

Montana Board of Public Education Executive Summary

Date: November 15-17 2023

Presentation	Recommend Approval of the 2023-24 Initial and Renewal Variance to Standards (VTS) applications.
Presenter	Ellery Bresler; Crystal Andrews
Position Title	Accreditation Specialist; Director of Accreditation and Licensure Office of Public Instruction
Overview	This presentation provides the Board of Public Education recommendations from Superintendent Arntzen to approve Initial and Renewal Variance to Standards. The primary report is attached.
Requested Decision(s)	Approval of the six Variance to Standards applications.
Related Issue(s)	None
Recommendation(s)	Action 1: Approve State Superintendent Arntzen's recommendation of the four requests for Initial Variance to Standard. Action 2: Approve State Superintendent Arntzen's recommendations of the two requests for Renewal of Variances to Standards.



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov



Montana Board of Public Education
November 15-17, 2023

Superintendent's Recommendations on the Applications for Variances to Standards
Submitted by Schools, October 2023 for Implementation
For the 2023-2024 School Year

Initial Applications

Application 1

Anaconda Public Schools – Anaconda Jr High School (SC:15890) & Anaconda Sr High School (0326) - variance to ARM 10.55.709- Library Medial Specialist FTE

The superintendent recommends approval of the initial request for the variance as submitted in this application.

Application 2

Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710) - variance to ARM 10.55.709- Library Media Specialist FTE

The superintendent recommends approval of the initial request for the variance as submitted in this application.

Application 3

Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710) & Eureka Middle School (1724) - variance to ARM 10.55.710- School Counselor FTE

The superintendent recommends approval of the initial request for the variance as submitted in this application.

Application 4

Livingston Public Schools – Park High School (SC: 0823) - variance to ARM 10.55.710- School Counselor FTE

The superintendent recommends approval of the initial request for the variance as submitted in this application.

Renewal Applications

Application 5

Hardin Public Schools – Hardin High School (SC:0037) - variance to ARM 10.55.709- Library Media Specialist FTE

The superintendent recommends approval of the renewal request for the variance as submitted in this application.

Application 6

Polson Public Schools – Polson High School (SC: 0633) - variance to ARM 10.55.709- Library Media Specialist FTE

The superintendent recommends approval of the renewal request for the variance as submitted in this application.

Not Applicable Application

Application 7

Columbia Falls Public Schools – Glacier Gateway Elementary (SC:0418) - variance to ARM 10.55.709- Library Media Specialist FTE

The superintendent recommends that due to the school being in compliance at the time the application was submitted, the variance is not applicable.



Agenda

October 27, 2023

9:00 am Call to Order

- Roll Call
- Statement of Public Participation
 - *The Variance to standards Review Board encourages the public to participate in board discussions. Persons who wish to participate should sign the public comment sign-in sheet and identify themselves to the board chair prior to the board's consideration of the matter in which the person are concerned. Anyone wishing to participate in board discussions will be recognized by the chairperson in keeping with normal board parliamentary procedure. The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Review board on every action item on the agenda prior to final board action.*
- Adoption of Agenda
- Review of ARM 10.55.604 & 10.55.608
- Welcome New Board Members and Board Terms.
- Approval of April 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- Review & Make Recommendations- Initial Applications
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Initial Applications:

1. **Anaconda Public Schools – Anaconda Jr High School (SC:15890) & Anaconda Sr High School (0326)**
10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE
2. **Columbia Public Schools – Glacier Gateway Elementary (SC: 0418)**
10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE
3. **Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710)**
10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE
4. **Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710) & Eureka Middle School (1724)**
10.55.710 – School Counselor FTE
5. **Livingston Public Schools – Park High School (SC: 0823)**
10.55.710 – School Counselor FTE

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A⁺**



Renewal Applications, Information Only:

- 1. Hardin Public Schools – Hardin High School (SC:0037)**
10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE

- 2. Polson Public Schools - Polson High School (SC:0633)**
10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE



Welcome and Introduction

1. **Call to Order: chairman Fred Anderson called meeting to order 9:00 am**
2. **Roll Call**
 - Fred Anderson – Chair - present
 - Kelly Haverlandt – *Vice Chair - present*
 - Cammie Knapp – present
 - Jay Phalen – present
 - Eric Myers – present
 - Ashley Olson – present
 - Hannah Nieskens – present
 - Eric Matthews – present
 - Nancy Stiffarm - absent
 - Abby Moscatel - present
3. **Statement of Public Participation - Fred Anderson**
4. **Adoption of Agenda**
 - Motion: Eric Matthews moved to adopt the agenda**
 - Second: Kelly Haverlandt**
 - Vote: YES 9 – NO 0**
5. **Review of ARM 10.55.604 Variances to Standards Process and ARM 10.55.608 Charter School Applications - Ellery Bresler**
6. **Welcome of New Members and Member Terms - Ellery Bresler**
7. **Approval of April 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes**
 - Motion: Eric Matthews**
 - Second: Cammie Knapp**
 - Vote: YES 9 – NO 0**
8. **Application 1 - Anaconda Public Schools – Anaconda Jr High School (SC:15890) & Anaconda Sr High School (0326)**
 - 10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE
 - This application is an Initial Request for two years.

Public Comment: Eric Swanson is the principal of Anaconda presented application



Board Discussion/Comment: Board discussion of application.

Motion: Eric Matthews for Superintendent to take to the BPE for approval

Second: Hannah Nieskens

Vote: YES 9 – NO 0

9. Application 2 - Columbia Public Schools – Glacier Gateway Elementary (SC: 0418)

10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE

This application is an Initial Request for two years.

Public Comment:

Board Discussion/Comment: Board discussion of application. General discussion centered on the school's current status of compliance. The school is currently within the range for 1.0 FTE. The variance concerns the possibility of an increase in enrollment bringing the need for 1.5 FTE.

Motion: Eric Matthews moved the variance would not be recommended to the BPE due to the district currently being in compliance.

Second: Kelly seconded the motion

Vote: YES 7 – NO 2

Motion: Abby Moscatel made a motion to withdraw the vote and made a substitute motion to table the vote until the spring

Second: Hannah Nieskens

Motion: Abby Moscatel withdrew the substitute motion.

Motion: Eric Matthews made a motion to deny the variance recommendation

Second: Kelly Haverlandt

Vote: YES 9 – NO 0

10. Application 3 - Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710)

10.55.709 - Library Media Specialist FTE

This application is an Initial Request for two years.

Public Comment:

Board Discussion/Comment: Board discussion of application.

Motion: Kelly Haverlandt for Superintendent to take to the BPE for approval



Second: Hannah Nieskens

Vote: YES 9 – NO 0

11. Application 4 - Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710) & Eureka Middle School (1724)

10.55.710 – School Counselor FTE

This application is an Initial Request for two years.

Public Comment:

Board Discussion/Comment: Board discussion of application. General discussion on the school counselor requirements and what constitutes highly trained staff.

Motion: Hannah Nieskens for Superintendent to take to the BPE for approval

Second: Cammie Knapp

Vote: YES 9 – NO 0

12. Application 5 - Livingston Public Schools – Park High School (SC: 0823)

10.55.710 – School Counselor FTE

This application is an Initial Request for two years.

Public Comment:

Board Discussion/Comment: No discussion.

Motion: Eric Matthews for Superintendent to take to the BPE for approval

Second: Kelly Haverlandt

Vote: YES 9 – NO 0

13. Recommendations to the Superintendent.

14. Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Eric Matthews moved to adjourn

Second: Abby Moscatel

Meeting adjourned @ 10:05 a.m.



**2023-2024 Variance to Standards
Initial Application Summary**

1. Anaconda Public Schools – Anaconda Jr High School (SC:15890) & Anaconda Sr High School (0326)

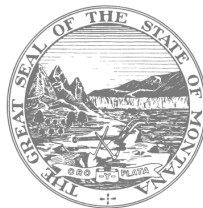
- a. 10.55.709(1)(b) Library Media Specialist FTE, 1 FTE for schools with 251-500 students.
 - i. Application Request: To have 1.0 total Library Media Specialist FTE for both Anaconda Jr High School and Anaconda Sr High School with a total enrollment of 465.
 1. Anaconda Sr. High School Enrollment – 298
 2. Anaconda Jr. High School Enrollment - 167
 - ii. Required Library Media Specialist FTE for both the high school and the junior high is 1.5 FTE.
 - iii. Workable Reasons
 1. Grades 7-12 are in the same building.
 2. Total enrollment is 465 between the 2 schools.
 3. There is a certified Librarian available in the library all 7 periods.
 - iv. This is an **Initial Request** for two years.

2. Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710)

- a. 10.55.709(1)(b) Library Media Specialist FTE, (b) 1 FTE for schools with 251-500 students.
 - i. Application Request: To have 0.5 Library Media Specialist FTE for Eureka Elementary.
 - ii. Required Library Media Specialist FTE for Eureka Elementary (286 Enrollment) is 1.0 FTE
 1. Required Library Media Specialist FTE for Eureka Middle School (226 Enrollment) is 0.5 FTE
 - iii. Workable Reasons
 1. Unique demographic of school. Sits adjacent to the middle school.
 2. The librarian is already splitting time between the two schools.
 3. Additional support of 0.5 FTE from a highly qualified paraprofessional.
 4. Unable to fill Library Media Specialist position due to no applicants.
 5. This is an **Initial Request** for two years.

3. Eureka Public Schools – Eureka Elementary (SC: 0710) & Eureka Middle School (1724)

- a. 10.55.710 School Counselor FTE, (1) A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 elementary (K-8) students shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated. (2) A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 high school students (including grades 7 and 8 if high school funding is received) shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated.



- vi. Application Request: To have 0.5 total school counselor FTE for Eureka Elementary & Eureka Middle School.
- vii. The required School Counselor FTE for both schools is 1.275 FTE. (0.71 FTE for the elementary & 0.565 FTE for the middle school)
- viii. Workable Reasons
 - 1. Unique demographics of schools, they sit adjacent to each other.
 - 2. Additional support of 0.5 FTE from a highly qualified paraprofessional and 0.5 FTE from a certified School Psychologist. A total of 1.5FTE devoted to the counseling needs of the students.
- ix. Unable to fill a school counseling position due to no applicants and the current school counselor changed to part-time.
- x. This is an **Initial Request** for two years.

4. Livingston Public Schools – *Park High School (SC: 0823)*

- a. 10.55.710(2) School Counselor FTE, A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 high school students (including grades 7 and 8 if high school funding is received) shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated.
 - i. Application Request: To have 1.0 total school counselor FTE for Park High School.
 - ii. The required School Counselor FTE is 1.095 FTE. (438 Enrollment)
 - iii. Workable Reasons
 - 1. Additional counseling support from Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff.
 - 2. Additional academics need support from the work-based learning coordinator.
 - iv. Unable to fill the additional School Counseling position due to no applicants.
 - v. This is an **Initial Request** for two years.

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:

Anaconda Junior Senior High School

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.

MCA 10.55.709 (1) The school library shall be housed in a central location, and each school shall have a licensed and endorsed library media specialist in the following ratio:

- (a) .5 FTE for schools with 126-250 students;
 - (b) 1 FTE for schools with 251-500 students;
 - (c) 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students;
 - (d) 2 FTE for schools with 1001-1500 students;
 - (e) 2.5 FTE for schools with 1501-2000 students;
 - (f) 3 FTE for schools with 2001 or more students;
- (2) Schools of fewer than 126 students shall employ or contract with a licensed and endorsed school library media specialist.
- (3) If a district has fewer than 126 students, the district may utilize a consortium, multidistrict agreement, or interlocal cooperative to secure these services.

We are a 7-12 school within one building servicing elementary and high school students.

2. Describe the variance requested.

We would like to be allowed 1 FTE Librarian within the school to service our 469 students.

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

a. Workable.

The way we have created our schedule there is a certified librarian available in the library all seven (7) periods every day during the student school year.

b. Educationally sound.

Both FTE's that service students throughout the day are certified Library Media Specialists.

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

MCA 10.55.709 (c) 1 FTE for schools with 251-500 students, our current enrollment is 469 students and we have 1 FTE Library Media Specialist to fulfill the needs of our students.

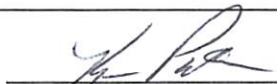
- d. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101.

ARM 10.55.1801 Library Media and Information Literacy Program Delivery Standards Scheduling ensures that libraries respond to information needs, foster intellectual curiosity, and support learning, collaboration of classroom teachers of all disciplines to implement content area standards and to assist students in engaging in the inquiry/research process is ensured, modeling and supporting the ethical use of information, adherence to copyright laws, and respect for intellectual property is evident. We do have a physical and digital library collection that is current, balanced and reflects authentic historical and cultural contributions of Montana's American Indians and other minority and ethnic groups and engages in comprehensive long range planning to administer and manage, in a secure area, the human financial, digital, and physical resources of the library to locate, access, and use resources that are organized and cataloged and implements a viable collection development policy which includes the following components: materials selection and de-selection (our library has been recently purged), challenged materials procedure, intellectual/academic freedom statement, confidentiality assurance, copyright guidelines, gifts and donations. Our Library Media Specialists collaborate with classroom teachers of all disciplines to highlight and reinforce commonalities and links among curricular areas, cooperate and join with other libraries, encourage partnerships with information centers, and participate in school-wide technology and telecommunications digital service content planning. AJSHS meets the above standards

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.)
School Board will meet and review during the October 11, 2023 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Kevin Patrick

Board Chair Signature:  Date: 10-11-23

Superintendent Name: John Sullivan

Superintendent Signature:  Date 10-11-23

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

THE TRUSTEES OF ANACONDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT NO. 10 MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023 AT THE ADMINISTRATION BOARD ROOM.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick called the Regular meeting of the School Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 5:30 P.M. The meeting convened with 7 members of the Board present: Teal Allick, Charlie Farmer, Matt Ives, Sam Jovanovich, Keriann Orrino, Kevin Patrick, and Gayle Venturelli. All present was Superintendent John Sullivan and Business Manager/Clerk of the Board Gayle Holm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Venturelli moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Trustee Orrino seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with no objections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Patrick called for public comment. At this time the public had the chance to speak on items not on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION

- Minutes - Regular Board Meeting – September 13, 2023
- Bills and Warrants for September 2023
 - Activity Warrants: 13336-13429
 - AP Claims Warrants: 55048-55120
 - Payroll Claims Warrants: 73721-73766
- Student Attendance Agreements/Tuition Agreements for Foster/Group Home Students

Trustee Venturelli moved to approve the consent agreement as submitted. Trustee Farmer seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with no objections.

REPORTS

The following District staff and administration presented updated reports to the board and public:

- Administration submitted written reports that accompanied the board packet. At this time questions regarding those reports were asked.
- Administration In-Person report: Holly Bjerke – Principal – Lincoln Elementary School Report
- John Sullivan –Superintendent -District Report

BOARD DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- ✓ Strategic Plan Discussion:

- Report on the Strategic Plan meeting that was just recently held. Items included goals, communications, and detail surrounding the status of the goals currently in place.
- ✓ 95 Mills Discussion was held. Superintendent Sullivan read some details and quotes surrounding the decisions and effects for counties to pass only the 77.9 mills. Deer Lodge County did pass the 95 Mills. Mr. Bill Everett, Chief Executive Officer was in attendance and also spoke on litigations and information moving forward on this topic.

ACTION ITEMS:

MOTION - AGENDA ITEM A - APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT

October 11, 2023 PAR NAME	POSITION	ACTION	BUILDING	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jacqueline Venard	Substitute	Hire	District	9/20/2023
Lori Harvey	Substitute	Hire	District	10/11/2023
Kasey Faur	Substitute	Hire	District	09/27/2023
Theodore Hall	Substitute	Hire	District	10/11/2023
Lori Carney	Substitute	Hire	District	10/11/2023
Kora Kelly	Substitute	Hire	District	10/11/2023
Karen Vaughn	Substitute	Hire	District	10/11/2023
Dixie Johnson	Substitute	Hire	District	10/11/2023
Rochi Estes	7 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	Hire	AJSHS	10/11/2023
Henry Huber	8 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	Hire	AJSHS	10/11/2023
Aimee Mitchell	7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	Hire	AJSHS	10/11/2023
Tiffany Patrick	8 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	Hire	AJSHS	10/11/2023
Carson Hritsco	Asst. Boys Basketball Coach-C Squad	Hire	AJSHS	10/11/2023

** All new hires are contingent on clean background checks and all proper licensing and paperwork

Trustee Venturelli moved to approve the personnel action report as submitted. Trustee Orrino seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1. (Allick opposed)

MOTION - AGENDA ITEM B - APPROVE RECREATION PROGRAM CONTRACT

Trustee Farmer moved to approve the recreation program contract as presented. Trustee Jovanovich seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with no objections.

