

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Wednesday, May 1, 2024  
2:00 pm – Cooperative Office/Zoom

MINUTES – FINAL

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Fiske called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Board members in attendance: Mr. Fiske, Mr. Thennis, Mr. Biesiot were on site, and Dr. DoBell and Ms. Woodard via Zoom. BVEC staff in attendance: Director, Ms. Rammell, Mental Health Program Manager, Chris Hughes, and Clinical Supervisor, Ms. Gillespie. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds via Zoom.
2. **Consent Agenda** – approved by unanimous consent.
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Resignations
    - a. John Wood, CSCT Mental Health Therapist, Stevensville Elementary
    - b. Tammy Olds, CSCT Mental Health Therapist, Victor Secondary
  - C. New Hires
    - a. Alivia French, Speech Language Pathologist, Stevensville School District
  - D. Next Meeting: May 28, 2024
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Correspondence/Communications** – None.
5. **Board Action-**
  - A. **Elect Interim Board Chair** – Mr. Biesiot made a motion to nominate Mr. Fiske as Interim Board chair during Dr. DoBell's absence. Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.
  - B. **Approve BVEC Budget** – Ms. Rammell explained the draft budget for special education is "worst case scenario" in that all Special Education Funding is based on prior year funding because the 2024-2025 figures have been distributed by OPI at this time. When the figures are distributed, the Cooperative will update the Board and distribute a new budget Board copy to reflect any changes. There was discussion regarding the Mental Health/CSCT budget and request for District Contributions to support the program. Mr. Biesiot expressed his concern for where the funds could be found in the districts and the allocation method for the request, while also confirming his understanding that the services are needed in the districts and his appreciation for those services. All Board members agreed with Mr. Biesiot on their personal support for the program, but in the end, it will be up to the individual district Boards to approve the request for funds. There was further discussion on what funds could be used to support the CSCT contributions, but there was no definitive answer to this question. Mr. Thennis made a motion to approve the budget as presented; Dr. DoBell seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-1. Ayes: Mr. Thennis, Dr. DoBell, Mr. Fiske, Ms. Woodard. Nays: Mr. Biesiot.
  - C. **Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement** – Ms. Rammell stated the Association members had ratified the 2024-2026 agreement. She also explained the agreement included a 4.2% base increase in year 1, with a 0% base increase in year 2. The increase in base was needed to bring our base salaries in line

with other providers in the area. Mr. Biesiot expressed his concern about the increase in base, even though he understands the need to be competitive, when his District is only adding \$500 base increases. He is not sure how to reply if asked about this by his staff. Mr. Thennis and Mr. Fiske expressed the same concerns for their District. Ms. Rammell explained that the impact on districts was not taken lightly, but the Special Education Therapist and Mental Health Therapist are specialized fields that are difficult to fill at the current base salary. Mr. Thennis made a motion to approve the 2024-2026 bargaining agreement as recommended and Ms. Woodard seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

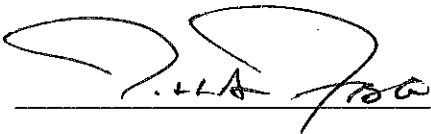
D. **Approve Certified Contract Renewals** – Mr. Biesiot made a motion to approve certified contract renewals as recommended, Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

E. **Approve Classified Contract Renewals** - Mr. Biesiot made a motion to approve certified contract renewals as recommended, Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

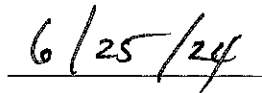
F. **Approve Administration Contract Renewals** - Mr. Biesiot made a motion to approve certified contract renewals as recommended, Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

6. **Information and Discussion** – None.

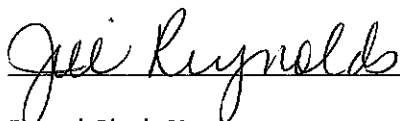
6. **Adjourn** – Mr. Fiske adjourned the meeting at 3:13 PM.



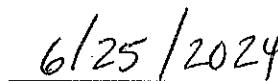
Board Chair Signature



Date



Board Clerk Signature



Date