

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, January 27, 2026
10:00 AM – Cooperative Office/Zoom

MINUTES - DRAFT

1. **Call to Order** – Board members in attendance: Mr. Fiske, Mr. Konen. Ms. Weems and Mr. Biesiot via Zoom. Board members not in attendance: Mr. Stiegler. BVEC Administration in attendance: Ms. Rammell on site and Ms. Gillespie via Zoom. BVEC staff via Zoom: Lucy Chadwick. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds. Mr. Fiske called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.
2. **Staff Representative** - Lucy Chadwick, CSCT Mental Health Therapist, Florence Elementary.
3. **Consent Agenda** – Mr. Biesiot made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Konen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Warrants
 - C. Resignations-None
 - D. New Hires-Julie Capser, Preschool Paraprofessional
 - E. Next Meeting: February 24, 2026
4. **Public Comment** – Ms. Chadwick spoke to the group about the restructuring of the mental health programs in Florence and how that was working this year. The CSCT team is now working with eighteen students in Florence, nine from elementary and nine from middle school. Things are going well this year, they have a good team of school staff they work with and are focusing on early intervention, in class support, parental and family involvement. Ms. Chadwick is enjoying working with the older students this year.
5. **Correspondence/Communications** – None.
6. **Board Action** – None.
7. **Information and Discussion**
 - A. **BVEC Board and CSCT/SBMH** – Ms. Rammell explained that Mr. Stiegler had spoken with Ms. Kaleva, our attorney, regarding how Board meetings should be done when it comes to Mental Health since only three of our member districts are using the Cooperative Mental Health services. Our options were to set up a second board or to continue with the current Board and non-participating members can abstain from any voting regarding the mental health programs. All agreed to continue with our current Board.
 - B. **CSCT/SBMH Update and Review** – Ms. Ashley updated the status of the CMS Medicaid billing converting to 15-minute units which has been delayed until April 1, 2026. The rate has been confirmed at \$30.94 per 15-minute unit. A 3% increase is expected in July, but there is no estimate on the F-map percentage. Ms. Gillespie also added that the CSCT teams in Florence and Victor are operating with full caseloads. The Lone Rock outpatient therapist is also operating with a full caseload.

- C. **Evidence Based Practices for Behavior and Training Dates** – Ms. Rammell updated the group on the autism training with Ms. Clossen. Ms. Clossen is currently conducting coaching clinics in both Lone Rock and Victor schools and that is going very well. Further training for Victor and Lone Rock will take place on February 13, 2026, from 1-3:30. This training will be on-site. The training for our other districts, Darby, Stevensville, and Florence will be done via Zoom on February 6, 2026, from 1-3:30. Ms. Rammell will email details to Board members.
- D. **Related Services and Teletherapy** – Ms. Rammell discussed the nationwide issues with shortages in providers for occupational therapy and physical therapy. This is also an issue in Montana and has resulted in the need to use third party providers using teletherapy. This is a trend that is expected to continue. The cooperative contract with Rock Creek Teletherapy to provide physical therapy and will be using them to provide occupational therapy due to Ms. Larson's maternity leave.
- E. **Business Manager Recruitment Plan** – Ms. Rammell detailed her plans for the recruiting process to replace Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Rammell would like to start advertising for the position mid to late March, with applicant interviews in April, targeting May for the hire date. This will provide more training time during May and June as July and August are very busy months due to fiscal year end and TFS reporting. Ms. Reynolds can adjust her work schedule to part time if needed to offset some of the cost of the new Business Manager. Ms. Rammell also explained that the salary for the new Business Manager will be based on experience, but the salary might be five to ten thousand dollars more per year. Ms. Rammell also asked that Board members be included in the interview process, although that hadn't been done in prior years. The Board agreed to the timeline and to participating in the interview process.
- F. **Director Evaluation** – Ms. Rammell asked to go to executive session to review her performance evaluation. The Board went into executive session at 11:11 AM.

8. **Adjourn** – Mr. Fiske adjourned the meeting at 11:37 AM.