

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

10:30 AM

BVEC Conference Room/Zoom

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Mr. Thennis called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM. Board members in Attendance: Mr. Thennis, Mr. Biesiot, Mr. Fiske, Mr. Steigler. Board member not in attendance: Dr. DoBell. BVEC administrative staff in attendance: Ms. Rammell, Ms. Gillespie, Ms. Moresi. BVEC staff in attendance: Ms. Bauer, Ms. French. BVEC staff in attendance via Zoom: Ms. Yerian, Ms. Pepion, Ms. Hendin Hoecker, Ms. Rhodes, Ms. Bowers, Ms. Lampi. Others in attendance: Jon Konen from Stevensville Schools, Shelby Murphy from Lone Rock School. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.

2. Introduction of Staff Representatives: Alivia French and Erin Bauer, Speech-Language Pathologists-Stevensville. Ms. Bauer commented on how having a second full-time speech-language pathologist in Stevensville has made such a positive impact on managing the caseload and student outcomes. She also commented on the Able Space system that the schools have shared with them and how it has reduced the time to complete progress notes. Ms. French commented on her first year and how much she has enjoyed working with Erin and the students. She was surprised to find she really enjoyed working with the high school students. Mr. Konen acknowledged the excellent job Ms. French is doing.

3. Consent Agenda: Approved by unanimous consent.

- A. Minutes
- B. Warrants
- C. Resignation-Spencer McCarthy, Florence Secondary BC (effective end of academic year, attached)
- D. New Hires-none
- E. Next Meeting: May 27, 2025

4. Public Comment – None.

5. Correspondence/Communication -

- A. Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C. Audit Report copies are available at the BVEC office.

6. Board Action -

- A. CSCT/School Based Mental Health for 2025-2026 School Year
Ms. Rammell detailed the current number of MH Teams, employees, FTE, and tenure by District. Ms. Rammell also confirmed that the Darby and Stevensville School Boards have decided to discontinue BVEC CSCT services in their schools for the 2025-2026 school year. The Florence, Victor and Lone Rock School Boards have approved continuing services in their districts with a reduction in teams, employees, FTE. Final dollar amounts to be paid by these districts will be determined based on the Board funding agreements and previously communicated amounts. This restructuring will necessitate the need for a Reduction in Force (RIF). Ms. Rammell explained the current IGT agreements in place

will need to continue into the 25-26 fiscal year until all billing has been completed and reimbursed. The district CSCT agreements will need to be formally ended when the school year ends.

Mr. Fiske asked questions regarding the RIF process, movement of staff, seniority, etc. Ms. Rammell explained that we currently have only two (2) tenured staff members. She will be meeting with Mental Health staff to communicate the changes and the RIF process on Wednesday, April 23rd.

Mr. Fiske recognized all the work that has been done in the last few years to support the Mental Health Program, and thanked Ms. Gillespie and Ms. Moresi for all they have done. Mr. Stiegler agreed with Mr. Fiske. Mr. Thennis reiterated that this was a difficult decision and not taken lightly.

Ms. Rammell confirmed the new structure for School Based Mental Health for the 2025-2026 school year. The Florence and Victor school districts will have one (1) CSCT team each, consisting of one full-time Mental Health Therapist and one full-time Behavior Consultant. Lone Rock will continue with one Outpatient Mental Health Therapist that will be .8 FTE. Ms. Gillespie will return as the Program Supervisor. In addition, she will provide outpatient services for the secondary schools in Florence and Victor. Ms. Gillespie will continue as full-time with a 180-day contract. Ms. Rammell also explained that effective with the 2025-2026 school year, non-payment of services will result in either a reduction in services provided or a complete denial of services.

Ms. Rammell explained that Ms. Moresi's service as Clinical Supervisor this year was vital in supporting the six in-training Mental Health Therapist we had on staff. With the reduction in staff next year, we will only have two Mental Health Therapist in training, therefore Ms. Gillespie will be able to provide the support needed.

Mr. Stiegler made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 mental health staffing as presented. Mr. Biesiot seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Information and Discussion

- A. BVEC Draft Budget Discussions – Ms. Rammell explained the historical process of the Board approving the new school year budget prior to approving contract renewals. This allowed the cooperative to send out contracts and also gave the districts the information they needed to complete their budgets. Ms. Rammell asked if due to time constraints the Board members would consider approving contract renewals before approving the budget. Board members agreed to approve contract renewals first.

Ms. Rammell explained that she has had one on one discussions with Board members in the past to review the proposed budget prior to a Board meeting. Ms. Rammell requested this be done this year by phone or in person with each superintendent and to include Ms. Reynolds (Cooperative Business Manager). The Board agreed to this, and Ms. Rammell will be setting up meetings.

- B. Special Board Meeting Staff Contract Renewal/Nonrenewal – Ms. Rammell will send out a meeting request for Monday, April 28, 2025, at PM.

8. Adjourn – Mr. Thennis adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM.