

## VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION

### Renewal Application (three years)

Purpose: [ARM 10.55.604\(4\)](#) "Following the second year of implementation of a variance to standards, the school district shall provide evidence to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the methods selected by the district implement, meet, or exceed results that could have been achieved under established standards."

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**DUE DATE:**

Second Monday in October

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**COUNTY:**

**DISTRICT:**

**LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:**

K-8 Stevensville Elementary School

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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.  
10.55.708 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students  
10.55.1801 Library Media Program Delivery
  
2. 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.)*

**3. Describe the renewal variance requested.**

The Stevensville School District is applying for a renewal of an alternative standard regarding our library staffing. We propose to staff the K-8 library with 1.0FTE endorsed librarian and 1.0FTE Library Aide. The accreditation standards require 1.5 library endorsed FTE for enrollment between 501-1000 students. The K-8 enrollment is 626 students. The Stevensville School District remains committed to serving the needs of all students in library media.

**4. Describe how and why the proposed variance would be:**

**a. Workable.**

The 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.

The proposed variance allows the library to be accessible to all 626 students from 8AM to 4PM daily. The 1.0FTE librarian and 1.0FTE supporting library aide will serve the needs of students in meeting and achieving the library media standards. We believe this variance to standards ensures that all students achieve at their highest potential socially, academically, and professionally.

**b. Educationally sound.**

The requested variance is educationally sound because it guarantees students access to the library from 8AM to 4PM daily and the delivery of library media instruction.

Access to the library is guaranteed with the proposed staffing variance. Either the librarian or library aide will be present throughout the school day to assist teachers and students. Most of the day both the librarian and library aide will be available to support students. Without the additional support of a library aide, students would have reduced access to library media materials, and teachers will have fewer opportunities to collaborate about library lessons. The staffing variance provides adequate staffing to maintain the library collection.

The Stevensville District understands the obligations provide students learning experiences to meet library media and information literacy standards. As a district we continue to become familiar with content standards in all areas so lessons are designed to meet the intended outcomes. The librarian will collaboratively plan lessons with the library aide and grade level teachers to build new knowledge, commit to inclusivity, broaden perspectives, make meaning, pursue personal interests, and share knowledge products.

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

The Stevensville District intends to meet and exceed the library media and information literacy standards through the addition of support staff assigned to the library. We understand the accreditation standard, but believe this staffing variance promotes achievement of the K-8 standards.

Through structured collaboration with grade level and content area staff the librarian and library aide will develop cross-curricular lessons unique to various grade levels and disciplines. Additionally the librarian and library aide will design learning experiences that build new knowledge and broaden perspective.

Collaboration about the library media and information literacy standards will increase professional awareness, align lessons in all grades to content standards, and support more effective instruction.

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

The librarian will continue to fulfill the administrative duties outlined in 10.55.1801.

**5. Reflection upon initial variance:**

- a. Describe the specific measurable objectives that were listed in the initial variance application that demonstrated how the proposed variance was to meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).**

The original application lists the following objectives:

a. The 1.0FTE librarian and 1.0FTE library aide will maintain full access to all students K-8. Staffing the library 8AM to 4PM allows students adequate access. This schedule provides students and teachers access throughout the school day including before school, recess, lunch, and after school.

b. The library aide will work to maintain the library collection and variety of media for grades K-8 students and teachers. Additionally, the structure provides opportunity for collaboration with grade level and content teachers to expand collections.

The district continues to purchase resources for the library collection and

c. The district will allow for professional development opportunities for the librarian and library aid.

The district is committed to providing professional development to staff and intends to meet the requires contained in 10.55.1801.

- b. Provide a summary of the evidence or data gathered to demonstrate that the initial variance meets or exceeds results that could have been achieved under the established standard.**

The Stevensville Elementary School library variance to standards plan has increased students and teachers interactions with library media in many ways. For example, the Genrefication Project with input from ELA teachers as well as administration transformed the library which is now organized by genre. Students can easily find books they enjoy. Additionally, many students helped with this organizational project.

