

## 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:**

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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.

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.**

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

**b. Educationally sound.**

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

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

**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).**

**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.**

**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).**

**Required school district signatures:**

Board Chair Name: DAVID K WRIGHT  
Board Chair Signature: David K Wright Date: 10/3/24  
Superintendent Name: JEFF CRESS  
Superintendent Signature: [Signature] Date 10/3/24

**Email the signed form to:**

**OPIAccred@mt.gov**

## September General Board Meeting (Monday, September 16, 2024)

Generated by Jessica Pyette on Monday, September 16, 2024

### 1. OPENING ITEMS

Procedural: A. Call to Order – Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m. Also present at the meeting were Trustees Buchholz, Stegmaier, Long, and Hall.

### 2. TARGET RANGE MISSION STATEMENT

Trustee Buchholz read the Target Range Mission Statement.

*Target Range School strives to empower each student to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens. In partnership with our families and community, we create equitable and relevant learning opportunities for each student across both indoor and outdoor spaces. Students gain knowledge and develop critical thinking skills to engage in a culturally diverse, democratic, and technologically advancing society. Target Range School acknowledges and honors the fundamental value and dignity of each individual.*

Action: C. Board Approval of Agenda

Motion: Trustee Buchholz

2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Stegmaier

Vote:5-0

Information: D. Board Correspondence - Target Range School in the news - [OPI announces last-ditch spending strategy for federal COVID-19 funds](#)

Action: E. Board Approval of Minutes

Motion: Trustee Stegmaier

2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Buchholz

Call for public comments: none

Vote:5-0

Procedural: F. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

### 2. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent): A. Accounts Payable and Payroll

Action (Consent): B. Accounts Payable and Payroll

Motion: Trustee Hall

2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Long

Call for public comments: none

Vote:5-0

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation A: Student Council Presentation

Julie Wiswell, MS Vice President presented goals, information, and updates to the board.

Presentation B: PK-4 Leadership Team Presentation

Sunny Stegmaier and Amiya Little presented the 4<sup>th</sup> grade leadership team slide show.

Presentation C: School Resource Officer Chris Proper presented on his role and presence at TR.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Reports: A. PTO/TR Foundation Update (Liberko/Judnich)

Ashley Liberko gave important reminders regarding the PTO Hoe-Down, family movie night Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Trunk or Treat and committees for remaining events this year.

### TR Foundation (Paige Judnich)

The Target Range Foundation is so excited about the new basketball hoops and the resurfacing of our outdoor hoops. Our board met on August 13th to discuss timelines for our fall teacher grant cycle. Teachers! Please stay tuned for more information from our teacher liaison, Karla Armstrong.

TRF's mission is to create an awareness of and encourage private financial support for funding opportunities at Target Range School, while effectively managing gifts given for the benefit of the School. We aim to support school needs that are outside the school budget.

Our teacher grant program funds projects that:

- 1) Provide materials, equipment, or new learning experiences for the classroom.
- 2) Invest in our teacher's future success through the funding of continuing education.
- 3) Furnish and equip new and existing spaces

## Reports: B. TREA Update (Midboe/Thompson)

Teachers are happy to see the students back in school, and happy to see our TR staff friends, as well. We'd like to give a huge shout-out to the custodial staff for the hard work they put in to get the school ready for all of us to return. Special shout-out to Zonda for filling in for Bob while he was out! We appreciate the vision and the work to bring the new preschool area to fruition. It looks great! Thanks to the literacy team for the work they did to adopt our new ELA curriculums last year. Over the summer, many teachers attended classes on the Science of Reading to help support foundational knowledge for the new curriculum, which we are implementing now. Thanks to Kelly for jumping right in to her new role as lower grades principal, and to all the administration for starting us off with positive energy. Students are enjoying the resurfaced basketball courts and the outdoor volleyball area, and more outdoor equipment for each grade level. As always, thanks to the TR Foundation for funding and organizing those projects! Teachers are submitting more grant proposals to the Foundation at this time, as well. Many TR teachers were recipients of \$500 classroom grants from OPI this month for special projects. Thanks in advance to the PTO for starting us off with another Hoe-Down later this week! We appreciate all the support from the community and are looking forward to another great year.

## Reports: C. TRCA Update (Saffel/Little)

We are off to a great start. New paras are learning the ropes. Building relationships with students. Working hard to figure out schedules and jump in where they are needed. We love TR and all the support we get from our supervisors.

