



## 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."

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#### **DUE DATE**

First semester implementation; second Monday in October

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**COUNTY:**Cascade

**DISTRICT:**Cascade

#### **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. Describe the variance requested.**

**3. 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.**

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair Signature: John G. Rumney Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Signature: Levi Collins Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Email the signed form to:**

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

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# Regular Meeting

DRAFT

Cascade School District 3B  
Board of Trustees  
September 16, 2025 - 6:00 pm

## Board Members Present

### High School Board

John Rumney - Chair  
Ruth Mortag  
Rick Cummings  
Chris Wilson  
Jeffrey Culp  
James Lewis

### Elementary Board

John Rumney - Chair  
Ruth Mortag  
Rick Cummings  
Chris Wilson  
Jeffrey Culp

Others Present: Levi Collins, Karsen Floerchinger, and members of the general public.

John Rumney - Board Chair, called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Rumney asked for public comment on non-agenda items. There was no public comment.

## Staff Reports

- A. Kyle Spinks, Activities Director
  - a. Athletes doing very well and ranking high in the state
  - b. Hosted Volleyball Showcase - 17 JV/V teams attended
  - c. Strength and conditioning coach will be recommended for hire
  - d. A new PA/sound system was installed on the football field
  - e. FFA at Leadership
  - f. Pep club planning Homecoming
- B. Michael Wilson, Principal
  - a. Homecoming - End of September - Decades theme
  - b. MAST testing - cut from 4 windows to 2
- C. Levi Collins, Superintendent
  - a. Accreditation updates
  - b. Facilities upgrades
  - c. Exploring option of purchasing a golf cart or utv for activities/athletics/maintenance
  - d. PA System update with TEST
- D. Karsen Floerchinger, Business Manager
  - a. General fund is 13% expended compared to the 4-year average of 8%.

## Board Report

- A. Board Evaluation
- B. Board Hours

## New Business

A. Consideration of Application for Elementary Library Variance

Rick Cummings moved, seconded by Ruth Mortag to approve the application for Elementary Library variance for SY2026.

The administration explained that since the current Librarian does not have the proper credentials, the district may apply for a variance to avoid a mark on the year's accreditation. They stated that retired librarian, Karen Matteson, is willing to return on a limited basis to fill the requirements of the variance.

Passed unanimously.

B. Consideration of Recommendation for 0.01 FTE Librarian, Karen Matteson

Chris Wilson moved, seconded by James Lewis to approve the recommendation to hire Karen Matteson as 0.01 FTE Librarian to comply with variance requirements for SY2026.

Passed unanimously.

C. Consideration of Recommendation for Kitchen Aide, Ramona Cooper

Chris Wilson moved, seconded by Jeff Culp to approve the recommendation to hire Ramona Cooper as kitchen aide for SY2026.

Passed unanimously.

D. Consideration of Recommendation for Kitchen Aide, Kylee Hooper

Ruth Mortag moved, seconded by James Lweis to approve the recommendation to hire Kylee Hooper as kitchen aide for SY2026, pending background check.

Passed unanimously.

E. Consideration of Recommendation for Kitchen Aide, Elaine Samples

Rick Cummings moved, seconded by James Lewis to approve the recommendation to hire Elaine Samples as kitchen aide for SY2026, pending background check.

Passed unanimously.

F. Consideration of Recommendation for Bus Aide, Susan Nelsen

Ruth Mortag moved, seconded by Chris Wilson to approve the recommendation to hire Susan Nelsen as bus aide for SY2026.

Passed unanimously.

G. Consideration of Recommendation for Bus Aide, Susan Pettit

Rick Cummings moved, seconded by Ruth Mortag to approve the recommendation to hire Susan Pettit as bus aide for SY2026, pending background check.

Passed unanimously.

H. Consideration of Recommendation for Bus Driver, Jeff Vanderwenken

Jeff Culp moved, seconded by James Lewis to approve the recommendation to hire Jeff Vanderwenken as bus driver for SY2026.

Passed unanimously.

I. Consideration of Recommendation for Bus Maintenance, Jeff Vanderwenken

Chris Wilson moved, seconded by James Lewis to approve the recommendation to hire Jeff Vanderwenken as bus maintenance for SY2026.

Passed unanimously.

J. Consideration of Recommendation for Strength & Conditioning Coach, Blake Standley

James Leis moved, seconded by Chris Wilson to approve the recommendation to hire Blake Standley as strength and conditioning coach for SY2026.

Passed unanimously.

K. Consideration of Recommendation for Town of Cascade Hold Harmless Agreement

James Lewis moved, seconded by Ruth Mortag to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement with the Town of Cascade.

Passed unanimously.

L. Consideration of Request for Tyler Technologies Accounting Software

Rick Cummings moved, seconded by Chris Wilson to approve the request to purchase to Tyler Technologies Accounting Software.

Karsen Floerchinger presented a quote for a new accounting software. The software will combine several programs that the district is currently using and increase functionality and productivity.

Passed unanimously.

M. Consent Agenda (Appendix E)

- a. Minutes of Regular & Organizational Board Meeting, August 19, 2025
- b. Business Claims
- c. Student Activity Account
- d. Sub List
- e. Student Attendance Agreements

Chris Wilson moved, seconded by Ruth Mortag to approve the consent agenda.

Rick Cummings requested to remove page 42. The board entered a discussion pertaining to the negative balance in the Close-Up account. It was decided that Mr. Collins would send a letter to the student's who attended last year explaining they would need to make up the difference that was not covered by fundraised money for their trips.

Passed unanimously.

## **Board Meeting Evaluation (I)**

- A. Complete evaluation and turn into Mr. Collins.

## **Announcements (I)**

- A. Regular School Board Meeting - October 14, 2025
- B. Upcoming Trainings

## **Adjournment (A)**

At 7:27 pm Ruth Mortag moved, seconded by Chris Wilson to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

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John Rumney, Board Chair

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ATTEST: Karsen Floerchinger, District Clerk

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*For additional details on items presented in the minutes of the meeting, please see the coinciding board agenda found on Cascade Public Schools' webpage:*

[www.cascade.k12.mt.us/District/1141-Board-Agendas-and-Packet.html](http://www.cascade.k12.mt.us/District/1141-Board-Agendas-and-Packet.html)

*Recordings of the meetings may also be found the webpage:*

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