The library hosted social events like bingo and book clubs for students. The library is accessible to student, many of whom report feeling of safety and enjoyment reading and learning in this space.

Teachers collaborate with the librarian and library aide for various research projects, silent reading time, and the utilization of media for projects. The librarian and library aide continue to collaboratively plan lessons with grade level teachers to build new knowledge, commit to inclusivity, broaden perspectives, make meaning, pursue personal interests, and share knowledge products with students and teachers.

- c. After reflection on the initial variance, describe any adjustments that need to be made to meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s).**

The library staff see a need to weed books from the library. This work had not been completed for many years so efforts should be made to remove damaged, outdated, or unused library media materials. This process will include the high school librarian and elementary librarian along with the library aide.

Most importantly, efforts will be made to collaborate with teachers to provide students learning opportunities to meet library media standards. Having a library aide to support the librarians in meeting these standards is critical. Overall the variance supports access and opportunities for students and teachers in the area of library media.

**Required school district signatures:**

Board Chair Name: Don Meyer

Board Chair Signature: [Signature] Date: 10/8/24

Superintendent Name: DAVE THENNIS

Superintendent Signature: [Signature] Date 10/8/24

Email the signed form to:

[OPIAccred@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAccred@mt.gov)

# Stevensville Public Schools

Superintendent  
Dave Thennis  
Ext. 5136



300 Park Avenue  
Stevensville, MT 59870  
Phone: 406-777-5481  
Fax: 406-625-2576



Business Manager  
Christy McLaren  
Ext. 5133

## Elementary and High School Agenda Regular Board Meeting October 8, 2024 7:00 PM MPR/Choir Room

*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.*

1. Opening of Meeting – Call to Order– Salute to Flag – Roll Call
2. Recognize Visitors / Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Approval of Claims
5. Consent Agenda
  - A. Employment *\*All employment is pending the completion of satisfactory background checks.*
    - i. Substitutes
    - ii. Amy Paxton – High School Pep Club Advisor
    - iii. Josette Hackett – High School FFA Advisor
    - iv. Trevor Motley – High School FFA Advisor
    - v. Charlie Hackett – High School FFA Assistant Advisor
    - vi. Heidi Cowan – High School Yearbook Club Advisor
    - vii. Amy Paxton – High School FCCLA Advisor
    - viii. Jacki Bauman – High School DECA Advisor
    - ix. Wes Wells – Freshman Class Sponsor
    - x. Amy Paxton – Freshman Class Sponsor
    - xi. Trevor Motley – Sophomore Class Sponsor
    - xii. Callie Lendman – Sophomore Class Sponsor
    - xiii. Ryan Hansen – Junior Class Sponsor
    - xiv. Hannah Williams – Junior Class Sponsor
    - xv. Casey Ferguson – Senior Class Sponsor
    - xvi. Jacki Bauman – Senior Class Sponsor
    - xvii. Ayse Haxton – High School Key Club and National Honor Society Club Advisor
    - xviii. Zach Paulus – High School Jazz Band Advisor
    - xix. Zach Paulus – High School Pep Band Advisor
    - xx. Kate Kowal – Middle School Student Council Advisor
    - xxi. Kyla Morton – High School Choir Advisor
    - xxii. CJ Clark – High School Boys Interim Head Soccer Coach
    - xxiii. Daniel Pendergast – High School Assistant Boys Soccer Coach
    - xxiv. Libbi Hyde – Volunteer High School Cross Country Coach
    - xxv. Brienne Kuchel - Middle School Girls Basketball Head Coach
    - xxvi. Kyla Frandsen – Middle School Girls Basketball Head Coach
    - xxvii. Emmalee Hicks – Middle School Assitant Girls Basketball Coach
    - xxviii. Madisyn Hancock – Volunteer High School Cheer Coach
    - xxix. Lynn Bradford – Elementary Paraeducator

- xxx. Melody Johnson – Elementary Paraeducator
- B. Resignations
  - i. Dawn Makoski – Kitchen Helper
  - ii. Greg Sheller – Technology Director
- 6. Informational Items
  - A. Superintendent Report
  - B. Elementary Report – Sierra Bauer and Jon Konen
  - C. Curriculum Report – Jon Konen
- 7. Business: Action Items
  - A. Out of District Enrollment
    - i. Elementary
    - ii. High School
  - B. Variance to Standards Application – Middle School Library
  - C. Rescinding the Approval of Stevensville Transportation Routes
  - D. Consideration to Approve and MOU with RBHI – Suicide Risk Screener
  - E. Data Privacy Agreement for RBHI
- 8. Adjourn

**Public Comment Rules:**

For those individuals who intend to address the Board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, the Board Chair will call on individuals to speak at the appropriate time. Once you have been given the floor by the moderator or chair, please state your name for the record before beginning your comment. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per individual out of respect for the time of all present at the meeting.

The purpose of the Public Comment segment of our agenda is for the public to bring a matter that is not on the agenda to the attention of the Board for the Board's information or for consideration at a later date. The Board is precluded from discussing or making decisions regarding Public Comment items, since they are not specified on the public meeting agenda.

In addition, the Public Comment section of the agenda is not a time to raise personnel issues. To avoid violations of individual rights of privacy please do not make comments referencing any student, staff member, or member of the general public.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

The public will have the opportunity to provide comments and ask clarifying questions during each item for action on the agenda. The Board Chair will call on individuals to speak at the appropriate time. Once you have been given the floor, please state your name for the record before beginning your comment. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per individual out of respect for the time of all present at the meeting.

Please limit your comments to the specific issues being considered by the Board. The Board may not consider any information that falls outside the scope of the current agenda item. To avoid violations of individual rights of privacy please do not make comments referring to any student, staff member, or member of the general public.

**Public Comments during Executive Session:**

When the Board Chair determines an individual or the school district has a protected right to privacy on a particular issue he/she may declare an executive session to hear the matter. All members of the audience that are not directly involved in the matter will be asked to leave the room. Once the executive session has ended the Board will invite the public back into the meeting and make a final decision in public session.

The person or entity whose privacy right is being protected will have the option to invite interested public into the executive session to make comments. If the public input is invited and you would like to speak in an executive session, you will be called into the meeting at the appropriate time and given 3 minutes to speak on the issue.



1 **Stevensville Public Schools**  
2 **School District #2**  
3 **300 Park Avenue**  
4 **Stevensville, Montana 59870**  
5 **Telephone: (406) 777-5481**  
6 **Fax: (406) 625-2576**

7  
8 **Regular Board Meeting**

9 **October 8, 2024**

**7:00 pm**

**MPR/Choir Room**

10  
11 **1. Opening of Meeting – Call to Order – Salute to Flag – Roll Call**

12 Board Chair Ben Meyer called the meeting to order in the MPR/Choir Room. Ben led the  
13 Pledge of Allegiance. The trustees present were Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Jennifer  
14 Gunterman, Fran Schmitz, Nathan Bean, Stephanie Esch, and Tony Hudson. Superintendent  
15 Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, Principals Sierra Bauer, Angie Armour,  
16 and Zeke Kaney were present. Vice-Principal Jon Konen was present.

17 **2. Recognize Visitors/Public Comment**

18 **Board Comment**

- 19 • Trustee Fran Schmitz, commented that Homecoming week was amazing. Thanked  
20 administrative team and staff for a wonderful job!
- 21 • Trustee Jennifer Gunterman, commented that administration did an awesome scarecrow!  
22 Spirit surrounding school is really good!
- 23 • Board Chair Ben Meyer commented that he loves seeing students, and staff engaged in  
24 community.
- 25 • Trustee Nathan Bean appreciates the information that was brought to the board retreat  
26 and discussed. Seeing administrators engaged with students is great!
- 27 • Trustee Tony Hudson, along with Valley Drug and Frontier Café distributed 1000 ice cream  
28 tokens to administration to hand out to students as an award.

