

**BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION
COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

9:00 AM Cooperative Office

MINUTES – FINAL

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. Moore called the meeting to order at 9:03. Board members in attendance: Dr. Moore, Dr. DoBell, Ms. Woodard, and Brian Rayburn. Board members not in attendance: Mr. Toynebee. BVEC staff in attendance: Ms. Rammell, Mr. Hughes, Paula Lampi. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.
2. **Introduce Staff Representative:** Paula Lampi, School Psychologist (Stevensville)
3. **Consent Agenda** – Item F removed from consent agenda for separate discussion then the consent agenda was approved.
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Warrants
 - C. Financial Report
 - D. Resignations
 1. None
 - E. New Hires
 1. None
 - F. ~~Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 28, 2021, or Tuesday, Dec 21, 2021~~

Board Discussion regarding the next meeting date. Board agreed on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, for the next meeting.

4. **Public Comment** – Paula Lampi discussed how nice it was to be back to somewhat normal school year and commented on how nice it was to see all the Stevensville staff pitch in to help during staff shortages.
5. **Correspondence** – One letter of resignation received November 22, 2021. This will be added to the December meeting agenda
6. **Board Action-**
 - A. **Proposal to Expend ARP Funds**

Cooperative was awarded \$159,512 in ARP funds with the final distribution of IDEA funds. \$146,855 allocated to IDEA B and \$12,657 IDEA Preschool.

Proposing expenditure for preschool paraprofessional, staff retention premium and allowable expenditures to be determined but obligated by 9/30/23.

 - \$12,657- fund 2nd preschool paraprofessional
 - \$30,000 -\$1000 staff retention premium

- \$116,855- Funds to be spent as allowable expenditures to be determine but obligated by 9/30/23

Board Discussion – Dr. Moore stated he would like to see the expense of our billing system changes due to the new CSCT IGT process paid for from the ARP funds. Dr. DoBell stated he is not in favor of paying retention premiums and asked what other districts were doing. Dr. Moore and Ms. Woodard replied that they had done this in their districts. Dr. Moore recommended having Kaleva Law review payments for their legal opinion. Mr. Rayburn stated he would like to see the payment spread out over two years.

Dr. Moore called for the vote on using \$12,657 of ARP funds to pay for a 2nd preschool paraprofessional. Motion by Mr. Rayburn, second by Dr. DoBell. Motion carries 4-0.

Dr. Moore called for the vote on authorizing Ms. Rammell and Ms. Reynolds to discuss payment of \$1000 staff retention premium to all BVEC employees and to pay the retention premiums if the union agrees. Motion form Dr. DoBell, second by Mr. Rayburn. Motion carries 4-0.

Board agreed to table the remaining \$116,855 ARP spending until BVEC has specific plans on how to spend those funds.

7. Information and Discussion

A. Crisis Training Options – Ms. Rammell spoke to District preference for crisis training options being CPI versus MANDT. Board agreed. Dr. DoBell recommended contacting School Services in Bozeman. They provide CPI training and will come to you. Dr. Moore and Ms. Woodard agreed with pursuing as they are in desperate need of training in their schools.

B. Monitoring 2022-2023 and Best Practice Training

Best Practices in Special Education training with OPI, Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 1:00-3:00. Board discussed concerns with monitoring when OPI did not have a Director of Special Education. Ms. Rammell will resend the meeting date and time to Superintendents. Dr. DoBell will draft a letter from the Board to OPI with their concerns regarding this process without an OPI Director of Special Education on staff.

C. Maintenance of Effort

Maintenance of effort not met by expenditure comparison. Difference not within the allowable range. MOE was met on per-student basis on the Preliminary MOE. Ms. Rammell explained that if attendance is up this year and spending is consistent or goes down again, we might not meet MOE this year. There was discussion around possible causes for reduced spending being due to some expenses being coded to governmental funds, reduced one on one services, etc.

D. CSCT – Mr. Hughes discussed the new process and the confusion within districts regarding the accounting process. Mr. Hughes asked if the confusion was with the process being new

or with the actual accounting guidelines that had been published. Consensus was most clerks were so busy with all the other accounting changes due to special funding, this was just one more thing. Mr. Hughes is working to set up another call early January with OPI and DPHHS to discuss the Match process and form in more detail. Ms. Reynolds will reach out by phone to each clerk individually to review the process with them, answer questions if she can, if not create a list to of questions to share with OPI.

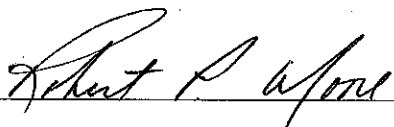
Mr. Hughes reviewed the financial section of the new CSCT agreement. Dr. Moore agreed it was a good first pass and asked that the document be reviewed by Kaleva Law.

Dr. DoBell stated he would like the Co-op to take a more active role in the IGT process.

Dr. Moore asked if there were any other topics to be discussed. Mr. Rayburn asked if we knew what Board members would participate in bargaining negotiations this year. Ms. Rammell asked for at least one Board member have experience with negotiating and co-op budgeting. Dr. Moore stated the Board would have a decision at the December meeting.

Ms. Rammell discussed the committee had been established to review salary matrices prior to negotiations. At this time, no Board members are required for the committee.

7. **Adjourn** – meeting adjourned at 10:40.



Board Chair Signature

12-21-2021

Date



Board Clerk Signature

12/21/2021

Date