MOTION - AGENDA ITEM C - REVIEW POLICY 2309 - LIBRARY MATERIALS

No Motion on Agenda Item C. Discussion took place and new policy with changes was handed out for review.

MOTION - AGENDA ITEM D - APPROVE VARIANCE TO STANDARDS

Trustee Jovanovich moved to approve the variance to standards as presented. Trustee Ives seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with no objections.

MOTION - AGENDA ITEM E - CHARTER SCHOOL (HB 549) - DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

No Motion on Agenda Item E. Discussion took place and District will not be ready to adopt within the two week time frame. The uncertainty of the Bill and the effects on ANB numbers will be reviewed prior to next year's possible adoption or review.

BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

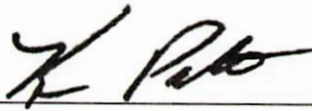
- ✦ Federal Law change ensuring school hunting, archery education won't lose funding. Adult Ed will now continue under these changes within our District.
- ✦ Trustee Farmer secured a new shed to be located near the tennis courts for our tennis program. Job Corp will be building and our County will pay for the materials of the building. Thank you to all for this project.

ADJOURN

Trustee Venturelli moved to adjourn; second by Trustee Allick

The Chair adjourned the regular meeting at 6:34 P.M.

SIGNATURES


_____ Board Chair Approval


_____ Attest Board Clerk Approval

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:

Lincoln

DISTRICT:

Eureka Public Schools

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Eureka Elementary, Eureka Middle School

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.

We are requesting a variance of Standard 10.55.709 which says we must have 1.FTE for student enrollments of 250-500. Eureka Elementary only has a .5 FTE plus a half time para professional in the library when not being served by the librarian. We currently have 284 students enrolled in our elementary and 226 enrolled in our middle school. These two buildings sit adjacent to each other. We share one librarian between the two schools.

We are also seeking a variance of Standard 10.55.710, Assignment of School Counselor. The fulltime (1 FTE) counselor in the elementary school recently decided she only wants to work half time. We didn't get any applications for our counseling position opening. We agreed to have her work .5 time rather than have her leave the profession entirely and hired a fulltime para professional to work with her and cover the .5 she is gone. This also gives us an additional .5 person to help with counseling needs.

Eureka Middle School is also short a counselor. 10.55.710 Again, we had no applicants for a counseling position opening. We are serving our middle school students with a .5 School Psychologist, who serves the other .5 as our district psychologist. We also have an additional paraprofessional working with her and covering any time the school psychologist is not available. Again, this gives us 1.5 highly skilled people that just don't have the proper counseling endorsement.

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

a. Workable.

By allowing us to use the highly skilled para professionals that we have hired as assistants, we are covering our students counseling needs. We actually seem to be getting more help by having 1.5 people doing 1 persons job. We would love to be able to staff our schools entirely with properly certified people, but sometimes we have to do the best we can. In this situation, we are very lucky to have great people with the necessary skills to help our students succeed.

b. Educationally sound.

The para professionals we have hired to work as counseling assistants and library assistants are very skilled. Former teachers and very high quality individuals with a lot of kid experience. These people have either worked as an educational para professional or as a teacher prior to taking these positions. Our quality of service has actually increased, rather than decreased.

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

We believe we are actually exceeding the standards by increasing the number of high quality adults in our students lives. We understand they don't all have the proper endorsements to be qualified as school counselors and librarians, but they are doing an exceptional job in the absence of qualified applicants. The relationship skills they do bring to the table have been very beneficial to our students and staff.

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

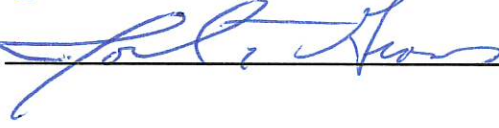
4. Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees adopted the application for a variance at an official, properly noticed meeting that provides evidence that local school community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance to an 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: Raymond Flanagan

Board Chair Signature:  **Date:** 10-09-23

Superintendent Name: JOEL T. GRAVES

Superintendent Signature:  **Date:** 10/9/23

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

Variances to Standards Rubric - Initial Application

Application _____
Standard(s) for which variance is requested: _____
Reviewer's Name _____

Criteria	Considerations for Application of the Criteria	Unacceptable No Evidence	Incomplete Limited Evidence	Acceptable Sufficient Evidence
Question #2 The application contains a full description of what is being requested.	Must have a description that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly stated with as much detail as possible • Provides all necessary information that reviewers need in order to act upon the application. Addresses both the current standard and the way in which the variance would alter it			
Question #3a Sufficient resources are available to ensure that the proposed variance is workable.	Consider resources for the success of the variance showing that it is workable. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• Funding <li style="width: 50%;">• School configuration <li style="width: 50%;">• Scheduling <li style="width: 50%;">• Enrollment <li style="width: 50%;">• Staff <li style="width: 50%;">• Facilities 			
Question #3 b Application shows a reliance on sound research as a rational for the variance.	Is there a connection to research/theory? If so, the application clearly shows the connection.			
Question #3 c & d Variance is aligned with program and/or content standards. (Only applies to those standards which have a related program and/or content delivery standard.)	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the application provide a complete crosswalk to the program and/or content delivery standards? • Is the alignment easily recognized and does it make sense? Do the personnel for the variance have the skills and knowledge to meet the program and/or delivery standards?			
Question #4 Application contains evidence that the application for the proposed variance was adopted at an official meeting of the board of trustees and 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.	Must have minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting where the application was approved 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.			

MINUTES - EUREKA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #13

7:00 Regular meeting

October 9th, 2023, LCHS Media Center

Board Members Present: Raymond Flanagan, Jessica Hickman, Rodney Schmidt, Marcy Butts, Bri Van Orden (arrived at 7:30 p.m.) and Tom Kincheloe

Board Members Absent: Amy Casazza

Others Present: Superintendent Graves, Clerk Onna Escobar, Principal Lucey, Principal Utter (arrived at 7:28 p.m.), Principal Dunn, Rebecca from Tobacco Valley News, Deaven Conard, Vola Conard, Aurora Conard, Derek Deshazer, Officer Neil Duram, Officer Sean Tribble, Jaylen Sartori, Sarah Yargus, Rose Casazza, Sally Rohletter (arrived late)

Call to Order: With a quorum present Chair Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Flanagan asked Jessica Hickman to lead the pledge.

General Public Comment:

Deavon Conard – passed out a handout to the board which was later picked back up. He wanted to talk about some school incidents that happened last year and starting again this year. He said his daughter is being bullied by both students and teachers. He said talked to Mrs. Lucey and tried multiple times to talk to Superintendent Graves. Nothing is being done about this and it needs to be resolved. Chair Flanagan said to talk to him after the meeting.

Jaylen Sartori – She said she is really concerned about the recent threats being made to the school by a student. She believes that as a parent they were not notified in a timely manner. She quoted policy 1511 Code of Ethics for School Board Members paragraph four. She inquired about the transfer for safety money. Chair Flanagan told her to reach out to principals or Superintendent Graves to get answers to her questions.

General Board Comment:

Tom Kincheloe said Rose Casazza came up to him a few months ago regarding policy. He told her to get in touch with Chair Flanagan. He said he is uncertain how the committees work and is looking for guidance. Chair Flanagan told him that he is on the Safety Committee. He explained about the committees. Principal Lucey said the school safety committee meets once a month. Superintendent Graves said he will make sure that the three board members that are on the board safety committee are invited to the next school safety committee meeting.

Mr. Kincheloe said that he visited with Clerk Escobar a few weeks ago regarding board minutes. He asked the board that if they want something on record to make sure and state it that way so Clerk Escobar can write it down. He said she does a great job but it is hard for her to make sure and get everything.

Chair Flanagan said it is every board member's responsibility to get info or questions asked when they get their board packets the week before the board meeting. He also told them that there are three ways to get something on the agenda. You go to the Superintendent, the Board Chair or have at least two board members ask to put an item on the agenda.

Mr. Kincheloe said he is not sure he likes end wording on the cell phone policy. Chair Flanagan asked if he would like to put that on next month's board agenda and he said yes.

Communications - NONE

Board Reports-

Facility Committee -- Superintendent Graves said he went out to the West Kootenai last Saturday to discuss the school bond. He said he thought it was a positive meeting. There were around 15 to 20 people there. They also had good conversations after the meeting. He will meet with Chrysalis tomorrow and the Forest Service next Tuesday. The Town Council Forum is on October 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. They will also have school bond election info there as well.

Policy Review Committee -- NONE

Review Agenda:

Chair Flanagan asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda.

