



Management Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: December 17, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Meeting called to order by: Dale Olinger, Board Chair

The Management Council of the Missoula Area Education Cooperative met for a regular meeting at the MAEC Conference Room located at 2825 Stockyard Rd, Suite I-2. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise stated.

ATTENDEES

Stacia Vaughn, Cooperative Director
Dale Olinger, Superintendent, Lolo Schools via ZOOM
Erin Lipkind, Missoula County Superintendent of Schools via ZOOM
Jason Sargent, Superintendent, St. Ignatius School via ZOOM
Jim Howard, Superintendent, Bonner School via ZOOM
Rhonda Decker, Cooperative Business Manager

ABSENT

Logan Labbe, Superintendent, Superior Schools

GUESTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Erin Lipkind moved to accept the Minutes of the November 19, 2025 Management Council meeting. Jim Howard- Second.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. None

CORRESPONDENCE

3. None

OLD BUSINESS

4. None

NEW BUSINESS

5. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Information & Action

- A. Rhonda Decker, Cooperative Business Manager, reported to the Board that November year-to-date expenditures were \$595,829.
- B. Treasurer's Financial Statement Fund Balance as of December is estimated to be \$839,649. Rhonda reported to the board that the status of July-November reports is the same as last month. The County has continued to push back dates of getting reports out with limited communication to schools, and the committee has had to ask for status updates from the County multiple times. Six area Business Managers joined the Missoula County BCC Chief Officers meeting virtually this morning at 10:00 a.m. and brought their concerns to the County Commissioners.
- C. The Board approved the Business Manager to pay January claims and payroll. Jason Sargent moved to approve the Business Manager's report. Jim Howard- Second.

PERSONNEL REPORT

6. None

GRANTS/CONTRACTS: NONE

7. None

POLICY

8. None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. Stacia Vaughn, Cooperative Director, updated the board on the following:

- A. Due to special education and related service provider shortage, the Cooperative's retention efforts are continuous, and recruitment efforts begin earlier each year. To prepare for the 2026-27 school year, Stacia will begin the recruitment process in January 2026. As always, Stacia seeks to find in-person specialists whenever possible per Board and member school district request.
- B. Anna Grussling, Cooperative Special Education Preschool Teacher, is currently serving preschool students in Clinton and Lolo Schools.
- C. Best Practices in Special Education Inservice trainings will be scheduled for both Cooperative and member school district special education personnel in January, February and March 2026 and will address the following topics: How to Prepare an IEP Meeting, How to Facilitate an IEP Meeting, Prior Written Notice, Extended School Year, Achievement Testing, and Transition IEPs (high school). Administrators are always welcome to attend.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

10. NEXT MANAGEMENT COUNCIL DATE: To be determined.

ADJOURN

11. ADJOURN: Dale Olinger called the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Rhonda Ue
Business Manager, Attest

11/14/2026

Date

Ed Oe
Chair

11/14/26

Date

11/14/2026

Date Copies sent to JAB