29 **Public Comment**

30 None

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33 **3. Approval of Minutes**

34 Board Chair Ben Meyer asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to be  
35 made regarding the September 10<sup>th</sup> regular board minutes. There were none.

36 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the September 10, 2024 regular board minutes  
37 as presented. Nathan Bean seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

38 Board Chair Ben Meyer asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to be  
39 made regarding the September 23, 2024 board work retreat minutes. Christy McLaren, District  
40 Clerk, indicated that on line 14 she had added Stephanie Esch as present, as she had missed her  
41 in the attendance on the minutes. Christy also indicated that on line 96 & 97 Dan Mullan's  
42 comment was changed to read, "doesn't care if graduation is held indoors or outdoors, \$6500  
43 expense for trailer and video screen is not an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars."

44 Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the September 23, 2024 board work retreat minutes  
45 as presented with changes and indicated. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. All trustees voted  
46 aye. The motion passed.

47 **4. Approval of Claims**

48 Board Chair Ben Meyer asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to be  
49 made regarding the claims or students' accounts. The claim questions that had been asked were  
50 on claim #41718 for office furniture for \$3000 for Zeke Kaney's office, because Mr. Larsen owned  
51 the furniture in the office and took it with him when he left, claim #41733 Smith Consulting for  
52 E-Rate fees payment for assisting the district obtain federal funding for technology, claim #41748  
53 to OPI for Education Savings Account, which is a monthly payment made on behalf of a student  
54 for a program that provides state-funded reimbursements for special education services that  
55 families obtain outside of Montana's public schools.

56 Board Chair Ben Meyer indicated September claims #41710 - #41790 totaled \$154,587.16  
57 and September Student Accounts totaled \$12,570.01 for a grand total of \$167,157.17. Stephanie  
58 Esch motioned to approve the claims as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion.  
59 All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

60 **5. Consent Agenda**

61 **A. Employment \*All employment is pending the completion of satisfactory**  
62 **background checks.**

- 63 i. **Substitutes**
- 64 ii. **Amy Paxton – High School Pep Club Advisor**
- 65 iii. **Josette Hackett – High School FFA Advisor**
- 66 iv. **Trevor Motley – High School FFA Advisor**
- 67 v. **Charlie Hackett – High School FFA Assistant Advisor**
- 68 vi. **Heidi Cowan – High School Yearbook Club Advisor**
- 69 vii. **Amy Paxton – High School FCCLA Advisor**
- 70 viii. **Jacki Bauman – High School DECA Advisor**
- 71 ix. **Wes Wells – Freshman Class Sponsor**
- 72 x. **Amy Paxton – Freshman Class Sponsor**
- 73 xi. **Trevor Motley – Sophomore Class Sponsor**
- 74 xii. **Callie Lendman – Sophomore Class Sponsor**
- 75 xiii. **Ryan Hansen – Junior Class Sponsor**
- 76 xiv. **Hannah Williams – Junior Class Sponsor**
- 77 xv. **Casey Ferguson – Senior Class Sponsor**
- 78 xvi. **Jacki Bauman – Senior Class Sponsor**
- 79 xvii. **Ayse Haxton – High School Key Club and National Honor Society**

80 **Club Advisor**

- 81 xviii. **Zach Paulus – High School Jazz Band Advisor**
- 82 xix. **Zach Paulus – High School Pep Band Advisor**
- 83 xx. **Kate Kowal – Middle School Student Council Advisor**
- 84 xxi. **Kyla Morton – High School Choir Advisor**
- 85 xxii. **CJ Clark – High School Boys Interim Head Soccer Coach**
- 86 xxiii. **Daniel Pendergast – High School Assistant Boys Soccer Coach**
- 87 xxiv. **Libbi Hyde – Volunteer High School Cross Country Coach**
- 88 xxv. **Brienne Kuchel – Middle School Girls Basketball Head Coach**
- 89 xxvi. **Kyla Frandsen – Middle School Girls Basketball Head Coach**
- 90 xxvii. **Emmalee Hicks – Middle School Assistant Girls Basketball Coach**
- 91 xxviii. **Madisyn Hancock – Volunteer High School Cheer Coach**
- 92 xxix. **Lynn Bradford – Elementary Paraeducator**
- 93 xxx. **Melody Johnson – Elementary Paraeducator**