Chair Flanagan then stated that the consent agenda can be approved by unanimous consent, passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda (E)

- a. Approval of minutes: September 11th, 2023 Board Meeting (23/24E)
- b. Approval of Claims for Elementary September (23/24E) \$109,465.18
- c. Approval of Payroll for Elementary September (23/24E) \$367,421.19
- d. Budget Reports
- e. Student Account Bank Statements
- f. Approval of Elementary Transportation and Out of District Agreements (23/24)

Consent Agenda (HS)

- a. Approval of minutes: September 11th, 2023 Board Meeting (23/24HS)
- b. Approval of Claims for High School September (23/24HS) \$42,248.17
- c. Approval of Payroll for High School September (23/24HS) \$189,514.42
- d. Budget Reports
- e. Student Account Bank Statement

District Personnel Report

- a. Hire Winter coaches, assistants and volunteers for High School and Middle School for 2023-2024

Chair Flanagan said we should separate the wrestling coaches out so Trustee Schmidt can abstain.

Motion: Jessica Hickman moved to hire the winter coaches, assistants and volunteers for high school and middle school as presented excluding wrestling for 2023-2024, Marcy Butts seconded, passed unanimously.

Motion: Jessica Hickman moved to hire the wrestling coaches, assistants and volunteers for high school as presented for 2023-2024, Marcy Butts seconded, passed unanimously with Trustee Schmidt abstaining.

- b. Approve list of After School Program workers for 2023-2024

Motion: Jessica Hickman moved to approve the list of after school program workers as presented for 2023-2024, Marcy Butts seconded, passed unanimously with Trustee Kincheloe abstaining.

- c. Approve Larry Auble and Tina Szymoniak as K-12 Subs for 2023-2024

Motion: Jessica Hickman moved to approve Larry Auble and Tina Szymoniak as K-12 subs for 2023-2024, Marcy Butts seconded, passed unanimously.

- d. Approve Derek Deshazer as 7th Grade Middle School Volleyball coach for 2023-2024

Motion: Tom Kincheloe moved to approve Derek Deshazer as 7th grade middle school volleyball coach for 2023-2024, Rod Schmidt seconded, passed unanimously.

- e. Approve Randy Schermerhorn as a High School Football volunteer for 2023-2024

Motion: Marcy Butts moved to approve Randy Schermerhorn as a high school football volunteer for 2023-2024, Jessica Hickman seconded, passed unanimously.

- f. Hire BriAnna Bennett as a paraprofessional for 2023-2024

Motion: Marcy Butts moved hire BriAnna Bennett as a paraprofessional for 2023-2024, Chair Flanagan seconded, passed unanimously.

- g. Hire Toni Mickow as a part time Kitchen Aide for 2023-2024

Motion: Marcy Butts moved to hire Toni Mickow as a part time kitchen aide for 2023-2024, Bri Van Orden seconded, passed unanimously.

New Business

- a. Lion Logo Contract and Transfer Agreement

Superintendent Graves said we discussed this last month. He met with Matt Rumble and they drew up a contract. He is also working with Sarah Rhoades on starting the Trademark/Copyright process. She is an attorney out of Missoula.

Motion: Tom Kincheloe moved to approve the 5-year contract and rights of ownership of the logo with Matt Rumble of Beyond Graphics, Bri Van Orden seconded, passed unanimously.

- b. Open Bus Bids for Two New Buses

Motion: Marcy Butts moved to approve going out to bid for two new buses, Tom Kincheloe seconded, passed unanimously.

- c. Discussion of Variance of Standards for Counseling and Library

Superintendent Graves told the board they have discussed this before. For under 500 students we can have one librarian and one guidance counselor serve both the elementary and the middle schools. We are currently over that and will need to have 1.5 librarians and guidance counselors to be accredited. He has applied for a variance of standards for the counselling and librarian positions. He will send the application in to OPI with the board approval and the board minutes.

Public Comment: Sally Rohletter asked what the variances included. Superintendent Graves said they have aides filling the extra positions.

Motion: Tom Kincheloe moved to approve the variance of standards application to OPI, Marcy Butts seconded, passed unanimously.

- d. School Resource Officer (SRO) agreement with Eureka PD

Superintendent Graves said they filled out a grant to help pay for a School Resource Officer. This is a two-year grant. He is hoping for a regular presence of an officer on campus which they have already been doing this year.

Officer Duram said he hopes the officers being here will be a calming force instead of an intimidating presence. His expectations are to have certain behaviors stop like fighting and reckless driving. He will present this agreement at the Town Council meeting tomorrow night for their approval.

Public Comment:

Derek Deshazer said he is all for having a police officer on campus. He would also like to see the school resource officer build relationships with the students. Maybe handing out awards, etc.

Sally Rohletter said it does make a difference having an officer available.

Board Comment:

Tom Kincheloe is really pleased that we have this. He asked Officer Duram if we can expect to see the same amount of time as last year. Officer Duram said he hopes to provide whatever the school needs.

Motion: Tom Kincheloe moved to approve the memorandum agreement for the school resource officer with Eureka PD as presented, Rod Schmidt seconded, passed unanimously.

Superintendent Report

- a. Principal Utter – The middle school is off and running. Everything is going well and the staff is fantastic. The robotics program is bursting at the seams. They are starting the MAST program this year. This will also serve as the state assessment. They will have a test four times a year. The first test will be October 23rd. The tests will be on what the teachers are teaching at that time. The teachers are loving the new IXL program. It has a ton of resources and practice work for the students. This is meaningful extra work. It is designed for the learning needs of each student.

- b. Superintendent Graves

**Superintendent's Report
October 9th, 2023**

Numbers:

08/08/2023 810

09/05/2023 821 (284 EL, 226 MS, 311 HS)

10/02/2023 821 (282 EL, 229 MS, 310 HS)

Chrysalis MOU

We have this ready and signed if needed.

We will start working on this. If this is the avenue we choose, I will submit the request to MHSa this winter. Their numbers are closer to 28 rather than 40 as I mentioned earlier.

Building Bond Update:

Have been to meetings with Senior Citizens, Sunburst and West Kootenai. Have meetings scheduled with Chrysalis on Tuesday, waiting to hear back from the Forest Service and Nursing home.

We have a community meeting scheduled in conjunction with the Town Council Forum on October 17th at 6:00

Roof project is nearing completion.

Should be complete. Will keep on top of the maintenance schedule.

We had another major steam leak from biomass to Middle School.

Unfortunately, we can't blame this on the old middle school. This is from the pipe that was put in when the biomass was built.

Trademark/Copyright

I have started the Trademark/Copyright process with an attorney from Missoula, Sarah Rhoades.

He appreciates the Eureka Police Department and all their assistance.

Information Only - Next School Board meeting will be November 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Election is November 7th. Ballots will be mailed out on October 18th. There will be a drop box at the police station.

Prep Next Agenda

Superintendent Quarterly Evaluation

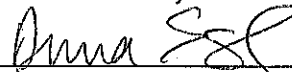
Canvas the Election

Cell Phone Policy

Adjournment

Motion: Jessica Hickman moved to adjourn, Chair Flanagan seconded, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.





Board Chair

Date

Clerk of Board

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:

Park High School

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.

10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff
(2) one counselor for each 400 students

10.55.710 ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF

(1) A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 elementary (K-8) students shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated.

(2) A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 high school students (including grades 7 and 8 if high school funding is received) shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated.

(3) Districts with fewer than 126 students may employ or contract with a licensed, endorsed school counselor or Class 6 specialist or utilize a consortium, multidistrict agreement, or interlocal cooperative to secure these services.

History: Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-2-114, 20-2-121, 20-7-101, MCA; IMP, Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-2-121, 20-3-106, 20-7-101, MCA; NEW, 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; AMD, 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; AMD, 2002 MAR p. 3309, Eff. 11/28/02; AMD, 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13; AMD, 2023 MAR p. 255, Eff. 7/1/23.

2. Describe the variance requested.

Park High School is requesting a variance of having one counselor for 438 students, instead of two counselors for 438 students. We have posted a .5 High School Counselor position and have received no applicants. The rationale: Our 2022 - 2023 Park High School enrollment was 395 students (as of 5-30-2023). One of our two counselors relocated to the Bozeman School District. According to 10.55.710, we would be compliant with one counselor per 395 students.

Our present enrollment is 438 students (as of 9-27-2023). Our variance request is to have one counselor for 438 students.

*) Please NOTE: We have 1.0 FTE counselor on staff currently!
3) We have advertised for 0.5 FTE to meet 10.55.710 with no luck; therefore requesting our current 1.0 FTE, along with all supporting services, be considered for variance acceptance.

