BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
10:00 AM – Cooperative Office/Zoom

MINUTES - FINAL

1. Call to Order – Mr. Biesiot called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Board members present: Mr. Biesiot, Mr. Fiske, Mr. Jamison, Mr. Konen, Ms. Weems. BVEC Admin present: Ms. Rammell, Ms. Gillespie. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds, Kimberly Waggener

2. Consent Agenda - Motion from Mr. Fiske to accept consent agenda. Mr. Konen seconded motion. Motion carries 5-0

A. Approval of Minutes
B. Approval of Warrants
C. Resignations: None
D. New Hires: None
E. Next Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

3. Public Comment - None

4. Correspondence and Communications - None

5. Board Action

A. Approval of Updated Criminal Background Investigations Policy (Policy 2015) (Attached) – Motion from Mr. Konen to approve. Ms. Weems seconded motion. Motion carries 5-0.

6. Information and Discussion

A. Occupational Therapy Services Update – The BVEC OT will be out for the month of September and October. Rock Creek Teletherapy will provide OT services during this time.
B. Program Narrative Review and Discussion – Ms. Rammell reviewed the updated Special Education program narrative that was last revised in 2016. The updated version has been approved by OPI and she will send a copy to the superintendents.
C. After-Hours Crisis Line for SBM Program – BVEC's contract with Aware (formerly Western Mental Health) for an after-hours crisis line ended 7/31/26. Aware will not be providing these services moving forward. It cost BVEC $1,000 per year for this service. Ms. Gillespie is working on finding an after-hours crisis line for BVEC that is similar in cost. She explained that BVEC is required to have a 24-hour crisis line as a mental health center.
D. ER System for Medicaid Billing – Ms. Rammel gave an overview of the BVEC EMR and billing program and how it was created specifically for BVEC. The designer of the program is retiring and will not be available to support the program any longer. The program needs major maintenance and upgrades.

Axiom IT Solutions is a Missoula-based custom software development agency that can provide the upgrades and maintenance currently needed, and then also take over the support of the program moving forward. Initial cost for Axiom to audit the program and compile the needed maintenance and upgrade findings will cost approximately $20,000. The annual monitoring and maintenance cost for the program cannot be estimated until Axiom finishes the review of the program. The board asked if Axiom could provide more detail of the annual cost after the discovery phase. Jill will reach out to Axiom to try to solidify annual cost details. More information will be provided at the next board meeting so a decision can be made to move forward with Axiom. Other options included outsourcing billing, that cost would be approximately 7% of what BVEC bills for Medicaid. For example, last year 7% of BVEC's Medicaid billing was approximately $30,000 and that does not include the cost of a program for electronic medical records.

E. Discussion of Monthly Meeting Times for 2026-2027 Board Meetings – the board would like to keep meeting times at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Board Chair Signature

9/24/26
Date

Kimberly Waggener
Board Clerk Signature

9/22/26
Date