## 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Discussion: A. Strategic Plan Update (Crews)

Superintendent Crews shared the 2024-2025 [Strategic Plan Action Steps Timeline](#).

### Discussion: B. Montana Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit (Crews)

Beginning on October 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., a limited number of Public School District (PSD) tax credits for tax year 2024 will become available on the Education Donations<sup>2</sup> Portal.

These tax credits are available because some previously approved credits became invalid. A credit reservation can become invalid if a donation amount was recorded incorrectly, or a PSD returned a donation to a donor. These invalid credit amounts will be "put back" in the pool of available credits as of October 2, 2024.

As of September 3, 2024, \$227,001 in PSD tax credits are available for reservation. Visit the Education Donations<sup>2</sup> Portal at <https://svc.mt.gov/dor/educationdonation2/> for up-to-date information on the availability of tax credits.



## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### Action: A. Personnel Report (Crews)

#### Recommendations for Hire:

- Lia Blount; Part-time Paraeducator
- Lukas Lindeman; Part-time Paraeducator
- Chris Stratton; Part-time Paraeducator

#### Recommendations for Hire - Extra Curricular:

- Shelby Midboe, Girls Volleyball - Head Coach

#### Recommendations for Hire - Substitutes:

- Elle Vernon
- Emily Moore

#### For information only, Resignations/Retirements:

#### CURRENT POSITION OPENINGS AT TARGET RANGE SCHOOL:

- Substitute Teacher
- Substitute Paraeducator
- Substitute Kitchen Aide
- Substitute Custodian

#### [APPLY FOR CURRENT OPENINGS AT THIS LINK](#)

Motion: Trustee Wright  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Buchholz  
Call for public comments: none  
Vote:5-0

### Action: B. Renewal Application: Variances to Standards

We are in the process of renewing our application for a variance to standards for our library. The accreditation standards require 1.5 FTE for schools with over 500 students. The board is required to approve our request to renew.

Motion: Trustee Long  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Wright  
Call for public comments: none  
Vote:5-0

### Action: C. Transportation Contract

This is an individual student contract for transportation to and from school.

[Student Transportation Contract 24-25 copy.pdf \(81 KB\)](#)

Motion: Trustee Stegmaier  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Long  
Call for public comments: none  
Vote:5-0

Further discussion was held that this is a good fit for the family and the district and thanked the cooperation between the parent and school.

#### Action: D. MSGIA Proxy Voting (Crews)

The MSGIA annual membership meeting will be held in Missoula in conjunction with MCEL in October. The meeting date and time is Friday, October 18th at 7:00am at the Hilton Garden Inn. Attached is the meeting notice with the RSVP/voting proxy, and the nominations list for board member election. There are four open positions and four candidates.

[MSGIA Proxy Voting and Annual Mtg Notice.docx \(37 KB\)](#)[Nominations List.doc \(438 KB\)](#)

Motion: Trustee Wright  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Stegmaier  
Call for public comments: none  
Vote:5-0

#### Action: E. Out of District Students

Motion: Trustee Buchholz  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee Hall  
Call for public comments: none  
Vote:5-0

### 7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

#### Reports: A. Business Manager Report (Pyette)

Working on Audit Request List  
September Payroll Processing / Accounting Set Up  
September 25th-26th Veteran Clerk Fall Meetings in Helena  
October 7th Student Count for ANB

[60039 Indemnity Bond Re-Issue \\$28.35.pdf \(4,067 KB\)](#)[Voided Warrant 60026 \\$290.30.pdf \(1,996 KB\)](#)[Aug 24 Claim](#)

[Details.pdf \(15 KB\)](#)[Aug 24 Object Budget v. Actual General Fund.pdf \(11 KB\)](#)[Aug 24 Budgeted Funds.pdf \(5 KB\)](#)

#### Reports: B. Principals' Report (Chumrau and Ries)

This month, our Target Range teaching teams are putting into practice skills and strategies they learned over the summer. Their enthusiasm and experience make for a rich and engaging learning environment. The teams are getting used to the new leadership structure, their new curriculum,

and new students. Students are remembering what it is like to be in school. The energy is positive and they seem happy and excited to be back in school.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Faculty**

Focusing is to build on enhancing and enriching our **culture of learning** is of great importance. In support of Superintendent, Mr. Crews' goals, we introduced the following practices:

- Trusted Colleague Collaboration - the intentional practice of partnering year round with a colleague in an effort to support one another and to build knowledge and skills. By now, all of our teachers have selected a trusted colleague and in the next couple of weeks we will be providing time for the colleagues to meet to discuss any challenges they might be experiencing and to share best practices. It is our hope that the meaningful conversations will result in thoughtful improvements in the classrooms.
- Monthly Stand Up Snapshots - the practice of offering quick stand up meetings where colleagues are offered the opportunity to engage in training related to our math curriculum and literacy curriculums. Teachers teaching teachers and sharing best practices. Our first Muffins and Math Meeting took place before school on September 11th and gave our teachers a venue to learn and discuss some strategies they can immediately take back to their classroom. Veteran teacher, Sandy Squillace, plans to meet monthly with teachers to share best practices, offer support with curriculum implementation, and to provide opportunities to discuss and work through challenges. Ongoing access to video training and consultation on social emotional well being, behavioral supports, and classroom management as it relates to tiered systems of support. In addition, another veteran teacher, Michelle MacIntyre, will also offer a monthly meeting, Reading Rally, where she will offer similar support, but based in Literacy.
- We are starting a new practice of sharing learning videos with every weekly update so that our faculty can access learning when it is convenient for them. So far, our videos include information about supporting students through Multi-tiered systems of Support. We are also creating videos that help teachers better understand basic day to day procedures within the school. We anticipate that the library we create now will be of great use for years to come. It will be especially useful for new teachers and para educators.

### **Families**

Our hope is to extend the **culture for learning** beyond the classroom. This month, we are hosting a Parent Engagement Night on September 24th. Our first presenter is Kayli Julius, Kayli is the Well-being Director at the Curry Health Center at the University of Montana. The Workshop Title is "Healthy Habits for Growing Families: Nutrition and Sleep for Elementary-Aged Children". This engaging workshop is designed to help parents understand the critical role nutrition and sleep play in the development of elementary-aged children. The workshop is designed to provide parents with practical, easy-to-apply strategies for fostering healthy eating and sleep habits in their children, setting them up for success both academically and in their overall well-being.

### **Well-being**

In August and September we hosted two assemblies, one for each division (Upper 5-8 & Lower K-4) of the school. Everyone seems to enjoy the student-led assemblies and it is great to see the students taking agency in their learning as they become confident speakers and presenters. On September

27, we will come together as a whole school to celebrate a full week of learning focused on Indian Education. The culminating event will highlight singers, dancers, and drummers.

As we mentioned in our previous report, we want to create a space to apprise you of possible behavioral student challenges. At this time, we are in the process of monitoring the well-being of several students at multiple grades, but we are not at the point where you need to be made aware of any specific situations.

### **New Hires and Job Openings**

We are in great need of substitute teachers. Please help spread the word to people who would be a good fit with our students and staff.

We are in the process of screening applicants for a recently vacated para position. Shoutout to Charity for getting the word out quickly as we have several applicants in the hiring pool.

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

\*Our parent/player meeting was attended by over 60 families. We have over 90 students participating in Cross Country (20), Soccer (41), and Volleyball (32) this fall!

\*We had our Robotics lunch meeting and had many students interested in what Coach Steve Decker had to say and present. Practices will begin September 30.

\*If you have a chance, come watch our athletes and support our teams.

Updated schedules are posted here: [Cross Country](#); [Soccer](#); [Volleyball](#)

### **Upcoming Events**

September 19 Target Range [PTO Hoedown Celebration](#)

September 26 - [PTO sponsored movie night](#) at Ogren Field/Paddlehead Stadium; doors at 5pm; start time 5:30pm

September 27 - Indian Education For All Celebration

October 4-27 - Fall MAST Window

October 23,24,30 - Parent Teacher Conferences

October 31 - Trunk or Treat; 5-6pm

Reports: C. Superintendent Report (Crews)

September 19th: Tentative PTO HoeDown

September 23-25: 6th Grade to Camp Paxson

September 24th: Family Engagement Night

October 17-18: MCEL (Missoula)

October 31st: Trunk or Treat (5:00 PM)

November 22nd: Thanksgiving at TR

Click to see the full [2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

[2024-25 August Enrollment Chart.pdf \(476 KB\)](#)

8. ADJOURNMENT – Without further adjournment the meeting was adjourned at 7:31p.m.