94  
95 **B. Resignations**

- 96 i. **Dawn Makoski – Kitchen Helper**
- 97 ii. **Greg Sheller – Technology Director**

98 Board Chair Ben Meyer told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items.  
99 Ben asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items. Ben  
100 asked the Board if there were any consent items they would like to remove from the list. It was  
101 requested that Item #29 Lynn Bradford – Elementary Paraeducator, be removed from the list,  
102 since Trustee Schmitz is related to her. Dan Mullan motioned to remove Item #29 from the  
103 Consent Agenda. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. Trustee Jennifer Gunterman did not vote.  
104 Trustee Fran Schmitz abstained from the motion. All trustees voted aye. Motion passed.

105 Ben told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the  
106 authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous  
107 consent. There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous  
108 consent.

109 Board Chair, Ben Meyer, indicated the board would now consider Item #29 Lynn Bradford  
110 – Elementary Paraeducator. Stephanie Esch motion to approve the hiring of Lynn Bradford as an  
111 Elementary Paraeducator as presented. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. Trustees Ben Meyer,  
112 Stephanie Esch, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson and Nathan Bean voted aye. Trustee  
113 Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. Trustee Fran Schmitz abstained. Motion passed.

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## 115 **6. Informational Items**

### 116 **A. Superintendent Report**

117 Superintendent Thennis reviewed employment vacancies in the district. He indicated that  
118 with the current vacancy in the IT department, he has increased the contract with K12 to work  
119 more days per month. During this time he will be evaluating the technology needs of the district  
120 before hiring new technology personnel.

121 Preliminary student count numbers are approximately 352 high school, 626 elementary,  
122 and 11 middle school Harmony Home School students.

123 Superintendent Thennis provided an update on the high school parking lot. The mayor  
124 has indicated that it is okay for the school to move the stop sign. The superintendent needs to  
125 meet with Glen Frost again.

126 Superintendent Thennis indicated that questions have arisen lately about district memorial  
127 policy and naming policies with the passing of Mr. Serrette. The Policy Committee has recently  
128 reviewed the following policies: 3600, 3600P, and 3600F2.

129 Superintendent Thennis indicated in his Resource Report that the Copy Center staff  
130 member was reassigned to an elementary paraeducator position. The Copy Center position has  
131 not been filled and currently the superintendent is looking at a restructuring that would have this  
132 position covered in-house.

133 The Ad-Hoc Committee discussed transportation and updates the state legislature might  
134 make to the funding structure for public schools.

135 Trustee Billy Donaldson indicated that STARS will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony at  
136 one of the first basketball games this Fall to celebrate the Hall of Fame Gallery.

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**B. Elementary Report – Sierra Bauer and Jon Konen**

Elementary Principal, Sierra Bauer, reviewed the various activities that have been going on in grades early literacy through 3<sup>rd</sup> since school started. Sierra and Jon provided a handout in the board packet that outlined all of the activities going on in the elementary. She discussed how the district goals related to what is happening in the elementary school.

Board Comment

- Trustee Dan Mullan commented on how professional and well done this report was and how well it tied to the district goals and how much he appreciated Jon’s work. Keep up!
- Trustee Tony Hudson asked where does staff have the time and what point do you remove individual teacher style? Where do you let teachers teach? How ridged are these policies? Jon indicated that is almost the opposite of that or broadening it, we are giving structure to the framework. We are allowing a lot of autonomy in what the teachers are doing. We are trying to create systems where everyone is using the same verbiage. We are trying to empower the people in the trenches.
- Board Vice-Chair Stephanie Esch commented on the level of communication coming from the school and how much better it has been. She thanked them for their work.
- Trustee Nathan Bean commented that that level of communication has been phenomenal!

