

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, November 25, 2025
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: Mr. Stiegler, Ms. Weems, Mr. Fiske, and Mr. Konen. Board members not in attendance: Mr. Biesiot. Cooperative Administration in attendance: Ms. Rammell, Ms. Gillespie. Staff in attendance: Ms. Yerian. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.
2. **Staff Representative**-Madison Yerian, School Psychologist, Stevensville/Lone Rock/BVEC Preschool. Ms. Yerian talked about the School Psychologist role in the Cooperative and how Ms. Rammell supports them in their group meetings, whenever they have questions regarding changes in law or policy, and that she is always available to them when needed.
3. **Consent Agenda** – Motion to approve by Mr. Fiske, second by Mr. Konen. Consent agenda approved unanimously.
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Warrants
 - C. Resignations-None
 - D. New Hires-None
 - E. Next Meeting: TBD - The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Tuesday, December 23, 2025, when all schools are on winter break. The Board agreed to cancel the December meeting. The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on January 27, 2026.
4. **Public Comment** – None.
5. **Correspondence/Communications** - None.
6. **Board Action** – None.
7. **Information and Discussion**
 - A. Child Find and BVEC Preschool – Ms. Rammell discussed the impacts to preschool enrollment. One of the issues was Early Learning Programs in our member districts, the other being the impact of the CDC transfer of duties to Benchmark. Child find sessions were held in Darby, Victor, Florence, and the Preschool. Stevensville and Lone Rock Districts were covered by the session in the Preschool. Darby evaluated seven children, Victor evaluated four children, and Florence evaluated eight children. Thirteen children were screened at the Preschool session. One of those children was from Hamilton, two were already in the Jackets program in Stevensville. Evaluations are being fast tracked as much as possible. The expectation is the preschool enrollment will increase significantly in the next few

months. Some of the students will be very high needs. We are actively looking for a second para to start as soon as possible to help cover the additional enrollment.

B. Professional Development: Transition IEPs Supporting FAPE Service to Age 22 – Ms. Rammell explained that everyone is still waiting for written direction on this. The majority of our students will graduate with a diploma, which leaves the minority of our students that may qualify and choose to stay in school until the age of twenty-two.

One of our case managers asked if there was any licensure issue since teachers license specifically state they are licensed for P/K-Grade 12, not by age. Any returning students will still be categorized as seniors therefore there is no license issue because of age. Ms. Rammell will distribute OPI guidance as soon as we receive it.

Ms. Rammell also explained that there is some training she will be attending in January and February that she recommends all case managers also attend. She will forward the training subject matter and dates to all superintendents.

C. OPI Request for Program Narrative and Completion of Financial Risk Assessment – Ms. Rammell explained the new requirements for a program narrative and the financial risk assessment. She is working on the program narrative and the cooperative version of the financial risk assessment. Superintendents will have to complete the financial risk assessment for their districts. Ms. Rammell will distribute the email with explanations, the risk assessment file, and directions on the information needed. One of the risk assessment items asks if the district met MOE (Maintenance of Effort). She explained that as a cooperative we did meet MOE for 2025, but individually some districts did not. Ms. Reynolds is going to send a file to the Superintendents and Business Clerks showing the trends for the last few years. Each district should always be prepared to explain significant shifts in their MOE dollars year over year. Some variances may qualify for an exclusion, but when they do not it can impact future funding.

D. Ms. Rammell explained that Jennifer Clossen has offered to provide Behavioral Support and Strategies training to our case managers and paraeducators for all districts. Ms. Rammell is working to find a site, date and time, that will work for the majority of BVEC and District staff.

8. **Adjourn** – Mr. Stiegler adjourned the meeting at 11:11 AM.