

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
10:00 AM – Cooperative Office/Zoom

MINUTES - DRAFT

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Stiegler called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Board members in attendance: Mr. Stiegler, Ms. Weems, Mr. Fiske, Mr. Konen. Mr. Biesiot via Zoom. BVEC administration in attendance: Ms. Rammell, Ms. Gillespie (via Zoom). Staff in attendance: Wendy Schroeder. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.
2. **Staff Representative** - Wendy Schroeder, School Psychologist, Darby, and Victor stated that the year is going well and smoother this year versus last due to a reduction in the number of evaluations. She is also excited about the work being done with the Montana Autism project.
3. **Consent Agenda** – approved by unanimous consent.
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Warrants
 - C. Resignations-None
 - D. New Hires-None
 - E. Next Meeting: March 24, 2026
4. **Public Comment** – None.
5. **Correspondence/Communications** -
 - A. Governance Letter
 - B. Association’s Request to Open Collective Bargaining – see Agenda item 7C.
6. **Board Action** – None.
7. **Information and Discussion**
 - A. Business Manager Recruitment Active – Ms. Rammell updated the Board on the posting for a Business Manager. The position is posted on the BVEC website, on the MASBO website, and on OPI Jobs for Teachers. No applicants or calls received yet.
 - B. Therapy Readiness Amid Shortages – Ms. Rammell addressed the need for outsourcing our OT and PT services due to open positions. Her first option is always to fill the roles with an on-site employee, only going to third party teletherapy when she is unable to fill a position. Ms. Rammell is in contact with Bitterroot Health for options they might have to help fill roles in schools. They have not had available staff so far. Ms. Rammell also explained that whether the services are from Bitterroot Health or Rock Creek Teletherapy, they will rarely have any experience with School-Based services and will require training when they start.
 - C. Collective Bargaining – Cami Hildebrand, BVEC Union President, sent their request to open bargaining on February 13, 2026. The first meeting will be in the week of March 9th. The association did send a list of data they would like from BVEC. At this time, there was no request for language changes. Mr.

Stiegler and Ms. Rammell will meet regarding the BVEC Board members that will participate in bargaining and the date for the first meeting.

8. **Adjourn** – Mr. Stiegler adjourned the meeting at 10:43 AM.