

## BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

10:00 AM – Cooperative Office

### MINUTES - DRAFT

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Stiegler, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Board members in attendance: Mr. Stiegler, Mr. Fiske, Mr. Konen. Mr. Biesiot attended via Zoom. Board Members not in attendance: Ms. Weems. BVEC admin staff in attendance: Ms. Rammell, Director, and Ms. Gillespie, Mental Health Program Manager. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.
2. **Consent Agenda** – Mr. Fiske made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Konen seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding the next meeting date because the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in September would fall on the date of the fall SAM meeting, and all superintendents would be at that meeting. The Board will meet on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the BVEC conference room. Mr. Stiegler called for the vote. Motion carried 4-0.
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Warrants
  - C. Resignations-
    - a. Andee Leingang-BVEC Preschool Paraprofessional (Classified Staff)  
*Resignation letter attached.*
    - b. Jill Reynolds-Business Manager. Effective Date: August 31, 2026  
*Resignation letter attached.*
  - D. New Hires- Karen Rodgers, Preschool Paraprofessional (Classified Staff)
  - E. Next Meeting: TBD
3. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
4. **Correspondence/Communications** – There was no correspondence or communications.
5. **Board Action** -
  - A. **Policy 2010 – Required Revision** Update to include penalties for non-compliance with immigration laws. Mr. Fiske made a motion to accept the revision. Mr. Konen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
  - B. **Policy 2015 – Required Revision** Maintains requirement that individuals with unsupervised access to students must undergo fingerprinting. This update includes a reference to House Bill 745. Mr. Fiske made a motion to accept the revision. Mr. Konen

seconded the motion. There was discussion about clarification of the definition of supervised versus unsupervised. Motion carried 4-0.

**C. Policy 2050 – Required Revision** Prohibits any form of restriction or discrimination against employees seeking election or appointment to public office. Mr. Fiske made a motion to accept the revision. Mr. Konen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**D. Policy 2075 – Revision** Outlines acceptable use of AI tools by staff. Mr. Fiske made a motion to accept the revision. Mr. Konen seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding Able Source, the costs, the initial investment in time, and the time savings for staff. Motion carried 4-0.

## **6. Information and Discussion**

- A. Special Education Budget** – Ms. Rammell explained the need for revisions to the Special Education Budget for 2025-26 school year, due to the reduction in IDEA B funds versus what was planned and approved earlier this year. Ms. Reynolds explained the changes in funding versus the approved budget, the expense reductions the cooperative made to help offset the impact of those changes, and the impact on the District Contribution and IDEA Flow Through dollars. The Board agreed to the changes. This will be on the September agenda for approval.
- B. CSCT/SBMH** – Ms. Gillespie updated the Board on the summer program and explained that attendance was down this summer. She explained that the current funding model of billing by the day impacted attendance because it limits the number of offsite activities we can afford. The change to the 15-minute billing will improve attendance for the summer of 2026. Ms. Gillespie also explained that going back to the 15-minute billing will be effective January 1, 2026. The rate has not been approved, but the rate DPHHS is requesting is \$30.94 per 15 minutes. This rate is much lower than mental health providers had requested and is pending CMS approval.
- C. FAPE Eligibility to Age 22** – Ms. Rammell discussed the impact of this ruling and that for now there are only two students from Darby eligible to return to school. There was more discussion on the impact of this ruling and having adult students in classrooms structured for children's learning. What implications does that have for separate learning space and costs to provide that space?
- D. Director Schedule** - Ms. Rammell explained her schedule in September and October where she will be working remotely some days each month.

**7. Adjourn** - Mr. Stiegler adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.