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

a. Workable.

1. Our present counselor, Abby Kinsey, is a seasoned veteran - 22 years in education and 11 of those in School Counseling. 3) 1.0 FTE

2. PHS COORDINATED PROFESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH STAFF:

- a. Clinical Psychologist from Livingston Health Care/Billings Clinic
- b. Clinical Psychologist Intern from Livingston Health Care/Billings Clinic
- c. Community Health Partners Parent Liason
- d. Work Based Learning Coordinator located in the PHS Guidance Office - 1.0
- e. One Montana State University Intern, LCPC for each semester
- f. L'esprit Counseling Behavioral Specialist
- g. L'esprit Therapist
- h. District Registrar located in the PHS Guidance Office - 1.0
- i. Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Livingston Health Care/Billings Clinic
- j. Registered Nurse Master of Science in Nursing - PHS School Nurse 1.0

All positions listed, except the 1.0, are part time on the PHS campus (with office space), and are available when needed. Working in coordination with all the above, we feel we have mental health support as well as additional academic student support.

b. Educationally sound.

The academic needs of all students are met through our one School Counselor, our one Work Based Learning Coordinator, and our District 4 & 1 Registrar working in the same office full time.

We have successfully handled the beginning of the year to the present, regarding scheduling, student applications, transcripts, parent requests, etc...

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

1. Our PHS positions - Work Based Learning Coordinator, School Counselor, District Registrar, and School Nurse - are all 1.0 and works systematically to create efficiency for all of our families.
2. The "outside agencies" are coordinated weekly to be available physically with their own office space. These positions are also available any time of the day.
3. Both internal and external resources are coordinated to follow protocols and procedures that best fit any student's needs.

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

10.55.1901 SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM DELIVERY STANDARDS

1(a)(i) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, District Registrar

1(a)(ii) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Vice Principal, Special Ed. Coordinator

1(a)(iii) - PHS Counselor, PHS Staff, PHS Administration, Special Ed. Coordinator

1(a)(iv) - PHS Counselor, PHS Staff, PHS Administration, Special Ed. Coordinator

1(a)(v) - PHS Counselor, PHS Staff, PHS Administration

1(a)(vi) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Staff, PHS Administration

1(b)(i) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Administration, PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff

1(b)(ii) - PHS Counselor, PHS School Nurse, MSU Interns

1(b)(iii) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Administration, PHS Staff

1(b)(iii) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator

1(b)(iv) - PHS Counselor, PHS Administration, PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff

1(b)(v) - PHS Counselor, PHS Administration, PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff

Student input is involved in ALL standards. Student family's input when applicable. PHS admin and counselor coordinate this 11 person team to fit the needs of all kids.

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.)

Stakeholder groups and the individuals involved in the variance consideration:

Parent	Regina Wood
Parent/Classified Staff	Cydney Mitchell
Parent/Classified Staff	Adria Rogers
Parent/School Board	Signe Lahren
PHS Vice Principal	Becky Ayler
PHS Teacher/Certified	Julie Lentz
PHS Counselor/Certified	Abby Kinsey
PHS Principal	Lori Dust

Meeting notes summary: keep .5 position posted; maintain a pulse on how the only counselor is holding up; in support of the variance; make sure academics stay a priority; "in the moment" needs to be monitored; .5 would be nice to have; positives to this PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff concept.

CHRISTI JACOBSEN

MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

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10.55.1901 SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM DELIVERY STANDARDS

- (1) In general, school counseling shall:
- (a) meet the following conditions:
 - (i) provide a comprehensive, preventive, and developmentally planned program to all students systematically;
 - (ii) develop and implement a counseling program based on data-informed decision making;
 - (iii) advocate for all students and encourage students to develop to their full potential;
 - (iv) respect the worth and dignity of all individuals by building trust and respecting confidentiality;
 - (v) value and respond to the diversity and individual differences in communities in a culturally responsive manner; and
 - (vi) contribute as an integral part of the education process that is delivered through a variety of systems by school staff, students, families, business, and industry.
 - (b) include the following practices:
 - (i) maximize students' potential in the areas of academics, career, and personal/social development;
 - (ii) develop, implement, and assess a curriculum aligned with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) national model which includes the student standards for success, mindsets, and behaviors which is presented through structured groups and classroom presentations;
 - (iii) conduct individual planning using assessment, advisement, placement, and follow-up;
 - (iv) deliver responsive services through individual and group counseling, consultation, and referral; and
 - (v) provide system support through management, consultation with staff, community outreach, and public relations; and collaborate with families, community stakeholders, and other educators to create environments resulting in positive impact on student achievement, attendance, and discipline.

History: Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, [20-2-114](#), [20-2-121](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [IMP](#), Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, [20-2-121](#), [20-3-106](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; [AMD](#), 2001 MAR p. 953, Eff. 6/8/01; [AMD](#), 2023 MAR p. 255, Eff. 7/1/23.

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For questions about the organization of the ARM or this web site, contact sosarm@mt.gov.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Signe Lahren
Board Chair Signature: Signe Lahren Date: 10/10/2023
Superintendent Name: Eldon C Johnson
Superintendent Signature: Eldon C Johnson Date: 10/10/23

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

Oct. 10th, 2023

all Trustees present

Meeting began @ 6:00 w/ Pledge + Mission
public Comments none

Superintendent Report

- County Election - to conduct District elections for May of 2025 -
- Fairgrounds water project -
- 95 Mills vs 79 (77?) - County Commissioners -
~~Voted 2~~
- Farm 2 Schools - HMI - Grants, visit - Rachael spoke on the 'presentation' re: Healthy Food + production -
- New ~~at~~ appliances @ Elem. Schools -
- E3 - Emergency Communications App
- Enrollment - may ask for a budget amendment -
- PHS - grad Requirement update - 1/2 unit of ~~Senior~~ Financial Lit class of 2022e -
- Current + Historic Windows -
- ~~Committee~~ Meeting Schedule: Finance, Facilities + Calendar internally
 - Finance ^{Committee} - Job School district tax credits - can designate what fund or programs - Nov 9th - next Finance Committee -
 - Facilities Committee - will be scheduled -
 - Calendar - Met - went well - look @ something similar to this year - will look @ an alternative ~~calendar~~ committee -
- Negotiations - Starting Soon

- activities -
- marching Band
- Winans -

Whole Board Action

- McKinstry - Bob Moore, Rob Melony - Presented on the ~~project~~ Capital Planning proposal over a 30 year time period -

- Signe - do you look sewer lines - etc...
- Dan V - is there an annual fee? Rob - No -
- How much? 70K -

Dan V - Gives the board a clear, defensible, stand on what is needed -

Tom - Ameresco has been our go to for a long time - easy to work with

~~Ameresco~~ - Does Ameresco have the same Tech?

Tom - Population growth - included in assessments -

- Rob - we do demographic predictions -

~~Dan~~ Jacqui & Tim likes it -

Dan V - Can we look @ Ameresco -

Chad - now is better - next month is manageable -

- in time for Clem levy? ~~Rea~~

w/ reach out ~~to~~ to Ameresco to see what they have & what they've done -

- Internal IIA?

- Plan a Facilities Meeting?

- Signe - like the McKinstry Plan - not relying on one Employee -

- Facilities Meeting w/ Amresco -
→ Tabled Action Item -

Simbli - Bonds

- Dan B moved to approve SIMBLI -
Meeting Module #4625
* Tim 2nds
all in favor -

- Wednesday Board Meeting.
Dan moved to have 1st Wednesday Supp
@ Emily 2nds

Dann B. has trainings on Wednesday -
but will try to work around -
all in favor.

PHS Book Purchases

- Dan V. moved -
Dann B. 2nds -
all in favor -

- Variance - Check Discussed need -
of missing 1% FTE
Dann B. moved
Dan V. 2nds
all in favor 38

Elementary Consent -

Dan V Mard

~~Parent~~ TOMS 2nds.
all in favor

Whole board

Dan V Mard

Jacey 2nds

all in favor

Super Report - none

LEA - none

LCEA - none

Committees None -

Item Motioned to adj.

adjourned @ 7:42

October 10th, 2023

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Signe Lahren, Tim Sundling, Emily Fabich, Dann Babcox, Dan Vermillion, Robin Addicott, Jacey Edwards, Luke Jergenson, Tom Shellenberg, Chad Johnson, Pete Grady

Board Chair Signe Lahren began the meeting at 6:00 PM with the pledge and Vice Chair Tim Sundling read the district mission.