**C. Curriculum Report – Jon Konen**

Vice-Principal Jon Konen provided a curriculum report for the trustees in the board packet. Jon reviewed it with everyone in attendance indicating how the curriculum plan will meet the five district goals and subgoals. He indicated that he would be doing monthly reports for the board.

Board Comment

- Trustee Fran Schmitz commented, Amazing report!
- Trustee Tony Hudson commented, Thank you!
- Board Chair, Ben Meyer, asked where the IEFA (Indian Education for All) fit in? Jon said that Discovery learning has IEFA products for the district to purchase that cover IEFA well.

**7. Business: Action items**

**A. Out of District Enrollment**

**i. Elementary School**

169 Stephanie Esch moved to approve the enrollment of elementary students as presented.  
170 Tony Hudson seconded the motion. Stephanie Esch, Ben Meyer, Dan Mullan, Billy Donaldson,  
171 Tony Hudson, Nathan Bean, and Fran Schmitz voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The  
172 motion passed.

173 ii. **High School**

174 Fran Schmitz moved to accept the enrollment of out of district high school students as  
175 presented. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. There was discussion about the some of the  
176 students being recommended for approval and some for denial by administration and to make  
177 the motion clear it was decided to do a new motion. Tony withdrew his motion. Fran withdrew  
178 her motion.

179 Fran Schmitz motioned to accept the administrations recommendation for out of district  
180 high school enrollment as presented. Nathan Bean seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye.  
181 The motion passed.

182

183 **B. Variance to Standards Application – Middle School Library**

184 Superintendent Thennis explained that three years ago the Stevensville School District  
185 applied for a variance to standards for the middle school library. Montana accreditation standards  
186 require 1.5 FTE librarians for enrollment between 501 – 1000 students. We currently have 626  
187 students enrolled in the elementary (K-8). The middle school library functions well with one  
188 librarian and one library aide. The district is committed to providing access and supporting library  
189 media instruction in direct collaboration with elementary school staff. Current staffing allows  
190 educational opportunities, accessibility, and a safe place for students to read and learn.

191 Stephanie Esch moved to approve the renewal for a variance to standards in the  
192 elementary library. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. Stephanie Esch, Ben Meyer, Dan  
193 Mullan, Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, Nathan Bean, and Fran Schmitz voted aye. Jennifer  
194 Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

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196 **C. Rescinding the Approval of Stevensville Transportation Routes**

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198 Superintendent Thennis explained that during the September board meeting the trustees  
199 were presented with home-to-school transportation routes for approval. The packet included  
200 maps of the nine proposed bus routes for the Stevensville School District. The Ravalli County  
201 Transportation Committee recently met and approved these routes for Stevensville Schools.

202 Public comment was made regarding specific roads and stops previously approved by the  
203 trustees. This feedback resulted in motivation for the trustees to learn more about the routes  
204 serving the district, so the issue was placed on the agenda to be considered for rescinding.  
205 Withdrawing previously approved routes will not stop transportation services for students and  
206 families. Rescinding the approved routes provides trustees time to consider the routes in more  
207 detail. If routes are adjusted, the District will need reapproval from the Ravalli County  
208 Transportation Committee.

209 Board Chair, Ben Meyer, wants to ensure that the public has been given a proper  
210 communication when/if changes are made to routes and he doesn't feel that was done.

211 Superintendent Thennis believes that Harlow's was trying to make routes more efficient  
212 when changes were made to the routes at the beginning of the school year.

