

## 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."

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**DUE DATE:**

First Monday in March

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**COUNTY:** Yellowstone

**DISTRICT:** Elysian School District #23

**LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:**

**Elysian Middle School**

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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.

10.55.709

- 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.**

Information regarding the renewal application for variance of standards for ARM 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12 is posted on our district website.

- 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.**

Administrators, teachers and classified staff were provided opportunity to discuss and make recommendations concerning requested renewal variance on March 1, 2023 at regular scheduled staff meeting.

**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).**

The initial variance detailed the efficiency and ongoing function of the Library to maintain and improve the overall performance of student knowledge related to reading and Library Media Standards.

**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.**

Our Elysian students continue to show growth and progress on standard district and state assessments as measured by MAPs and SBAC. This variance allows for our Para to do managerial and organizational tasks in the Library allowing our Certified Teacher (Librarian) to design and deliver quality instruction relating to Reading and Library Media Standards.

- 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 design in place to have a Para designated for specific duty to the Library will remain and has allowed a consistent coverage and help.

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

Reading is the foundational backbone for all other learning. It continues to be one of the top educational priorities at Elysian. This renewed variance allows for managerial and clerical tasks to be done by a para allowing our certified teacher to focus on instruction and the lessons being delivered relating to Reading and Library Media standards.

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

The renewed variance will allow for the Library schedule to stay in place allowing all students access to the resource weekly as detailed in our master schedule. It will provide our Certified Librarian time to plan and execute her instruction to those students weekly addressing Reading, writing, and Media Literacy standards. These results will be measured on our students performance on district and state assessments.

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

The districts yearly results on district and state reading assessments will be reviewed and monitored. Grade level lessons will be reviewed regularly by administration. The schedule will be updated yearly to provide time for our Elementary and Middle Schools to access the Library resources.

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

The variance will allow students in our elementary and middle school to have access to a well maintained library that is capable of meeting their academic needs and also meet the state program delivery standards.

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

**a. Workable**

Due to the fact that Elysian Elementary and Elysian Middle School are housed in the same building and under the same roof, we are able to schedule a .02 FTE Para time in the Library. This will allow the Library to remain open to assist students as needed. It will allow our Librarian time to plan and deliver instruction to our students on Reading and Library Media standards.

**b. Educationally sound.**

The variance allows for students to have access to a full functioning Library and all its resources. It provides for weekly lessons centered around literacy and media as outlined by State Standards to be provided by our certified teacher.


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

The renewed variance will allow Elysian to continue to meet the Library standards. Working as a team, Elysian's Administration, Librarian, and teachers will be able to improve Elysian's current library through its access to resources for student check-out, projects and delivery of instruction.

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

By following the Montana literacy / Library Media content standards this variance will allow students to access and evaluate information and gain an appreciation and respect for diverse ideas and creative expression using literacy skills in all aspects of learning and assist students to become life long learners. These standards will be aligned under (ARM 10.54.6510-6513 through ARM 10.54.6601-6660)

**Required school district signatures:**

Board Chair Name:  Mark W. Kane

Board Chair Signature:  Date: 3/7/23

Superintendent Name: Lucie Shelton

Superintendent Signature:  Date 3/6/23

**Mail the signed form to:**

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

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**OPI USE ONLY**

Superintendent of Public Instruction: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approve  Deny

Board of Public Education Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approve  Deny

**Required school district signatures:**

Board Chair Name: Mark W. Kane

Board Chair Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/7/23

Superintendent Name: Luke Shelton

Superintendent Signature: [Signature] Date 3/6/23

**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 5/2/23  
 Approve  Deny

Board of Public Education Chair Madalyn Quinlan Date 5/12/2023  
 Approve  Deny





Elysian Elementary School  
Board of Trustees  
**March 7, 2023**

Vice Board Chair, Mark Kane, called to order at 6:00PM the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #23, Yellowstone County, Montana. Trustees present were Vice Chair Mark Kane, Trustee Jake Frank and Trustee Shanna Herrick. Chair Monica Zieske and Trustee Ben Reichenbach were absent. Superintendent Luke Shelton, Principal Ryan Truscott, Dean Jennifer Sundsted and Clerk Laurie Hickethier were present. Guest present were Nurse Jaime Martian, Heather Haynes, Lisa Pepper, Michael Moots, Traci Fitzgerald, Anna Vickers and Renae Heisler (land planners from IMEG).

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

Michael Moots spoke to the board in regards to instituting a way for parents of students as well as the teaching and support staff to have a regular, recurring opportunity to provide feedback and evaluation on how things are working. Principal Truscott stated that a Leader in Me Survey started last year, and a new survey with a broader goal went out a couple weeks ago. The survey results will be distributed to the board at the May meeting.

Anna Vickers, a land planner from IMEG, presented to the board updated information in regards to the proposed zoning around Elysian School. After the presentation, a potential community meeting will be scheduled on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Elysian School. The community meeting notices will be sent to all landowners surrounding Elysian School and will have the potential developers at the school as well to discuss the potentials for the land. After that community meeting, the hope is to have a meeting with City Commissioners to discuss the proposed zone changes. Information on the upcoming meetings will be shared as soon as details are finalized.

Vice Chair Kane stated that a Uniform Complaint Form has been received and it has been passed on to the appropriate personal under Policy 1700.

Nurse Jaime Martian stated that she is in support of the County High School and supports the board funding a feasibility study for a county high school. Nurse Jaime also stated she also agrees a survey allows for great ideas and community feedback. She would like some changes to the Leader in Me Survey to allow for which student that you are answering about in the survey and maybe allow for parents with multiple students at the school to fill out the survey based on that student.

Heather Haynes also agreed with changing the survey to allow for parents with multiple students at Elysian to answer based on each student. Heather also stated it would be nice to have a portion where you can just write in comments as well.

Principal Truscott stated he will check with Leader in Me to see if those changes are available.

**Correspondence**

Supt. Shelton gave the board three letters of resignation; one from Shyla Hutchinson, Elysian School’s Elementary Title Teacher, Claire Oravsky, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Teacher at Elysian School, and Ashlie Love, a Para at Elysian School.

**Consent Agenda**

Jake Frank motioned to approve the consent agenda. Second from Shanna Herrick, all trustees present voting yes, motion passed. Consent agenda items were the minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, Warrants 23026802 – 23026821 (February 7<sup>th</sup>); Warrants 23026822 - 23026834 (February 21<sup>st</sup>), Expenditure Report as of January 31, 2023, and Activity Account Balances as of March 3, 2023.

**New Paraprofessional – Melissa Mormile (replaces Ashlie Love)**

Shanna Herrick motioned to approve Melissa Mormile as an 8 hour per day Paraprofessional. Second to the motion was Jake Frank, all trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

**SB307 (School Facilities) – Consideration and Adoption of Resolution Estimating Changes in revenues / mills from Tuition, Adult Education, Building Reserve, Transportation levies for school fiscal year 2023-2024**

Jake Frank motioned, seconded by Shanna Herrick, to adopt the B307 School Facilities resolution estimating the changes in revenues/mills from Permissive Levies at Elysian School. The following is the resolution:

**Model Resolution Under SB 307**

As an essential part of its budgeting process, the Elysian Board of Trustees is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Elysian Board of Trustees estimates the following increases/decreases in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district:

Fund Supported	Estimated Change in Revenues	Estimated Change in Mills	Est. Impact	Est. Impact
			\$100,000 Home	\$200,000 Home
Transportation	\$55,340	1.87	\$2.53	\$5.05
Tuition	\$11,204	0.38	\$0.51	\$1.02
Adult Education	\$0	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Reserve	\$2,341	0.08	\$0.11	\$0.21
Total	\$68,885	2.33	\$3.14	\$6.29

Regarding the increase in the building reserve levy referenced above, the following are school facility maintenance projects anticipated to be completed at this time:

1. Future Construction, Equipping and Maintaining of Existing Facilities
2. Reconstruct Sewer Line in old building
3. Roof Maintenance

All Trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

### **Curriculum Adoption – Social Study Curriculum**

Supt. Shelton stated to the board that Savvas and McGraw Hill will be at Elysian School to present their Social Study Curriculum to the Curriculum committee on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The recommendation from the committee will be presented to the board at the April board meeting.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading Review Policy 3416 – Administering Medicines to Students**

