

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: Yellowstone

DISTRICT: Laurel Public School District 7-70

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

South 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: Library Media Services - .5 FTE for schools with 126-250 students

- 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.**

The sign in sheet for the November 25th meeting of the Laurel School District Board of Trustees will be included. The information regarding the necessity for the Variance to standards application was also included in the Superintendent report to the School board.

- 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.**

The sign in sheet for the November 25th meeting of the Laurel School District Board of Trustees will be included. Review meetings were held with the South & West elementary librarian and administration of both buildings to review the variance and also current practices to best identify ways in which we could support service delivery for students.

- 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.**
- 5. Describe the variance requested.**

We are requesting a Variance to Standards regarding our library staffing for South elementary. We would like to continue staffing West and South elementary schools with 1.0 FTE licensed library media specialist and a .5 para-professional library assistant. This staffing arrangement allows us to offer flexible scheduling and continue to provide consistent access to the library media centers for both elementary schools.

For many years the two building sites have operated under one identity as West elementary school with a student enrollment of approximately 440 students, which would require 1.0 FTE licensed library media specialist. This past year our kindergarten building became identified as it's own school, South elementary with an enrollment of 140 students, which requires .5 FTE for that student enrollment; West elementary currently has an enrollment of 302 students requiring 1.0 FTE licensed library media specialist. The combined enrollment of the two buildings is still within the enrollment for 1.0 FTE, However, the rule states that each "school" must assign the minimum requirement of FTE per student enrollment

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

The goal is to provide consistent access to the library media center at South elementary with no interruption to the access to the library media center at West elementary. The mission is to utilize our staffing in a flexible manner to provide regular services in both buildings.

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

All students will have weekly scheduled resource time in the library media center. with instruction delivered by the para-professional library assistant in direct collaboration and support from the licensed library media specialist.

Weekly support and direct instruction from the licensed library media specialist at South elementary four days a week for 30 minutes.

The licensed library media specialist will maintain a collection that is current and balanced in accordance with specific reading objectives for kindergarteners that can be supported through the library services. These reading objective include but are not limited to RF.K.1a & RI.K.2 retell familiar stories, RF.K.2a rhyming words, RF.K.4 read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding, RL.K.3 Identify story elements.

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

Collaborative and flexible scheduling arranged between administrators of both elementary schools to provide consistent availability of services in the library media centers. Lesson plans will be maintained during the time of the variance to ensure that student's needs are being met. We will also gather pre/post data of Kindergarten reading scores to demonstrate the library support under the variance is continuing to support student learning.

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

a. Workable.

We currently employ one full time library media specialist, one .5 para-professional library assistant and would like to continue staffing the library for both buildings in this same manner. The para-professional library assistant is highly qualified, and has been employed in the school district for the past 2 years.

b. Educationally sound.

The current staffing arrangement has worked well for supporting student learning and flexibility of access to resources.

**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 as outlined in
10.55.1801 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM DELIVERY STANDARD

(1) In general, a basic program in library media shall:

(a) meet the following conditions:

(i) establish flexible scheduling to ensure that libraries respond to information needs,
foster intellectual curiosity, and support learning.

The fulfillment of further duties as outlined in 10.55.1801 are dependent upon this first
item of establishing flexible scheduling to meet the needs of our students.

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

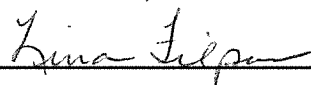
The current licensed library media specialist in Laurel Public Schools has
aligned instructional resources with the Montana content standards, and this
practice will continue at South Elementary school.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Chucody McDiven

Board Chair Signature:  Date: 11-25-19

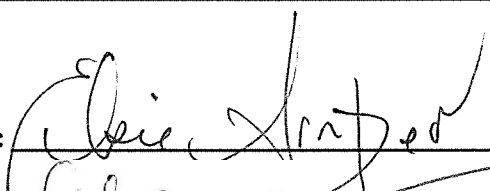
Superintendent Name: Linda Filpula

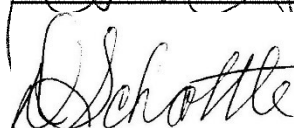
Superintendent Signature:  Date 12/11/19

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:  Date 4/23/2020
 Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair  Date 5/7/2020
 Approve Deny

MINUTES

I. Call to Order, Pledge to Flag, Welcome

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Cody McNiven.

Trustees present: Mike Longbottom, Karen Teeters, Dale Ahrens, Roy Voss, Mike Creeden and Brittani Hunter.

Trustees absent: None

Administration present: Supt. Linda Filpula, Business Manager Donnie McVee, Other: Joe Patton, Charla Wetsch, and Wayne Fjare.

II. Public Comment - Presentation to Trustee Roy Voss for his service to the Board.

III. Laurel Education Foundation Donation

Melissa Gatley, Deva McNiven and Gretchen Paulson with the Laurel Education Foundation presented a check in the amount of \$20,000.00, donations collected for the LHS Sports Performance Facility.

IV. Discussion Items

a. Entryway Metal Detectors

Trustee Dale Ahrens requested to have this topic brought before the Board for Discussion. He had contacted the radio station in Billings that is offering free metal detectors to schools. Chief of Police Stan Langve was in attendance to share his personal viewpoint and be devil's advocate to the proposition. He stated his opinion that the SRO program is the best deterrent and relationship builder to promote student safety. Public comment was heard from Wayne Fjare, Deva McNiven, Melissa Gatley, Michelle McNiven and Jacob Schreiner who spoke against the presence of metal detectors in our schools. The Board discussed the pros and cons. The majority were not in favor of the metal detectors. Several Trustees were in favor of continuing these discussions.

b. Environmental Control System

Facilities Director Wayne Fjare explained what the systems are and what they can do for us using heating and cooling examples from several of the school buildings. Currently engineers are physically checking boilers at night and on weekends, an environmental control system would automate the process. Chris & Luke with Allied Control Systems were in attendance to demonstrate how the system works. These types of systems provide cost savings by energy efficiencies. Estimated costs were \$180,000 at the High School and \$20,000 at West School. Wayne would like to work toward implementing these systems and will continue to collect information.

c. Superintendent's Evaluation

Superintendent Filpula distributed the document to be used for the superintendent's evaluation and described the process. The completed evaluations are to be submitted to the Board Chair by December 9. At the meeting on January 13th, the evaluation will be completed in closed session.

d. Budget Timeline

Business Manager Donnie McVee described the process outlined for the 2020-21 budget cycle. Trustee Creeden would like to see more board involvement, board training, and line item budgets provided in the process. He provided an example document book and budget process outline. Trustees discussed the purpose and outcomes of the current process. Public comment was given by Lynne Peterson and Jacob Schreiner questioning the change, and Charla Wetch sharing positive feedback from the AdvancEd review process. Trustee Ahrens requested and Chairman McNiven called for a 5 minute break. After resuming the meeting, the Trustees agreed to move forward with the proposed timeline for 2020-21 and that the Capital Planning Committee should review the proposed process.

e. Board Policy Review 1332 and 7320

1. Policy 1332 - Authorization of Signatures
2. Policy 7320 - Purchasing

Trustee Creeden asked for explanation of how the purchasing process for high cost items works and how these policies apply. In particular he was asking regarding the access control system being installed. In review, it was determined that board action on the contract did not occur. This will be placed on the next agenda for formal action.

V. Canvas the Vote

The Trustees canvassed the results of the November 5, 2019 mail ballot election. Results were as follows:

Land Purchase: For - 1611 Against - 1508

A motion was made to accept the results of the election.

Motion: Mike Longbottom Second: Cody McNiven Passed: 7-0

- a. Yellowstone County Canvas
- b. Trustee Canvas
- c. Certificate of Election

VI. Action Items

a. Bond Refunding Resolution

1. Resolution Certificate

A motion was made to adopt the Resolution Relating to \$2,310,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2019.