213  
214 Stephanie Esch moved to rescind the previously approved transportation routes for the  
215 Stevensville Schools. Tony Hudson seconded the motion. Stephanie Esch, Dan Mullan, Billy  
216 Donaldson, Jennifer Gunterman, Tony Hudson and Fran Schmitz voted aye. Ben Meyer and  
217 Nathan Bean did not vote since they were not present during original motion. The motion passed.

#### 218 Board Comment

- 219 • Trustee Jennifer Gunterman commented that trustees need to look at the current bus  
220 information.
- 221 • Trustee Dan Mullan wants to make sure that information presented to the board is  
222 accurate.

#### 223 Public Comment

- 224 • Janet Depee, local citizen, stated that she worked as a bus driver for over 25 years and  
225 that she is concerned about the safety of the children. She has three (3) grandchildren  
226 that are currently walking ¾ of a mile to the bus stop on Winter's Lane and the Eastside  
227 Hwy. She indicates that it shouldn't matter if its one (1) or more children that the bus is  
228 stopping for. Janet also said there is no weight limit on Winter's Lane.
- 229 • Jessica Martinez, local citizen, stated that the bus used to stop at every house on her  
230 street and now kids have to walk to the end of the street.

#### 231 **D. Consideration to Approve an MOU with RBHI – Suicide Risk Screener**

232 Superintendent Thennis explained that the RBHI (Rural Behavioral Health institute) was  
233 created to address the increasing number of suicides over the past decade. RBHI offers a free  
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236 suicide risk screener for students with oversight from school counselors and administrators. The  
237 online screener is provided to students with parental consent and follow-up care will be offered  
238 to students with elevated risk scores. Students with high scores will be seen on the same day as  
239 the screener, either by a school counselor or a mental health professional, either in person or  
240 through teletherapy. RBHI provides outside mental health professionals. Before the screener,  
241 school staff will be trained to ensure that the assessment and follow-up resources follow best  
242 practices. Student information is confidentially contained by MERET Solutions and is HIPAA  
243 compliant. The administration will ensure that proper parent notification and consent are  
244 completed prior to screening. Superintendent Thennis is in support of screening for Stevensville  
245 students in grades 6 through 12.

246 Fran Schmitz motioned to approve the MOU between the Rural Behavioral health Institute  
247 and Stevensville Public Schools to provide a suicide risk screener for students in grade six through  
248 twelve. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

#### 249 Board Comment

- 250 • Jennifer Gunterman, indicated that she remembers how important the screeners are from  
251 the family that came forward at a past board meeting to talk about their child and the  
252 help that it provided them.

#### 253 **E. Data Privacy Agreement for RBHI**

254 Superintendent Thennis explained that the Montana Data Privacy Agreement allows RBHI  
255 and MERET Solutions to provide technology services, HIPAA-compliant data storage, and data  
256 management for specific purposes. The agreement does not restrict the District from working  
257 with other providers. The HIPAA-compliant database (MERET Solutions) will protect confidential  
258 information unless authorized by the parent or District. Parents can request to review, modify,  
259 or delete personal information by submitting a written request through the Stevensville School  
260 District. The data sharing consent form outlines how RBHI and MERET Solutions can use the  
261 data. Superintendent Thennis supports signing the data sharing consent form, which allows data  
262 to be used in aggregate form without disclosing personally identifiable information or identifying  
263 the Stevensville Public Schools. He also recommends approving the data sharing with RBHI  
264 through all modes listed without identifying the Stevensville School District.

265 Fran Schmitz moved to approve the consent agreement to store, manage, and use the  
266 MERET Solutions HIPAA cloud-based storage and allow RBHI to use data without identifying the



267 Stevensville Public Schools or any of its students. Stephanie Esch seconded the motion. All  
268 trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

269  
270 **8. Adjourn**

271 Jennifer Gunterman motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Nathan Bean seconded the  
272 motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

273 Board Chair Ben Meyer discussed with everyone that it might be better for the November  
274 work session to start a 6:15 pm instead of 6:30 pm to allow more time for discussion before the  
275 board meeting.

276 Board Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

277 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

278 School Board Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT