

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:

Thompson Falls Elementary and Thompson Falls Junior High

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 Library Media Specialist

10.55.710 Assignment of school counseling staff

2. Describe the variance requested.

Thompson Falls Junior High is requesting a variance for Standard 10.55.709 Library Media Specialist. We had two teachers retire that served as librarians for the district covering the 1.1 FTE that we needed for the elementary, junior high, and high school. We were able to hire a 1.0 FTE Librarian to serve parttime at both the elementary and the high school during the school day. We have a paraprofessional in the junior high library media for part of the day. The elementary and junior high buildings are on the same campus. The Junior High has an enrollment of 67 students and they go to the high school campus for 7th period which has a certified librarian

10.55.710, Assignment of School Counselor. The elementary school counselor was assigned to fill the open position at the high school and we were unable to fill the open elementary counselor position. We filled the position with a teacher who had previously worked in special education.

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

a. Workable.

Junior High students attend class on the high school campus 7th period where they have access to counseling services. We also have personnel from Western Montana Mental Health and the Cabinet Mountain Cooperative on the Elementary and Junior High Campus who are available for our students if needed.

b. Educationally sound.

We believe that the individuals that we have working with our students to cover these needs have the ability to meet the needs of our students. Our paraprofessional has worked for over 10 years in the library/media center under various certified librarians. She is also bilingual. Our Junior High students have access to the high school library 7th period as well. Our mental health professionals, which includes a school psychologist on campus, are highly trained and provide amazing services to our students in all grades. Our new contract with WMMH provides services to all students K-12.

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

We believe that we are providing services that exceeds the standards because of the many diverse individuals that we have working with our students. The individual that is working as the elementary counselor is a certified teacher that has worked in a variety of K-8 classrooms including serving as a special education teacher.

- 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.)
see attached minutes from Board of Trustees meeting on 10-7-24

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Sandra Muster

Board Chair Signature: Sandra Muster Date: 10-7-24

Superintendent Name: Bud Scully

Superintendent Signature: Bud Scully Date 10-7-24

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
October 07, 2024, 6:00 P.M. Board Room

The employee grievance hearing of the Board of Trustees of Thompson Falls School District #2 was called to order by Chairman Sandra Muster at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call was done; Trustees, Ryan Frields, Jeneese Baxter, Jake Helvey, Sandra Muster, Ramona Jacobson, Superintendent Bud Scully, District Clerk Stacy Milner. Visitors present are listed on the attached list.

Public Comment-Lynette Elliott reported to the Board about Ag Days that was sponsored by local agencies. Ms. Elliott would like the Board to recognize the listed agencies (see attached).

Morgan Leaf clarified her public comment from the September Board meeting.

Ms. Kaleva explained to the trustees and visitors how a grievance hearing occurs.

Mrs. Ribeiro asserts her right to privacy for a closed session at 6:05 P.M. Opened the closed session at 6:44 P.M. Chairman Sandra Muster called the meeting to order.

Jake Helvey motioned to deny the employee grievance. Jeneese Baxter second. Ryan Frields abstained. The vote was unanimous.

Adjourned 6:46 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Thompson Falls School District #2 was called to order by Chairman Sandra Muster at 6:56 P.M.

Jake Helvey motioned to deny the employee grievance. Jeneese Baxter second. Ryan Frields abstained. The vote was unanimous.

Public Input-None

Superintendent Scully reported the new building hosted the homecoming dance that was a great success. Superintendent Scully also corrected the cost of the Gear Up liaison to \$36,000.00 annually.

Mr. Dorscher presented the Junior High daily bulletin that Mrs. Snead has been directing her students to create.

Len Dorscher reported on the elementary. (see attached report)

Jodi Morgan reported on the high school. (see attached report)

Board Chairman asked if there was an adjustment to the agenda: None.

Jeneese Baxter motioned to approve the consent agenda.

- a. Approve minutes from September 16, 2024, regular meeting.
- b. Approve financial expenditure, reports and pay the bills.
- c. Approve hiring Jessie Lewis, High School Volleyball coach, Chadd Laws, Junior High Head Boys Basketball coach, Seirra Lilly, Junior High Assistant Boys Basketball, Karli Thomas, Junior High Head Girls Basketball coach, Chris Kelly, Junior High Assistant Girls Basketball coach, Shawn Morgan, Assistant Boys Basketball coach, Penny Hopkins, REACH and Kim Milnor, Academic Interventionalist, Shannon Brown, paraprofessional, Britney McCormack and Montana Franks as substitutes.
- d. Accept resignation from Bill McGuire as High School Boys Basketball coach.
- e. Approve out of district students Elementary 24-25-1-20.

- f. Approve Gear Up agreement for the school year 2024-2025.
- g. Approve Pre-Employment Transition Services agreement for the school year 2024-2025.

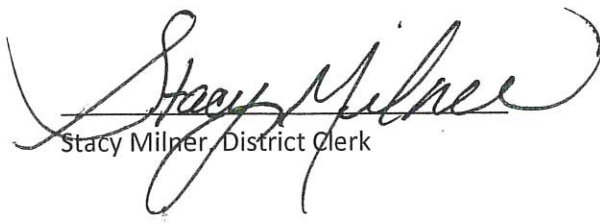
Ryan Frields second the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Ryan Frields motioned to approve the request for Variance to Standards for Accreditation. Jeneese Baxter second. The vote was unanimous.

Next regular meeting will be November 04, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Adjourned at 7:14 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Stacy Milner, District Clerk


Sandra Muster, Board Chairman

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THOMPSON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

BOARD MEETING DATE: 10-07-2024

Present:

1	Len Dorset	27	
2	Opal Morgan	28	
3	Theretta Elliott	29	
4	Charlene Ribeiro	30	
5	Babbi Butke	31	
6	Cade Stiles	32	
7	Morgan Leaf	33	
8	Alex Bulmahn	34	
9	Elizabeth Kaleva	35	
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