Motion: Karen Teeters Second: Mike Longbottom Passed: 7-0

Trustee Ahrens reported on highlights of the most recent bond refunding committee call.

b. Electronic Fingerprinting

A motion was made to approve the purchase of the Guardian 200 LiveScan system with an estimated price of \$5,488.00.

Motion: Brittani Hunter Second: Roy Voss Passed: 7-0

c. Library Variance

1. Variance to Standards Application

A motion was made to approve the variance to standard application for South

Elementary school and submit to the Office of Public Instruction.,

Motion: Mike Longbottom Second: Karen Teeters Passed: 7-0

Supt. Filpula explained that because South and West are now separate legal entities and have incurred a deviation to the standards by not having adequate library staffing.

Charla Wetsch described the variance being applied for that provides a solution to how we propose to meet the standard with additional support.

d. Policy Second Reading

1. 1014FE - Intent to Increase Non-Voted Levy
2. 1014FE-F1 Intent to Increase Non-Voted Levy Form
3. 1110 - Taking Office
4. 1120 - Annual Organizational Meeting
5. 1402 - School Board Use of Email and Mobile Messaging
6. 1420F - Notice Regarding Public Comment
7. 1441 - Audience Participation
8. 1512 - Conflicts of Interest
9. 2150 - Suicide Awareness and Prevention
10. 2151F - Assumption of Risk Form

A motion was made to approve second reading of policies 1014FE, 1014FE-F1, 1110, 1120, 1402, 1420F, 1441, 1512, 2150, 2151F.

Motion: Mike Creeden Second: Brittani Hunter Passed: 7-0

e. MTSBA Association Matters Voting

1. MTSBA Voting on Pending Association Matters

A motion was made to approve the Board Chair to complete and sign the ballot voting affirmative on the seven items related to MTSBA dues and Bylaw Amendments.

Motion: Mike Longbottom Second: Roy Voss Passed: 7-0

f. Approval of Claims

1. Claims Warrants #7071524-7071525
2. Claims Warrants #7071526-7071580

A motion was made to approve Claims Warrants #7071524 - 7071580.

Motion: Mike Longbottom Second: Karen Teeters Passed: 7-0

g. Personnel Hiring

1. Head Cheerleading Coach - Christina Holcomb
2. Cafeteria Assistant - Melissa Wood
3. Maintenance - Todd Hutton

A motion was made to hire Melissa Wood and Todd Hutton.

Motion: Mike Creeden Second: Cody McNiven Passed: 7-0

A motion was made to hire Christina Holcomb.

Motion: Mike Creeden Second: Roy Voss

A motion was made to amend the original motion to include retro pay to the beginning of the season.

Motion: Mike Creeden Second: Roy Voss

Discussion ensued with input from HR Director Joe Patton. This action, retro pay, would set a precedence moving forward among other considerations.

A motion was made to withdraw the amendment.

Motion: Mike Creeden Second: Cody McNiven Passed: 7-0

Vote on original motion - Passed: 7-0

h. Substitute List

A motion was made to approve the substitute list hiring Robert Dupuis, Jaime Rowlett, Kyra Elmer, Lordyn Milliron, Erin Phillips, Annie Cooke, Stefanie Luna, Lindsay Tebay and Sheila Filler.

Motion: Roy Voss Second: Mike Longbottom Passed: 7-0

VII. Superintendent's Report

- a. LHS Sports Performance Facility Update
- b. Land Purchase - Supt. Filpula reported that the land appraised higher than the purchase price.
- c. City of Laurel Meeting
- d. Turf Update
- e. Medicaid Billing
- f. Ministerial Association Luncheon
- g. Resignations: Tracey Crawford, LASP Aide.


VIII. Topics for Next Meeting

- a. Football team recognition
- b. Process to sell the Administration Building
- c. Calendar process

IX. Adjournment

Chairman McNiven adjourned the meeting at 8:45.


Chairman


District Clerk