William F. Schiele

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February 8, 2022

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