

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 a variance to a standard or a section of 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 DATES (check one)

- First semester implementation; first Monday in March
 Second semester implementation; first Monday in July

COUNTY: Flathead County

DISTRICT: School District #6

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE: Glacier Gateway Elementary

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1. Standard(s) for which a variance is requested, e.g., 10.55.709. If there is a program delivery standard, be sure to list it as well, e.g., 10.55.1801.
(See attachment)
 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.
(See attachment)
 3. Provide evidence that local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.
(See attachment)
 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.
(See attachment)
 5. Describe the variance requested.
(See attachment)
 6. Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed variance.
(See attachment)

7. List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).
8. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives?
9. In what way does this variance meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s)?
10. Describe how and why the proposed variance would be:
 - a. Workable.
 - b. Educationally sound.
 - c. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101.
 - d. Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.

1. **Standard for which variance is requested.** 10.55.709 (1)(c)
2. **Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.** Glacier Gateway and the community we serve continually work together making improvements throughout the school. During 2017/2018 school year we sought input regarding the success of our school library from our parents and community members during our "Back to School Meet and Greet." We encouraged our parents and community members to provide input helping us accomplish our Library improvement goals. We collected perspectives on how we can make our school library an inviting comfortable environment to enjoy reading and learning through books.
3. **Provide evidence that local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.** School Improvement Committee meeting was held to present the goals and objectives of the library and given an opportunity to learn more about the accreditation shortfall and comment on the goals, shortfalls, and ask questions regarding school improvement. (Agenda and attendance report attached)
4. **Attach Board Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees adopted the application for a variance at an official, properly noticed meeting.** (see attachment from 2/26)
5. **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 fluctuated over 500 in the fall of 2017 and then dropped to under 500 students in the spring of 2018. 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.

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

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 20 students over and dipping below the standard of 500 students.

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

The measurable objective is to allow the staffing of 1.0 (FTE) licensed school library media specialist with a k-12 library media endorsement as we fluctuate enrolled students above and below the standard. Staffing of this degree will allow Glacier Gateway to create an inviting space with staff to help students locate books that fit their academic needs, develop a passion for reading, and explore learning through books.

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

TEAMS report will reflect the 1.0 FTE librarian 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. (See attached report)

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

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.

10. Describe how and why the proposed variance would be: (workable, educationally sound, aligned with program and content standards)

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 and the addition of the full time highly qualified paraprofessional serving in the library.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Alana Hill

Board Chair Signature: DEAN CHISHOLM

Date: 2/26/18

Superintendent Name: STEVE BRADSHAW

Superintendent Signature: Steve Bradshaw

Date 2-26-18

Mail the signed form to:

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

OPI USE ONLY

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Elsie Arntzen

Date 5/15/2018

Approve Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair Juan Carroll

Date 5/10/2018

Approve Disapprove

WORK SESSION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
FEBRUARY 26, 2018

The Work Session Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, February 26, 2018, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill RocksundBoard Chair via telephone
Dean Chisholm Vice Chair
Barbara Riley Trustee
Larry Wilson Trustee
Gail Pauley Trustee
Ellen Joy Hoerner Trustee
Jim Henjum Trustee
Steven Bradshaw Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENT:

Keri Hill..... Trustee

Vice Chair Chisholm called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Riley, second by Henjum, to approve the agenda as presented. Passed 7-0

APPROVE AGENDA

Public Participation:

Board Vice Chair Chisholm requested public participation on any agenda or non-agenda items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no public participation.

Action/Discussion Items:

The Board considered renewing the Montana School Board Association membership for school year 2018/19. Vice Chair Chisholm noted that the membership allows the District to utilize the workers compensation and property/liability insurance programs. The premiums for the insurance programs provide savings as compared to the insurance that could be obtained in the private marketplace. These savings greatly exceed the membership dues of the School Board Association.

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Motion by Pauley, second by Henjum, to approve the membership in the Montana School Board Association for school year 2018/19. Passed 6-1. Wilson-no.

MOTION TO APPROVE MEMBERSHIP IN MTSBA FOR SY2018-19

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MOTION TO APPROVE
INTERLOCAL
TRANSPORTATION
AGREEMENT WITH
WGE FY2019 AND 2020.

The Board considered renewing the Interlocal Transportation Agreement with West Glacier Elementary School District Eight. The term of the agreement is FY 2019 and FY 2020, which coincides with the agreement between Byrd Transportation and West Glacier. The annual cost to School District Six to operate this bus route serving High School students residing along highway two from West Glacier to Essex is approximately \$16,000.

Motion by Wilson, second by Pauley, to approve the Interlocal Transportation Agreement with West Glacier Elementary for FY 2019 and FY 2020. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
NEW BUS ROUTE #27

The Board considered establishing a bus route designed to serve prekindergarten students the District is required to serve under the Individuals with Disabilities Act as well as other students with special transportation listed within their individual education plan.

The proposed route is currently approximately 44 miles per day.

Motion by Wilson, second by Riley, to approve the new bus route #27. Passed 6-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
FUND TRANSFERS TO
IMPROVE SAFETY AND
SECURITY.

The Board considered transferring funds to update the District's phone system that was installed in July 2017. The Elementary District portion of the phone system is proposed to be transferred from the Transportation Fund. The High School District portion of the phone system is proposed to be transferred from the General Fund.

Motion by Riley, second by Pauley, to approve the fund transfers to improve safety and security. Passed 7-0

MOTION TO APPROVE
VARIANCES TO
STANDARDS
APPLICATION FOR
GLACIER GATEWAY
ELEMENTARY

The Board considered a Variances to Standards Application to the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Glacier Gateway Elementary received an accreditation deviation during the first semester of 2017/18 school year with regards to the number of certified librarian FTE. The enrollment briefly fluctuated over 500 in the Fall 2017 requiring 1.50 FTE librarian. The District employs 1.0 FTE librarian and determines this is adequate as the enrollment in the Spring 2018 is below the 500 threshold and the District employs a para-educator to assist the Librarian.

Motion by Wilson, second by Riley, to approve the Variances to Standards Application for Glacier Gateway Elementary. Passed 7-0

The Board discussed the request to donate property with the intention of constructing a community center that houses the Boys and Girls Club. Cindy Hooker representing the Boys and Girls Club and local community member Don Bennett engaged in a discussion regarding the proposed project. The current vision is to construct a facility in a phased approach with room to expand to house other agencies and services including a library and senior center. The Boys and Girls Club Community Center Steering Committee has requested the District to make a decision during the March 12, 2018 Board Meeting to help them continue to advance the project. The Board discussed the information necessary for them to make an educated decision. Vice Chair Chisholm requested information concerning the Boys and Girls Club annual operating budget including the various funding sources. The Board discussed ways that the facility could benefit School District Six including a covered walkway to Ruder Elementary, a gym, and food preparation area.

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The Board discussed the potential future uses of the proposed 33,000 square foot parcel north of Ruder Elementary. Chair Rocksund expressed concern with the timing of the commitment requested to donate land as the District is embarking on a K-5 facility assessment to determine their own needs and plans. Mr. Bennett noted that perhaps the timing is ideal as the Community Center concept could be part of the School District's facility plans. Trustee Riley requested the District Administration to review state statutes concerning disposition and lease of school property to help guide the Board of potential options.

Executive Session:

In accordance to MCA 2-3-203(4), Vice Chair Chisholm called the meeting into executive session at 7:23 P.M. to discuss litigation strategy concerning N.B. v Columbia Falls School District Six. Attorney Kevin Tidwell from the Kaleva Law Firm updated the Board about this matter via telephone conference.

Open meeting resumed at 8:09 P.M.


Future Planning:

Regular Board Meeting	March 12, 2018 6:00 P.M.
Health Insurance Committee Meeting	March 22, 2018 4:00 P.M.
Deadline to File Trustee Declaration of Intent	March 29, 2018

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Vice Chair Chisholm adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk

EXECUTIVE
SESSION:

MISC / FUTURE
PLANNING:

MEETING
ADJOURNED