

Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative Management Board

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

10:00 AM-Cooperative Office/Zoom

MINUTES- FINAL

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Thennis called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Board members in attendance: Mr. Thennis, Dr. DoBell, Mr. Fiske, Mr. Stiegler. Mr. Biesiot attended via Zoom. BVEC administration in attendance: Ms. Rammell, Ms. Gillespie, Ms. Moresi. BVEC staff in attendance: Ms. Larson; Ms. Pepion via Zoom. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds

2. **Introduction of Staff Representative**- Alyssa Larson, Occupational Therapist (Darby/Lone Rock/Victor). Ms. Larson commented on how she enjoys working in multiple school districts and how each district is supportive and committed to students and community.

3. **Consent Agenda**- Mr. Fiske made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Stiegler seconded the motion. Consent agenda approved by unanimous consent.

- A. Minutes
- B. Warrants
- C. Resignation-none
- D. New Hires-none
- E. Next Meeting: March 25, 2025

4. **Public Comment** – None.

5. **Correspondence/Communication**- Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C. Governance Letter

6. **Board Action**-

- A. Early Resignation Penalty-Amber Quinn

Mr. Fiske made a motion to assess the penalty fee of \$500 as recommended by Ms. Rammell. Mr. Stiegler seconded the motion. There was group discussion on the Cooperative history of assessing the penalty, how much notice was given, and a letter all Board members received from Ms. Quinn on Monday. The vote on the motion was 3 nays, 2 ayes. Motion failed. Mr. Biesiot made a motion to waive the penalty fee. Dr. DoBell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was 3 ayes, 2 nays. Motion carries, the penalty fee will be refunded to Ms. Quinn.

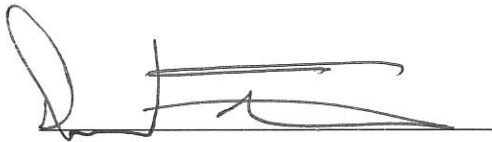
- B. Request for Leave of Absence (CBA Article 3.G)-Wendi Wood. Ms. Rammell provided details on Ms. Woods' tenure, reason for request, that the request is following the current CBA. Dr. DoBell made a motion to approve the request as recommended. Mr. Fiske seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

7. **Information and Discussion**

- A. Audit Exit Meeting – Ms. Rammell reviewed the exit meeting held on February 20th with Jon Mart from DDA, Mr. Thennis as Board representative, and Ms. Reynolds. The audit opinion will be Unqualified or Unmodified. There may be one finding, but that was to be determined.

- B. CSCT/School Based Mental Health follow up discussion to the Work Session on February 18th. Mr. Thennis stated that Stevensville School is committed to finding a way to maintain school-based mental health services in place with the condition the costs to districts are within the district's ability to fund. Dr. DoBell, Mr. Fiske, and Mr. Stiegler agreed with this. There was discussion on the status of the HCBS grants and timing. The Cooperative is working with the Children's Mental Health Bureau to complete all necessary paperwork for grants to be paid. Ms. Gillespie spoke to the status of Medicaid billing units reverting back to 15-minute units versus the daily rate. This has not been officially communicated but current communications indicate this will happen. The timing of the change and the rate of reimbursement have not been communicated. There was further discussion on the need for support from Districts and the Cooperative confirmed prior discussions that at this time we see this as an annual need, not a one-time request. Dr. DoBell suggested the Cooperative look into becoming a non-profit organization to enable them to apply for grants. He also suggested we reach out UM regarding funds they recently received and if we would be able to access any of those funds. The Cooperative will compile information on the suggestion for the future structure of mental health services, the expected revenue based on that structure, the caseload, and how to handle the lack of reimbursements received from private insurance carriers and families without Medicaid, HMK, or private insurance. The Board also requested that Ms. Rammell, Ms. Gillespie, and Ms. Moresi attend their March Board meetings to explain the status of services and options for next year.

8. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.



Board Chair Signature

3/25/25

Date



Board Clerk Signature

3/25/25

Date