

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:

DISTRICT:

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Marion Elementary and Marion 7-8

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.

10.55710- School Counselor

2. Describe the variance requested.

We are requesting variance to the standard 10.55.710 which says we must have a minimum of one full-time counselor for each 400 elementary (k-8) students shall be provided. The counselor/ student ration shall be prorated. Marion Elementary School and Marion Public School would employ a part time counselor at .4 to meet this standard.

We are short a counselor, we had no applicants for a counseling position opening. We are serving our elementary (marion school) and middle school (Marion 7-8) with a paraprofessional serving as student advocate in this role. This paraprofessional has been working without students for many years and is currently completing her school counseling degree and is close to being able to apply for her license.

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

a. Workable.

By allowing us to use a highly skilled paraprofessional that we have hired as student advocates, we are covering our students counseling needs. The students have a long standing relationship with our para, and she becomes closer and closer to certification every day. We will continue to seek a licensed individual for our counseling position.

b. Educationally sound.

The paraprofessional we have hired is close to completing her school counseling degree and has always developed meaningful connections with students and their families as she has been serving as student advocate for some time. The quality of service for our students is outstanding when provided by this individual.

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

Standards are not only being met by this person but being exceeded. The paraprofessional, not only is completing her school counseling license but is highly trained and is always seeking ways to help our students grow and succeed.

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

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.)

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Lily Brower

Board Chair Signature: Lily M. Brower Date: 9/16/2024

Superintendent Name: Julia Maxwell

Superintendent Signature: Julia Maxwell Date: 9/16/24

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

Special Board Meeting Agenda of the Board of Trustees of Marion School District #54

September 16, Year/ 10:00am

Principal's office

- A. Call to Order 10:04 am by Lily Brower
 - In attendance: Kami, Lily & Cherie
- B. Flag Salute
- C. Consideration of Agenda-
 - Motion: Cherie moved to approve the agenda
 - Second: Kami
 - All in favor: Kami, Lily, & Cherie
 - Opposed: No one
- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Public Comments
 - a.
- F. Discussion
 - a.
- G. Action Items
 - a. Consideration of forming safety committee and selecting members
 - Motion: Cherie moved to form a safety committee
 - Second: Kami
 - i. Lily stated we need two board members, one person from the safety team and asked for who else. Kami asked if there would be an outline of what we have already approved as a board for a guideline when making decisions. Cherie suggested that the committees are odd numbers. Two board members, two safety team members and an admin. Lily volunteered to be on that committee. Kami expressed her concern about being involved, while Lily and cherie emphasized she would be a valuable team member. Kami agreed to be a part of it.
 - All in favor: Lily, Kami & Cherie
 - Opposed: No one
 - b. Consideration of New Fundraisers
 - i. Athletics-
 - Motion: Kami moved to approve the athletic & PTO fundraisers
 - Second: Lily
 - Kami- Would cash/ money rules apply for the FHS 50/50 raffle. Lily stated that the High School must have a permit for it & we should fall under that and Kami expressed the need to check its legality. Kami expressed her love of a community yard sale idea. Lily expressed that they have done community donation jars, and they went well.
 - ii. PTO: Kami stated they wanted to do fundraisers with the restaurants, such as panda and frugals. One of the PTO members have had contact with the restaurants. They are seeking a blanket approval from the board to move forward. Kami expressed that the PTO decided to forego selling cookie dough, as it was expensive and difficult to handle the logistics of delivery. PTO is trying to find other fundraising ideas that help continue growing. The school store is starting in October- waiting for students to

Special Board Meeting Agenda of the Board of Trustees of Marion School District #54

have an opportunity to have shirts. Kami mentioned a community clothing swap as a good idea to benefit our families.

All in favor: Kami, Cherie & Lily

Opposed: No One

- c. Consideration of Application for variance to the standard for the counselor

Motion: Cherie made a motion to approve a variance to the counselor's standard.

Second: Kami

Discussion of how far along our paraprofessional is in her counselor program. Discussion that this is to cover us in case we cannot find a licensed counselor to fill this position. Kami was impressed that the school should list another job posting stating that we need a part-time school counselor (remote).

All in favor; Kami, Lily & Cherie

Opposed: No One

- d. Consideration of certified pay for our certified teacher as subs

Motion: Cherie moved that we approve a pay for certified teachers as subs

Second: Lily

Lily asked if this would cause an issue with the union. Kami asked what the current rate is \$14 per hour. Cherie expressed concern of the level of work that is required of a substitute. Kami expressed concern that the hourly rate may be too high. Cherie expressed interest in 20 dollars per hour vs. their hourly rate. Kami expressed concern that the highest paid staff would make what and the feasibility of being able to pay that amount out of our budget. Lily approved of 20 per hour and said she appreciates the work the teachers put in and the value of their teaching experience, but subs don't have to prep for classes, just follow what teacher has prepped. Cherie asked are we keeping this open to only employed certified staff or all certified staff in the public. Cherie expressed concern making this decision without more financial information. Lily voiced support of keeping the amount 20 per hour.

Motion- Cherie amends motion to approve paying our certified teachers 19 dollars per hour to serve as a substitute on non contract days. This is only for teachers that carry a current license.

Second: Kami

All in favor: Kami, Cherie & Lily

- e. Consideration of hiring B Bullock as activities bus driver

Motion: Cherie moved to approve hiring B Bullock as our activities bus driver

Second: Kami

Discussion of pay of \$25.00 per hour.

All in favor: Kami, Cherie & Lily

Opposed: No One

Special Board Meeting Agenda of the Board of Trustees of Marion School District #54

H. Information

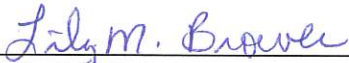
I. Adjournment

Motion: Lily moved to adjourn at 11:05am

Second: Kami

All in Favor: Kami, Cherie & Lily

Opposed: No One



Board Chair, Lily Brower



District Clerk: Shannon Kvaalen

Information about this agenda, including the Board packet and supplemental documents, is available at the School District office. Please contact the office if you have any questions. The Board Chair is authorized to adjust the order of the agenda items to accommodate scheduling needs of interested parties. Citizens may comment on items appearing on the agenda when invited to participate during that agenda item by the Board Chair. Citizens may comment on items related to School District Business not appearing on this agenda during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Public meetings may be recorded or broadcast by citizens. Questions about recording should be directed to the board chair