



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:

Frontier School & Frontier 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.**

10.55.704 - District Superintendent
10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist
10.55.710 - School Counseling



2. Describe the variance requested.

Frontier School District are requesting a variance for 10.55.704 District Superintendent. We have a certified Superintendent from another state in this role now.

Frontier School and Frontier 7-8 School are requesting a variance for 10.55.709 Library Media Specialist. Our former librarian for both schools is now a full time clerk. The District advertised for a Library Media Specialist in the local newspaper, on the District website and OPI's Jobs for Teachers with no applicants. We have a certified teacher who is providing services to both schools, teaching the library standards. This teacher is working on a library endorsement and should have it next school year.

Frontier School and Frontier 7-8 School is requesting a variance for 10.55.710 Assignment of School Counselor. Frontier School and Frontier 7-8 has experienced an unexpected increase in enrollment, due to state tuition bill, causing standard issues with the current contracted counselor of 17 years.

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

a. Workable.

10.55.704 - The current Superintendent needs to take two classes from MSU to be certified as a Superintendent in Montana and he has 2 years to finish this according to OPI.

10.55.709 - Currently, a certified teacher provides the library standards. In addition this teacher is working on her library endorsement to meet the needs of the students.

10.55.710 - The current contract counselor, in the past, has worked halftime. Starting this year, the counselor is working at 75% of the time to be available to students due to increased enrollment. There is a teacher currently earning her counseling degree who has been assisting with counseling within her degree practicum.



b. Educationally sound.

10.55.709 - The certified teacher is teaching the library standards for 30 minutes per week for each grade in Frontier School and 1 hour for each grade in Frontier 7-8.

10.55.710 - We believe we are providing services that meet the standards for helping meet our students' needs. Besides the contracted counselor, Frontier School and Frontier 7-8 has two counselors from HPDP who come to Frontier one day per week each to work with students. We also have Zoom counseling sessions with the University of Montana. As well, by the spring of '27, Frontier will have a teacher with a finished counseling degree.

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

We are only required to have a .10 Superintendent and the principal can serve in both positions and our current Superintendent serves .25 which exceeds the standard.

Library media is currently not .50, but is teaching the standards in the allotted time.

Our contracted Counselor exceeds the 39% time based on enrollment for the counseling position however he is serving 75% of the time.



b. Educationally sound.

10.55.709 - The certified teacher is teaching the library standards for 30 minutes per week for each grade in Frontier School and 1 hour for each grade in Frontier 7-8.

10.55.710 - We believe we are providing services that meet the standards for helping meet our students' needs. Besides the contracted counselor, Frontier School and Frontier 7-8 has two counselors from HPDP who come to Frontier one day per week each to work with students. We also have Zoom counseling sessions with the University of Montana. As well, by the spring of '27, Frontier will have a teacher with a finished counseling degree.

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: Therese Wilkinson-Long
Board Chair Signature: Therese Long Date: 10/6/25
Superintendent Name: Keith Hays
Superintendent Signature: Keith Hays Date: 10/6/25

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov



FRONTIER SCHOOL

6996 ROY STREET

WOLF POINT, MONTANA 59201

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Special Board Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2025

Frontier Library, Wolf Point, MT 59201

Opened: 4:30 PM

Present: Roger Wimmer, Therese Wilkinson-Long, Kitty Boysun, LaVonna Pew, Darla Warrior, Keith Hays, Ashley Porras (incoming board of trustee).

Guest(s):

2A MINUTES

1A. Pledge of Allegiance

6B: Appointment and swearing in of new board member—Ashley Porras (moved from later in agenda by Therese Long). Trustee Porras sworn in by LaVonna Pew.

2A: Presentation and approval of Minutes and Warrants:

None

3A: Recognition of and Presentations by Guests and Visitors: There were no guests.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

4A. MOU-CBA. Keith Hays explained there's an instructor using her planning 3 hours per week for library. There was some discussion. Ashley Porras asked for clarification. LaVonna Pew explained. Mr. Hays added some other stipulations regarding the extra pay not covering field trips or to cover if the teacher has a group of students already. Roger Wimmer made a motion to approve this MOU between Frontier Education Association and Frontier Public Schools. Therese Long seconded the motion. All were in favor.

4B. Nothing

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6A. Variance of Deviation Waiver. Mr. Hays explained the variance document and the situation with Mr. Riggins' situation as a contractor and that he's here three days per week. In addition, he stated Mr. Riggins' retiring and Ms. Rees taking his position. Mr. Riggins will be retiring at the completion of FY27, when Mrs. Rees will be finished with her classes. There was some discussion about the deviation due to the Superintendent's license. In addition, Keith Hays has a teacher who

is going to be done in two years with the library endorsement. Therese Long asked what happens if we don't get those licenses. Hays explained we'd get a mark against us from the state. There was discussion about ANB and the expectations of the board. Roger Wimmer made a motion we accept the "Standards of Deviation Waiver." Ashley Porras seconded the motion. All were in favor.

7. OUT OF DISTRICT AGREEMENTS:

None

8A. BOARD CALENDAR

Next board meeting set for 4:30 PM MST, Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Roger Wimmer made a motion to adjourn. Therese Long seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT at 4:57 PM

**FRONTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL DISTRICT #3
WOLF POINT, MT 59201**

AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 6, 2025

4:30 PM In Library



1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. Presentation and Approval of Minutes and Warrants

3. Recognition of and presentations by guests and visitors

3A The board recognizes the value of public comments on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. The board also recognizes the public's statutory and constitutional rights to participate in governmental operations. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comments, the board will permit public participation through oral or written comments prior to a final decision on a matter of significant interest to the public. The chair may control such comments to ensure an orderly progression of the meeting.

The clerk of the board shall secure the names of all those people wishing to be heard before the board. Those desiring to speak shall indicate whether they are for or against the issue involved. Persons not responding to the clerk's request shall not be heard.

Individuals wishing to be heard by the chair shall first be recognized by the chair. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. The chair may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when appropriate, including when statements are out of order, too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings. It is important for all participants to remember that board meetings are held in public but are not public meetings. Members of the public shall be recognized and allowed input during the meeting, at the discretion of the chair.

4. Old Business:

4A MOU -CBA

4B

5. Administrative Reports

6. New Business:

6A Variance of deviation waiver

6B Appointment of and swearing in new board member – Ashley Porras

7. Out of District Agreements

8. Board calendar

8A Next Regular Meeting October 14, 2025

8. Adjournment