No Public Comment	Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda
<p>Superintendent Johnson reported on the District planning on asking the county Clerk and Recorder to hold District elections. The request needs to be in by June 1st, 2024 for the 2025 Election.</p> <p>The waterline project to the fairgrounds will have minimal impact on schools and bussing.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson will attend the county commissioners meeting to hear their discussion on the 95 mills.</p> <p>The School District received a Healthy Meals Incentive grant, with Farm to School partnering in it's implementation, which will help fund new appliances at the elementary schools and aide in healthy food production.</p> <p>MR. Johnson updated the board on the E3 emergency communications app.</p> <p>The increase in enrollment at PHS may require a budget amendment. If necessary the amendment will be presented to the board for consideration at the November board meeting.</p> <p>Graduation requirements have changed adding ½ unit of Economics or Financial Literature.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson presented the current and historic enrollment numbers at Winans elementary.</p> <p><u>Committee Updates:</u></p> <p>Finance Committee - Emily Fabich reported the fiancé committee met at discussed the tax credits. The committee is scheduled to meet again on November 7th, 2023.</p> <p>Facilities Committee – Mr. Johnson reported a facilities committee will be scheduled in the near future.</p> <p>Calendar Committee – Mr. Johnson reported the committee met and looked at a calendar similar to this year. They will look at forming an alternative calendar committee to discuss 4 day school week.</p> <p>Negotiations Committee – Mr. Johnson reported negotiations with both unions will start soon.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>
<p>Representatives from McKinstry presented on their Capitol Planning product. After board discussion the item was tabled pending further review.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible Action on McKinstry Capitol Planning Proposal</p>

<p>Dann Babcox moved to approve the SIMBLI Meetings Module for the amount of \$4625 as presented in the board packet dated October 10th, 2023. Tim Sundling seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible action on SIMBLI Board Meeting Module</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to hold Regular School Board meetings on the First Wednesday of each month. Emily Fabich seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible action to move Regular School Board Meetings to Wednesday</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to approve the Park High School book purchases as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Dann Babcox seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible Action on the High School Book Purchases.</p>
<p>Superintendent Johnson reported that the increase in student enrollment at Park High requires an additional .1% FTE to meet accreditation standards. An application for a variance to the standards is presented to the board for consideration.</p> <p>Dann Babcox moved to adopt the Application for a Variance to Standards in regards to a part time PHS Counselor as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Dan Vermillion seconded the motion.</p> <p>All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and possible Action to Adopt the Application for a Variance to Standards Regarding a High School Part Time Counselor</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to accept the items in the Elementary Board Portion of the consent agenda as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Tom Shellenberg seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Elementary Consent Agenda</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to accept the items as presented under the whole board portion of the consent agenda as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Jacey Edwards seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Consent Agenda</p>
<p>LEA – No Report LCEA – No Report</p>	<p>Association Reports</p>

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM



2023-2024 Variance to Standards Renewal Application Summary

1. Hardin Public Schools – Hardin High School (SC:0037)

- a. 10.55.709(1)(c) Library Media FTE, .5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students.
 - i. Application Request: To have 1.0 Librarian FTE for Hardin High School with 0.5 FTE Paraprofessional support and utilization of Student Library Assistants.
 - ii. Required Library Media Specialist FTE for Hardin High School is 1.5 FTE.
 - iii. This is a **Renewal Request** for three years; this is their first renewal request.

School	2021-22 Student Enrollment	2021-22 Required School Librarian FTE	2022-23 Student Enrollment	2022-23 Required School Librarian FTE	Projected 2023-24 Student Enrollment	2023-24 Required School Librarian FTE
Hardin HS	547	1.5 FTE	512	1.5 FTE	547	1.5 FTE

2. Polson Public Schools - Polson High School (SC:0633)

- a. 10.55.709(1)(c) Library Media FTE, 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students.
 - i. Application Request: To have 1.0 Librarian FTE for Polson High School with 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional Library Assistant.
 - ii. The required FTE for Polson High School is 1.5 FTE.
 - iii. This is a **Renewal Request** for three years; this is a first renewal request.

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."

DUE DATE:

First Monday in March

COUNTY: Big Horn County

DISTRICT: 17H

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Hardin High School

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.**

The variance is being requested for 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12.

- 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

The following items addressed the variance application for various stakeholders:

*Parent/Guardian notification (Email & Letter) February & early March 2023 All questions, comments, & concerns were submitted to HHS Admin. Team.

*All HHS Students were surveyed in early March 2023

*HHS Building Leadership Team presented with the renewal process/application and approved (early March)

*HHS Student Council presented with the application and approved (early March)

- 3. Provide evidence local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**

*The HHS Staff were presented with the renewal variance request in early March and supported continuing with current staffing in the HHS Library/Media Center.

*The HHS Building Leadership Team was presented with the renewal application and continue to offer their support for the application process and staffing levels in the HHS Library.

*The HHS "Variance to Standard" renewal request was presented to the School District 17H & 1 Board of Trustees. A copy of the Board Meeting Minutes will be attached.

- 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

The following items addressed the variance application for various stakeholders:

*Parent/Guardian notification (Email & Letter) February & early March 2023 All questions, comments, & concerns were submitted to HHS Admin. Team.

*All HHS Students were surveyed in early March 2023 (89% of the students surveyed support the renewal application - 12% do not support the variance request)

*HHS Building Leadership Team presented with the renewal process/application and approved (early March)

*HHS Student Council presented with the application and approved (early March)

- 3. Provide evidence local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**

*The HHS Staff were presented with the renewal variance request in early March and supported continuing with current staffing in the HHS Library/Media Center. (90% Staff support of the renewal application - 10% do not support the variance request)

*The HHS Building Leadership Team was presented with the renewal application (March meeting) and continue to offer their support for the application process and staffing levels in the HHS Library.

*The HHS "Variance to Standard" renewal request was presented to the School District 17H & 1 Board of Trustees. A copy of the Board Meeting Minutes will be attached.

4. Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees approved the application for a renewal variance at an official, properly noticed meeting.

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).

*Increase student usage/awareness of library/media services available for their academic/recreational reading & research by 15%. This will be monitored by student/staff visitor logs and library resources being checked out over the designated time frame.

*Increase utilization of staff/classroom usage of Library/Media Resources by 15%. This will be monitored by library usage logs, library class reservations (by class period), and staff resources checked out.

*Increase the overall Student/Staff perception of the services provided in the Library/Media Center by 20%. This will be monitored through the use of surveys reflecting the student/staff opinion/views of the service and quality of survey being provided in the Library/Media Center with current staffing levels.

*Enhance student Research Skills through utilization of the Library/Media Center. This will be conducted in establishing a working relationship with the HHS English Department and staff for research assignments/projects.

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.

*Utilization of the HHS Library by students has continued to increase with students receiving the services they need with current staffing levels in the library media center. Even with the addition of providing student computer services (checkout, repairs, etc.) the current staffing level continues to provide students with the support they need.

*The librarian continues to support collaboration opportunities with classroom teachers.

*The librarian continues to collaborate with teachers to ensure state library media standards are being met.

*The librarian and support staff provide an annual orientation for all Freshmen students and new students to the high school. This allows Freshmen and new students to be introduced to the library collection, on-line resources, research skills, and how to successfully complete a research project.

*The library staff continue to track student/staff usage of the library/media services.

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).

Several strategic discussion sessions were held with the new HHS Library/Media Specialist and staff to provide a review of the original variance application and ensuing needs. It was determined that the library media center will continue to place emphasis on building usage of the library by students and staff. The HHS Library continues to align the library standards with the OPI Standards. We are confident that current staffing levels in the library will continue to support the needs of all students & staff.

6. Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed renewal variance.

Hardin High School Mission Statement - "To provide values, knowledge, and skills to succeed in an ever changing society."

*The HHS Library will continue to compliment core classroom instruction with Library/Media Center resources and instruction, Media Arts, and Technology.

*HHS will continue to increase Library/Media Center utilization among students and staff.

*We will continue to monitor to ensure that the support of a 1/2 para-educator will adequately provide the needed assistance and support for the HHS Librarian, Students, and Staff.

7. List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed renewal variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).

*Continue to collaborate with teachers to meet both library content standards, as well as, classroom standards for Library/Media utilization.

*Continue to allow scheduling that allows classroom utilization of the Library/Media Center.

*Library/Media staff will continue to provide and maintain a collection that is current and balanced to meet the needs of all students and staff.

*Continue to provide support staff (para-educator & student library assistants) to assist the 1.0 FTE Librarian in meeting the requirements as set forth in variance request/approval.

