

# BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
10:00 AM – Cooperative Office/Zoom

## MINUTES - DRAFT

1. **Call to Order** -Mr. Stiegler called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Board members in attendance: Ms. Weems, Mr. Fiske, Mr. Stiegler. Board members not in attendance: Mr. Biesiot, Mr. Konen. BVEC administration in attendance: Ms. Rammell and Ms. Gillespie. Staff in attendance: Erin Bauer, Heather Berry joined by Zoom for part of the meeting. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.
2. **Staff Representative**-Erin Bauer, Speech Language Pathologist/Stevensville Elementary, discussed how well things were going with Speech in the schools with a second full time Speech Pathologist, Alivia French. Ms. French is in her second year as a Speech Therapist for Stevensville. Ms. Bauer said she was having fun this year now that her caseload was just under fifty students when it used to be seventy students. She also talked about how well the training that she and Alivia did with the para educators on how to work with students who have minimal verbal abilities and autism related speech issues.
3. **Consent Agenda** – Mr. Fiske made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Weems seconded the motion. Consent agenda approved by unanimous vote.
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Warrants
  - C. Resignations-None
  - D. New Hires-None
  - E. Next Meeting: April 28, 2026
4. **Public Comment** – None.
5. **Correspondence/Communications** – None.
6. **Board Action** – None.
7. **Information and Discussion**
  - A. BVEC Audit Exit Conference – Ms. Rammell spoke to the history of unmodified audit results for the cooperative and the work Ms. Reynolds has done to continue this. Mr. Stiegler spoke about the rarity of having no findings on audits.
  - B. STAR Training – Mr. Stiegler would like to know who else in our member districts is using STAR Training and if there is any interest in combining resources. Ms. Rammell explained that STAR training is evidence-based training for students with autism that is research-based, widely used, and has been shown to increase engagement and readiness for academic learning. This is a valuable tool for students with autism as well as some students without autism. It is also a valuable tool for both general and special education teachers. There was discussion on who could do the training,

possibilities of BVEC managing this similar to the way we have done CPI training. Ms. Rammell is meeting with Corvallis and Hamilton and will find out if they are using STAR training. Mr. Fiske will discuss this with Judie Fisher to see what she knows about STAR training.

- C. Graduation Discussion Committee for FAPE – Ms. Rammell discussed the need for more guidance and direction on this and that she will be meeting with Kaleva Law, Stacia Vaughn from MAEC, Linda Moss former director of MAEC to reconcile what direction they can provide while waiting for OPI direction. She will follow up with the board after her meeting on Friday, 3/27/26.
  - D. Training Pathways Amid Shortages – Ms. Rammell talked about three options available to districts to support teacher openings: Teacher Registration Apprenticeship, OPI Internship for para’s, OPI Endorsement Program. She will distribute the information to board members.
  - E. Business Manager Application Received – Ms. Rammell explained we have one applicant and how the board would like to be involved in the interview process. Ms. Weems and Mr. Fiske will participate in the process and Mr. Stiegler also offered to help if needed. Ms. Rammell will move forward with setting up interviews and reference checks.
8. **Adjourn** – Mr. Stiegler adjourned the meeting at 11:21 AM.