Shanna Herrick motioned to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policy 3416 – Administering Medicines to Students with a correction on a spelling error on page 2. Second to the motion was Jake Frank. All Trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

### **Library Variance Renewal 2023-2024 through June 2027**

Superintendent Shelton presented to the board information in regards to state accreditation standards. The state accreditation standards currently require 1.001 FTE to meet our elementary and middle school library needs at Elysian. Mr. Shelton has submitted a variance of standards application in accordance with ARM 10.55.604.1 to the Board of Public Education requesting a .001 variance. This variance will allow Elysian School to appoint a Para-Professional to the .001 requirement in the library. Shanna Herrick motioned to approve this request for variance in regards to the library needs at Elysian. Second to the motion was Mark Kane. All Trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

### **Corrected TR5 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

Business Manager stated that because the TR4 was not approved until the January 3, 2023 board meeting, the TR5 can only contain the 8 days for the remaining of 1<sup>st</sup> semester instead of the 28 days from when the student was transported to YBGR. Jake Frank approve the corrected TR5 for 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, with Shanna Herrick seconding the motion. All Trustees present voting yes, motion passed.

### **Elysian ARP ESSER Plan – Safe Return to School Update**

Superintendent Shelton stated the ARP ESSER Plan is up to date online and has been submitted to OPI.

### **Build Committee Update**

Superintendent Shelton stated he has met multiple times with the Architects and the General Contractor in regards to the multi-purpose field. Initially the cost of the multi-

purpose field was over budget by about 1.6 million dollars. Changes have been made and the cost is about \$300,000 over budget at this time. Supt. Shelton stated that he is holding firm and he wants to make sure that the Multi-purpose field that was presented to the public is what will be delivered.

### **Clerk's Report**

Clerk Hickethier did not have anything to present to the board.

### **Principal Truscott's Report**

Principal Truscott stated the following to the Board:

- March is a great month and there are only a couple weeks before the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.
- The Student Led Parent Teacher conferences are coming up soon. Supt. Shelton and Principal Truscott will be grilling for the parents, students and staff at the conferences.
- The 31<sup>st</sup> is a day off of school
- March 15<sup>th</sup> is the School Board Member Day for the members of the school board to travel the school during the day and see all of the good things happening at Elysian School.
- There were 5 staff members today – and by 5am I already had about 40 text messages from our Paraprofessionals figuring out how to move around to cover for the day. Our Paraprofessionals at Elysian are amazing!

### **Superintendent Shelton's Report**

Superintendent Shelton stated the following to the Board:

- Supt. Shelton stated he agrees our staff is amazing. On a day that we had so many teachers out sick, he still had an evaluation to do in a classroom that was short staffed. The evaluation was amazing to see and the staff did an amazing job hopping between the students and had everything very well organized. We are extremely luck at Elysian School to have the staff we do!
- With the resignations coming up, those positions have been first offered internally. With that, Mrs. Tolton will be moving from Middle School Title and some math and advisory positions that she currently teaches to Elementary Title. Mrs. Pepper will become full-time next year and will do .5 Kinder along with ½ day of Middle School Title. Mrs. Ingraham will teach the other half of Mrs. Tolton's schedule which includes some middle school science and will keep .5 day of Technology classes. We are currently advertising for a Middle School Math teacher, an Elementary position and a K-8 Art Teacher.
- The High School Expansion group met at Elysian School a couple weeks ago. They presented to the group the results of the survey that was sent out. Mr. Shelton stated he would feel more comfortable if a survey was sent out to reach the full community that a high school would effect not just the parents that currently have students at each school. The High School Expansion group asked that each school look at splitting a cost of a feasibility and demographic study at a cost of approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 divided between the 4

county schools. Another proposal to look at is a House Bill that is currently being presented at the legislature, HB707. This Bill would allow the 4 schools to build a high school without the need to consolidate the elementary schools. This bill has passed the house and is going to the senate.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Vice Chair Mark Kane called to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at 7:46PM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

