



## Joint Advisory Board (JAB) Meeting Minutes

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Date:	October 4, 2023
Time:	11:40 a.m.
Meeting called to order by:	Dale Olinger, Board Chair

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The Joint Advisory Board of the Missoula Area Education Cooperative met for a regular meeting in person with a virtual (Zoom link) option at the MCPS Board Room located at 909 South Avenue, Missoula, MT. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise stated.

### ATTENDEES

Stacia Vaughn, Cooperative Director  
Dale Olinger, Superintendent, Lolo Schools  
Erin Lipkind, Missoula County Superintendent of Schools  
Jason Sargent, Superintendent, St. Ignatius School  
Jim Howard, Superintendent, Bonner School  
Crista Anderson, Principal, Dixon Elementary  
Amanda Cyr, Superintendent, Clinton Elementary  
Matthew Driessen, Principal, DeSmet Elementary  
Josh Gibbs, Superintendent, Seeley Lake Elementary  
Logan Labbe, Superintendent, Superior Schools  
Steve Love, Superintendent, Charlo Schools  
Angela Mock, Principal, Swan Valley Elementary (via ZOOM)  
Rhonda Decker, Cooperative Business Manager

### ABSENT

Damian Droessler, Superintendent, Albertson Schools  
Jon Martin, Superintendent, Woodman School  
Sarah Schmill, Principal, Potomac Elementary  
Anne Tanner, Principal, Arlee Schools

### GUESTS

None

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Dale Olinger called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

1. Attendance of the 2023-2024 Joint Advisory Board members was conducted by Rhonda Decker.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Matthew Driessen moved to accept the Minutes of the June 7 and June 28, 2023 Joint Advisory Board meeting minutes. Amanda Cyr- Second.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

3. None

## **MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTION**

4. Stacia Vaughn, welcomed everyone and provided background information about the Joint Advisory Board (JAB). She explained that the Annual Election of Officers (Chair and Vice Chair) is held in June. She informed the board that Scott Kinney, one of five Management Council members, retired as of June 30, 2023. This necessitates the nomination and election of another Management Council member as the JAB appoints the five Management Council members. Steve Love nominated Logan Labbe. Jason Sargent- Second.

## **PROPOSED 23-24 BUDGET**

5. Stacia Vaughn presented the proposed budget to the Board. Matthew Driessen asked about the Occupational Therapy services and if they could be in person. Ms. Vaughn explained in spite of ongoing recruitment efforts, the Cooperative has not received any OT applications for the past two years. Ms. Vaughn explained that it is possible with the recent revision to the Cooperative salary matrix the Cooperative will be more competitive in the search for candidates and will help to address this challenge and the lack of interested applicants. Rock Creek Teletherapy (RCT), located in Billings, MT, is under contract to provide OT services to member districts once again for the 23-24 school year. Ms. Vaughn explained that RCT delivers related services via a telehealth model and it meets the districts' obligations to deliver FAPE to students with IEPs. This year, the OTs assigned by RCT live in Western Montana, and while the majority of the OT services to member districts will be delivered via the telehealth model, there is opportunity for in person OT consultation with school staff on occasion with prior approval from the director.

Ms. Vaughn reminded the Board that the centralized Cooperative Preschool Program was dismantled by the JAB in June 2023 due to the high cost of running the program for such a small number of students as well as the challenge for outer member districts to access the sped placement option and associated cost and logistics of transporting students to and from the program. Per the JAB's request,

over the summer the director recruited and hired a P/K-12 itinerant special education teacher at a 1.0 FTE for the 23-24 school year. This sped teacher serves .50 FTE as an itinerant preschool sped teacher / case manager and implements the new push-in preschool service model to member districts who agree to pay the Cooperative a preschool tuition fee in the spring. In addition, the special education teacher serves .50 FTE as a consultant for K-12 special education services and/or sped case management on a fee-for-service basis to member districts as assigned by the director.

Matthew Driessen made a motion to accept the proposed 23-24 budget. Josh Gibbs- Second.

**ADJOURN**

Dale Olinger called the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Rhonda Olin  
Business Manager, Attest

6/17/2024  
Date

6/17/2024  
Date Copies sent to JAB

JD Gibbs  
Chairman

6/17/2024  
Date