

**Stevensville Public Schools
School District #2
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Stevensville, Montana 59870
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Regular Board Meeting

June 11, 2024

7:00 pm

Music Center Choir Room

1. Opening of Meeting – Call to Order – Salute to Flag – Roll Call

Vice - Chairwoman Stephanie Esch called the meeting to order in the MPR Choir Room. Stephanie led the Pledge of Allegiance. The trustees present were Dan Mullan, Jennifer Gunterman, Stephanie Esch, Nathan Bean, Fran Schmitz, and Billy Donaldson. Trustees Ben Meyer and Tony Hudson were not present. Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren, and Principal Sierra Bauer were present. Vice-Principal Dani Smith was present.

2. Recognize Visitors/Public Comment

Board Comment

Trustee Nathan Bean indicated that since joining the board of Stevensville School District he has learned why trustees cannot respond to topics not listed on the agenda. He explained that due to open meeting laws the public must be made aware of subjects up for discussion via the board agenda, thus if a topic isn't listed on the agenda, it won't be discussed.

Trustee Fran Schmitz thanked staff for the amazing celebrations done for students this month!

Trustee Dan Mullan commented about good attendance by the public at the board meeting tonight.

Public Comment

- A citizen asked several questions about district policies regarding bullying and the complaint process.

- A citizen commented that 8th grade graduation was great but extremely packed. And wanted to know why additional bleachers weren't pulled out to accommodate the crowd?

3. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairwoman Stephanie Esch asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to be made regarding the minutes. The following changes were made to the May 21st Special Board Minutes, on page 1, line 12, the meeting was in the district conference room, not the choir room, on line 14, Stephanie joined via Teams, not Skype, and on line 16, Principals, should be principal's. On line 132 from another page, Frannie needs closed quotes to read "Frannie".

Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the May 14, 2024; work session minutes as presented. Fran Schmitz seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

Billy Donaldson motioned to approve the May 14th, 2024; regular board meeting minutes with as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

Fran Schmitz motioned to approve the May 21st, 2024; special board meeting minutes with changes as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

4. Approval of Claims

Vice-Chairwoman Stephanie Esch asked if there were any questions or comments that needed to be made regarding the claims or students' accounts. Trustee Dan Mullan asked about claim#41448 lines 7 - 10 for Harlow's School Bus Service. Business Manager, Christy McLaren, distributed a color-coded handout to all trustees and public showing what sports/or activities were being paid on each of these line items.

Acting Chairwoman Stephanie Esch indicated June claims #41368 - #41448 total \$321,844.77, plus the May students' accounts in the amount of \$20,364.15 for a total of \$342,208.92. Jennifer Gunterman motioned to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

5. Informational Items

A. Superintendent Report

i. Activities and Transportation Coordinator

Superintendent Thennis indicated that he had eight well qualified applicants for the Activities and Transportation Coordinator position.

ii. High School Football Search

Superintendent Thennis indicated that the district fully intends to have a varsity football program at Stevensville this Fall. He's had a lot of interest in the head football coaching position and hopes to have the position filled by the end of June.

High School Vice Principal/Athletic Director Dani Smith indicates that there are approximately 23 students interested in playing football.

Several parents indicated that they are dedicated to getting student athletes prepared for high school football in the Fall.

B. Lone Rock School District Report – Trustee Gunterman

Trustee Jennifer Gunterman reported on Lone Rock School District. She was unable to attend the last meeting so not much to report.

C. Middle School Schedule Report

Middle School teachers Mr. Buerkle and Ms. Whitehead gave a presentation about a schedule change that was made in the middle school to allow students 14 minutes of structured time (3) three days per week with their teachers. This time allows students to finish homework, organize time, follow up with teacher regarding questions on classroom work, etc.

There is nothing like this in the high school, since the high school has tutoring offered both before and after school. Some extra credit is also offered to students who show up to receive tutoring assistance.

6. Business: Action Items

A. Out of District Enrollment

Superintendent Thennis reviewed the new out-of-district student application process for students as it relates to HB203 and Policy 3141. The new law goes into effect July 1, 2024.

i. Elementary School

Billy Donaldson moved to approve the enrollment of the elementary students as presented. Nathan Bean seconded the motion. Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Nathan Bean, Fran Schmitz, and Billy Donaldson voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

ii. High School

Jennifer Gunterman moved to approve the enrollment of the high school students as presented. Fran Schmitz seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

B. Consideration of Middle School Cross Country for 2024-2025

Superintendent Thennis indicated that for FY23-24 Middle School Cross Country was funded using fundraised money. The district expended \$2,341.86 of the fundraised money leaving \$2,705.20 for the 2024-2025 SY. Superintendent Thennis supports continuation of the 7th and 8th grade cross country for the 2024-2025 SY.

Board Comment

- A trustee asked why can't 8th graders participate with high schoolers?
- A trustee commented that 8th graders and younger students run a shorter distance than high schoolers for events.
- A trustee commented that there were concerns about program building vs 8th graders being intimidated by older students.

Public Comment

- A citizen asked what it costs to have the middle school cross country program per year. Also, should the district be adding any further activities moving forward, if the budget is so tight.

Fran Schmitz moved to approve the MOU for 7th and 8th grade cross country for the 2024-2025 school year. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. Dan Mullan was concerned that the motion should state that it was for one (1) year only. Fran Schmitz rescinded her motion.

Dan Mullan moved to approve the MOU for 7th and 8th grade cross country for one year only for the 2024-2025 school year. Fran Schmitz seconded the motion. Dan Mullan, Stephanie

Esch, Nathan Bean, Fran Schmitz, and Billy Donaldson voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

C. Policy 2nd Reading – 3141

Superintendent Thennis gave a quick review of policy 3141, which guides the district to comply with HB 203 which changes out-of-district enrollment.

Fran Schmitz moved to approve policy 3141 as presented. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

D. Rescinding the approval of the contract for the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor

Billy Donaldson moved to rescind the contract that was approved for the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor made on May 14, 2024. Jennifer Gunterman seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

E. Maintenance and Facilities Contract – Dave Haacke

Fran Schmitz moved to approve the contract for Mr. Dave Haacke as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

F. Parent Teacher Conference and 9th Grade orientation Day Additions to the School Calendar

Superintendent Thennis indicated that the district calendar was approved in March, but that the trustees provided school leadership teams the ability to explore options for open house and parent-teacher conferences. Each school submitted proposals to the School Improvement Team. In the end, only a few modest changes were made. Trustees need to consider adding the following parent-teacher conference dates to the calendar: November 13th and 14th and April 16th and 17th. The high school proposed adding a 9th grade (freshman only) transition day. This day would be August 26, 2024. This day is intended to provide new high school students an opportunity to be oriented to a new school and schedule, build relationships with staff, generate excitement about high school opportunities, and ease anxiety about school transition.

Jennifer Gunterman moved to add parent-teacher conference dates presented to the school calendar and a 9th grade and new student orientation day for incoming freshmen to the

2024-2025 school calendar. Nathan Bean seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

Public Comments

- A citizen asked what is Stevensville School chant? This should be taught to incoming high school students so that they know it when they start school here.
- A citizen commented that at a prior board meeting Mr. Chambers had mentioned that school pride and school spirit need to be emphasized.
- A citizen commented that high school seniors used to show freshman around school and to help orient them.

G. Budget Amendment Safety Funds – 2nd Reading

Superintendent Thennis summarized what the transfer of funds to the building reserve fund for safety and security measures in both the high school and elementary districts would be used for. To utilize these funds the Board must authorize the spending authority for the elementary and high school districts. Montana law requires two readings for a school safety budget amendment. Currently both Ravalli County and the Town of Stevensville are struggling to find police officers, so the district is not sure who will be providing the SRO (school resource officer).

i. Elementary

Fran Schmitz moved for the approval of the second reading of the Elementary District budget amendment as presented. Nathan Bean seconded the motion. Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Nathan Bean, Fran Schmitz, and Billy Donaldson voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

ii. High School

Jennifer Gunterman moved for the approval of the second reading of the High School District budget amendment as presented. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

H. Lone Rock Transportation Agreement

Superintendent Thennis summarized the Lone Rock Transportation agreement with Stevensville School District, which states that neither district will transport students who live outside their respective district boundary. This agreement includes an exception for high school siblings enrolled in Stevensville High School. Last year the trustees agreed to the addition of a bus stop at Foxtail and Eastside Highway to prioritize the safety of students.

i. East Side Highway and Foxtail Lane

Billy Donaldson moved to renew the approval of the Lone Rock Transportation agreement with the additional stop at Foxtail and Eastside Highway for the 2024-2025 school year. Fran Schmitz seconded the motion. Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Nathan Bean, Fran Schmitz, and Billy Donaldson voted aye. Jennifer Gunterman did not vote. The motion passed.

Public Comments

- A citizen asked if the same leeway is given for Stevensville students who would like an added bus stop?
- A citizen asked when the last time the boundaries for Lone Rock and Stevensville were reevaluated, as in some instances the boundaries go right through the middle of neighborhoods.

Board Comments

- A trustee commented that any individual can bring an issue of this nature to the school board for accommodation.
- A trustee commented that both districts try to work together for the best interests and safety of the students.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Employment * *All employment is pending completion of satisfactory background checks.*

- i. **Adrienne Rohbock – High School Secretary**
- ii. **Clayton Curley – Middle School Head Football Coach**
- iii. **Steve Curley – Middle School Assistant Football Coach**
- iv. **Derek Buerkle – Middle School Assistant Football Coach**
- v. **Bert Mahan – Middle School Volunteer Football Coach**
- vi. **Mary Pat Osler – Middle School Head Cross Country Coach**
- vii. **Chanda Gum – Middle School Volleyball**
- viii. **Margaret Zilla – High School Math Teacher**
- ix. **Ralph Serrette – High School Head Boys Soccer Coach**

- x. **CJ Clark – High School Assistant Boys Soccer Coach**
- xi. **Cassie Kopsa – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach**
- xii. **Joey Wark – High School Head Golf Coach**
- xiii. **Josette Hackett – High School Volunteer Golf Coach**
- xiv. **Lori Lewis – High School Head Cross Country Coach**
- xv. **Hannah Williams – High School Assistant Cross-Country Coach**
- xvi. **James Whitescarver – High School Head Wrestling Coach**
- xvii. **Dakota Wilton – High School Head Cheerleading Coach**
- xviii. **Sheridan Newson-Shultz- High School Cheerleading Volunteer**
- xix. **Adam Visconti – High School Assistant Wrestling Coach**

Vice-Chairwoman Stephanie Esch told the Board they will now approve the consent agenda items. Stephanie asked the Board if there were any questions or comments on the consent agenda items. Trustee Dan Mullan asked about the duties of the new High School Secretary Rohbock. Superintendent Thennis indicated that she is filling the position vacated by Vickie Vernon, but that the High School Principal will be deciding the duties both she and the other High School Secretary perform. Trustee Dan Mullan asked if the district coaching staff, including volunteers were taking the MHSA coaching courses. Dani Smith indicated that volunteers and coaching staff are taking (3) MHSA approved coaching courses. She did indicate that MHSA was giving her grace as a few coaches/volunteers were missed this year with her being new to her position.

Stephanie asked the Board if there were any consent items they would like to remove from the list. No items were removed from the list. Stephanie told the Board the consent of any trustee pertains only to the items they have the authority to decide on and if there is no objection, the agenda items will be adopted by unanimous consent. There were no objections, and the consent agenda items were approved by unanimous consent.

8. Adjourn

Jennifer Gunterman motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Nathan Bean seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

Board Chairman: Signed Copy on File in District Office.

Date: July 9, 2024.

School Board Clerk: Signed Copy on File in District Office.