*Continue to collect and maintain Data for library & resource utilization. This data should provide information for planning/growth of HHS Library Services.

8. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives of the renewal variance?

*Library Staff (Librarian & Para-educator) will continue to track/log and monitor library usage by students and staff. They will track: resources utilized/checked out, classroom library usage, and collaboration opportunities with classroom teachers.

*Library Staff will collaborate with teachers to ensure library media content standards are being met.

9. In what way does this variance meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s)?

*The HHS Library/Media Center continues to provide students and staff with the resources and facilities needed to comply with state Library/Media Content Standards.

*The students will continue to have access to a full time librarian to assist them with their recreational reading requests, as well as, providing staff, time, and resources to complete any required educational/academic needs for their classes.

*Current staffing level will continue to provide support for all HHS students.

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

a. Workable

*Hardin High School is a 9 - 12 campus with a full time certified Library/Media Specialist. The addition of a 1/2 time para-educator and utilization of student library assistants will ensure that all students have access to library resources/services as needed. The Original "Variance to Standards" approval provided HHS to put in place procedures that allowed for efficient utilization of staff and resources while being in compliance with OPI Accreditation Standards.



b. Educationally sound.

*The HHS Library/Media Center maintains a broad variety of resources available to students for recreational and academic purposes. These include access to: multiple on-line library resources, subscriptions, and technology pertinent to student utilization for research, etc.

*A full-time Library/Media Specialist is available to serve students and staff.

*A 1/2 time Para-educator is available to assist students and staff as needed.

*Student Library Assistants are available to assist students.

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

*Hardin High School Library/Media Center meets or exceeds all of the program delivery standards for Montana's Library/Media Standards.

*HHS Library/Media Center makes available a variety of print and non-print materials encompassing fiction and non-fiction, classic and contemporary works, and diverse perspectives including Montana American Indian works.

*HHS Library/Media Center offers experiences in viewing, creating, and critically evaluating different types of media.

d. Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.

*Hardin High School's Library/Media Standards are aligned with the Montana Content Standards.

*The HHS Library/Media Specialist is fully certified by the Office of Public Instruction.

*The HHS Library/Media Specialist provides support to all classes to ensure implementation of the Library/Media Standards.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: JODEEN K MARSTON

Board Chair Signature: Jodeen K Marston

Date: 9/27/23

Superintendent Name: Tobin Navazio

Superintendent Signature: [Signature]

Date: 9/27/23

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

**Board Agenda Item
Hardin Public Schools
High School District 17, Big Horn County
Hardin, MT
March 1, 2023**

Title: Hardin High School “Variance to Standards” Renewal Application

Action Item: Action

Situation: Hardin Public Schools is applying to OPI to renew a variance to a standard as defined by the Board of Public Education and provided in guidance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Specifically, we are requesting another variance for Hardin High School concerning Standard 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12. The initial Variance to Standards application approved by the Board of Public Education covered school years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The current approval expires in June 2023. The renewal application request will be valid for three additional years with an expiration of June 2026.

The standard requires licensed and endorsed library media specialists at the ratio of 1.5 FTE for schools with 501 – 1,000 students. The HHS Library has one full-time licensed and endorsed media specialist, a ½ time library para, as well as, student library assistants. We believe that our library services provide a high level of support for our students with the addition of the ½ time paraeducator and student assistants. It has been typical that HHS exceeds the student numbers in the Fall (exceeding enrollment numbers for the standard) and then falls to compliance level with the Spring Semester. For the short term, we expect this pattern to continue.

HHS Enrollment Fluctuations:

Fall 2020 - 527 Spring 2021 - 496

Fall 2021 - 547 Spring 2022 - 493

Fall 2022 - 512 Spring 2023 – 490

Fall 2023 (projected) – 547

Financial Implications: None

Recommendation: Approve the Hardin High School “Variance to Standards” renewal application.

Prepared by: Mitch Evans, Administrative Assistant for HHS Admin. Team

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."

DUE DATE:

First Monday in March

COUNTY: Lake

DISTRICT: #23

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Polson High School

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 Services - 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students

10.55.1801 Delivery

- 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

The sign-in sheet for the March 13, 2023 meeting of the Polson School District Board of Trustees will be submitted with this application. The agenda and draft minutes for the meeting, including approval of this application, are attached. The official minutes will follow upon approval of the Board.

- 3. Provide evidence local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**

The sign-in sheet for the March 13, 2023 meeting of the Polson School District Board of Trustees will be submitted with this application.

4. Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees approved the application for a renewal variance at an official, properly noticed meeting.

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).

Polson High School Library fulfills the Montana Content Standards for Library Media/Information Literacy Grades 9 -12 effective July 1, 2021, which include the essential functions of a teacher-librarian; information and research skills instruction, inclusion and respect for diversity, problem-solving and working with others, communication skills through a variety of formats, reading advocacy, and digital citizenship. The following standards will be addressed; LM.NK.9-12.1 Formulating essential questions. LM.MM.9-12.3 Selecting a format to communicate. LM.MM9-12.5 Independently pursuing answers to questions. LM.EF.9-12.2. Reading for personal interest and enjoyment. The Polson K-12 Librarians are adopting a Digital Citizenship curriculum to address LM.SLE.9-12.1-5. The proposed Alternative Standard allows the librarian to collaborate, teach and co-teach while the para-professional staffs the library.

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 number of hours of collaboration with each core department and the library/media staff was recorded using Google Calendar. The Google Calendar link on the PHS webpage informs staff of availability of library space and computer workstations. Calendars of department use are attached.

* The number of total patrons (students and staff) using the library either individually or with classes was logged using a "people counter" that records the number of visits each day. Patron visits were recorded on each day of the Google calendars.

* Circulation statistics were retrieved from Destiny Library Manager software. Monthly circulation statistics are attached.

- 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 current variance meets the specific needs of students at Polson High School. The Alternative Standard of 1 FTE teacher librarian and 1 FTE para-professional fulfills the needs of our school, library program and patrons. The library para-professional ensures skilled assistance and access to the library when the teacher librarian is engaged in lesson planning and delivery.

- 6. Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed renewal variance.**

The Polson High School Library is a curriculum-oriented facility which provides information and resources in a variety of formats and technologies, and is committed to supporting all members of the school community. The library environment encourages student and staff productivity and collaboration, as well as recreational reading and relaxation. The role of the library para-professional is to support the teacher librarian, staff and students. The library staff provide a strong program that includes consistent hours of operation and flexible scheduling. The full-time FTE para-professional provides skilled assistance to patrons and access to the library while the teacher librarian is collaborating with staff and teaching students.

- 7. List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed renewal variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).**

LM.NK.9-12 Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems

LM.WE.9-12 Work effectively with others to broaden perspectives and work toward common goals

LM.EF.9-12 Exercise freedom to read and demonstrate the ability to pursue personal interests

LM.SLE.9-12 Demonstrate safe, legal, and ethical creating and sharing of knowledge products

8. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives of the renewal variance?

- * The number of hours of collaboration with each core department and the library/media staff was recorded using Google Calendar.
- * The number of total patrons (students and staff) using the library either individually or with classes.
- * Circulation statistics were retrieved from Destiny Library Manager software.

9. In what way does this variance meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s)?

The presence of the FTE library para-professional allows the teacher librarian to collaborate with staff and teach students throughout the day in the classroom or the library. Information skills, including the research process, ethical use of information, the use of school-wide resource databases and educational software subscriptions are taught in grades 9 - 12. The library staff work with classes and individual students to assist with information seeking strategies and reader's advisory.

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

a. Workable

Through flexible scheduling, the library is used by all departments in the school including Math, Science, Physical Education/Health, Foreign Language, Business, Tech Education, Art and Music. We also work with the Special Services department and Study Support para-professionals.

b. Educationally sound.

The library para-professional ensures skilled assistance and access to the library when the teacher librarian is engaged in lesson planning and delivery. The presence of the FTE library para-professional allows the teacher librarian to collaborate with staff and teach students throughout the day in the classroom or the library.

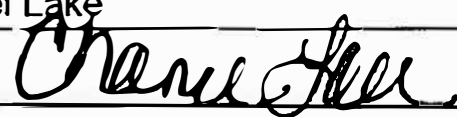
- c. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101.**

The teacher librarian is fulfilling the administrative duties of the library which are outlined in Standard 10.55.1801. Selection and management of the print collection and electronic resources, long-range planning and program development, communication and cooperation with local and regional libraries and staffs, and participation in school-wide and district-level committees. Polson High School is compliant with Administrative Rule 10.55.1801.

- d. Where applicable, aligned with contend standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.**
N/A

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Chanel Lake

Board Chair Signature:  Date: 3/20/23

Superintendent Name: Mike Cutler

Superintendent Signature:  Date 3/20/23

Mail the signed form to:

**Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501**

POLSON SCHOOL DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 13, 2023
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Polson District Office

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- a. Board Chair Chanel Lake called the Special Board Meeting to order at 11:59 AM.
- b. In attendance were VIA google meets Board Chair Lake, Trustee Browning, Trustee Muzquiz, Trustee Netzer, Trustee Cox, Trustee Orien, Trustee Anderson and in person Trustee Mercer, Supt Cutler, Business Manager Anderson, HR Director Boen & IT Coordinator Ceth Eslick.
- c. Pledge of Allegiance -Superintendent Cutler
- d. Board Comments & Observations: NA
- e. Public Comment – NA

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Recommendation to Approve Resolution for Senate Bill 307- Deb Anderson, Business Manager-** Business Manager Deb Anderson explained to the Board that in 2017 the legislature passed SB 307 which was designed to be a communication tool of transparency to the public. However, these Resolutions are only rough estimations and the Board will approve the Final Budgets for these permission levies in August.
 - a. Trustee Orien made the motion to Approve the High School District Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies, Trustee Anderson seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Trustee Cox made the motion to Approve the Elementary District Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies, Trustee Browning seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Recommendation to Approve HS Library Variance to Standards- Mike Cutler, Superintendent.**
 - a. Supt Cutler requested Board approval of the HS Library Variance to Standards as submitted. He explained this give us the ability to use a Para- professional in the library as opposed to a PT Teacher.
 - i. Trustee Mercer made the motion to approve the HS Library Variance as submitted, Trustee Cox seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Recommendation to Approve Personnel Reports – Scott Boen HR/ Communications Director.**
 - a. HR Director Boen requested Board Approval of the HS Personnel Report as submitted. Trustee Orien made the motion to Approve the HS Personnel report as submitted, Trustee Mercer seconded the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. HR Director Boen requested Board Approval of the Elementary Personnel Report as submitted. Trustee Browning made the motion to Approve the Elementary Personnel report as submitted, Trustee Netzer seconded the motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair Lake adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 12:10 PM.


Board Chair Chanel Lake


Board Clerk Deb Anderson



**2023-2024 Variance to Standards
Not Applicable Application Summary**

1. Columbia Public Schools – *Glacier Gateway Elementary (SC: 0418)*

10.55.709(1)(c) Library Media Specialist FTE, 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students.

- i. Application Request: To have 1.0 total Library Media Specialist FTE for Glacier Gateway Elementary.
- ii. Required Library Media Specialist FTE for Glacier Gateway is 1.5 FTE.
- iii. Enrollment is at 493, will likely be over 500 by the end of the year.
- iv. Workable Reasons
 1. Has 1.0 FTE librarian.
 2. Additional support of 6.0 hours per day from a highly qualified paraprofessional.

Reason: The variance to standards board felt that this should not be the precedent set that schools apply for a variance before knowing that they need it. In this case, with 493 students the school is not out of compliance with 10.55.709.

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:

Flathead County, School District 6, Glacier Gateway Elementary

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 (1)(c)

2. Describe the variance requested.

Currently a 1.0 FTE fully licensed School Library Media Specialist is at Glacier Gateway Elementary. We are out of compliance with accreditation standard 10.55.709 (1)(c) which requires 1.5 (FTE) of Librarian for every 501-1000 students. Glacier Gateway Elementary enrollment is close to fluctuating over 500 in the fall of 2023. We would like to apply for a variance allowing Glacier Gateway to employ 1.0 FTE librarian. In conjunction with 1.0 FTE librarian, we have assigned a highly qualified paraprofessional to continue to provide 6.0 hours of highly qualified staff time per day. The full time paraprofessional is assisting students in locating books, check-out, and maintaining organization of our school library. In addition to the paraprofessional we have established standard LM.SLE and essential learnings for this standard will be focused on during our technology class K-5.

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

a. Workable.

With the fluctuation of enrolled students the continued assignment of the 1.0 FTE paraprofessional allows our librarian time to instruct students, develop a relationship with students, and create an environment that encourage students to become lifelong readers.

The district has appropriately assigned resources in a manner that is feasible with our budget, curriculum needs, scheduling and school configuration. Services available through our library are not diminished and the equality of educational opportunity for our Glacier Gateway student population is considered in the employment of 1.0 full time librarian, the addition of the full time highly qualified paraprofessional serving full time in the library, and the implementation of a full time certified teacher for technology integration.

b. Educationally sound.

TEAMS report will reflect the 1.0 FTE librarian, 1.0 FTE Technology Teacher, and 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional.

We will collect data for growth in reading through STAR testing. Advancing scores in the area of reading will demonstrate the success of our library and reading instruction. Glacier Gateway staff will monitor the independent reading of students through the Accelerated Reader program. The librarian uses Titlewise Analysis and Alexandria to determine the needs and interests of students. We use SORA digital library to expand access for a variety of books for our students.

(See attached reports: Titlewise, Alexandria, and SORA)

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

The mission of this variance is to fully comply with the Montana School Accreditation Standards and Procedures in a variance to the standard that is still an appropriate interpretation of the library curriculum needs of the children. The goal of the proposed variance is to continue to have 1.0 FTE fully licensed School Library Media Specialist with 1.0 FTE highly qualified paraprofessional. This will ensure efficient staffing for the fluctuating school enrollment varying between students over and dipping below the standard of 500 students.

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

See attached program standards alignment document.

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 Agenda and meeting notes.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Jill Rockswold

Board Chair Signature: Jill Rockswold Date: 10-9-23

Superintendent Name: Lory J. Dziugos

Superintendent Signature: Lory J. Dziugos Date: 10/2/23

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

Library School Improvement/Variance Committee Meeting
September 22 at 10:30 am

Agenda:

Accomplishments of Library

- Increasing digital library
- Moving into our new library: Refreshing our collection with an entire review of collection, appropriate disposal of damaged or outdated books, physical relocation.

Goals

- Create an atmosphere to develop a passion for reading
- Satisfy the academic needs of our students
- Raise circulation through offering books that interest a variety of readers
- Continue to incorporate STEAM activities for students
- Bulking non-fiction collection to support our Curriculum needs

Review accreditation shortfall and review the variance requested:

Currently a 1.0 FTE fully licensed School Library Media Specialist is at Glacier Gateway Elementary. We are out of compliance with accreditation standard 10.55.709 (1)(c) which requires 1.5 (FTE) of Librarian for every 501-1000 students. Glacier Gateway Elementary enrollment is close to fluctuating over 500 in the fall of 2023.. We would like to apply for a variance allowing Glacier Gateway to employ 1.0 FTE librarian. In conjunction with 1.0 FTE librarian, we have assigned a highly qualified paraprofessional to continue to provide 6.0 hours of highly qualified staff time per day. The full time paraprofessional is assisting students in locating books, check-out, and maintaining organization of our school library. We also established standards that are taught by our certified technology teacher. (see standards document)

Committee Members:

(In Attendance)

- Simon Van Der Weide (5th Grade Teacher)
- Penni Anello (Principal)
- Becky Sorenson(Parent)
- Rogan Sorenson(Student)
- Kaia Kane(Student)
- Jill Rocksund (Board Member)
- Denise Osborne (Librarian)
- Deidra Enos (Technology Teacher)
- Barbara Bocksnick (Community Member)

Questions and Discussion by Committee

Vote to approve plan for Library: Yea x Nay

Meeting Notes:

Group reviewed the accomplishments of the library. Stakeholders comments on the beautiful new space and the organization of the space was easily accessible for students. Students commented on the SORA app for digital access as a great way to check out books.

Group reviewed the goals for the upcoming year in the library. Stakeholders were curious of the STEAM activities and a review was given. This work would not be able to be done without the help of the full time para. Standard LM.NK is taught effectively through our STEAM activities. Student agreed that the additions to the non-fiction collection has increased her desire to be in the library. Students notes a couple of books they would like to see at the GG library that they have had access to at the public library.

Standards were reviewed and the discussion of Tech integration teacher focusing on the LM.SLE standard.

All members of the meeting had the opportunity for questions and agreed that the division of work made sense for the variance.

The variance was approved at the committee meeting level.

The application and documents will be passed on to the board.

(notes recorded by PenniAnello)