

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Monday, April 28, 2025

2:00 PM

BVEC Conference Room

MINUTES - DRAFT

1. Call to Order – Mr. Thennis called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Board members in attendance: Mr. Thennis, Mr. Stiegler, Mr. Fiske, and Mr. Biesiot (via Zoom). Board members not in attendance: Dr. DoBell. Shelby Murphy attended to represent Lone Rock. BVEC administration in attendance: Ms. Rammell. BVEC staff in attendance via Zoom: Cami Hildebrand, McKenzie Pearson, Paula Lampi. Also in attendance via Zoom: Mr. Konen from Stevensville schools. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Correspondence/Communication – None.

4. Board Action-

- A. **CSCT/SBMH Reduction in Force** – Ms. Rammell explained the RIF in mental health staff based on the Board approval of mental health restructuring at the April 15, 2025, meeting. She explained she met with the staff impacted by the restructuring on April 23, 2025, and stressed that the restructuring was not a reflection on any employee's performance, it was strictly based on financial viability. Mr. Stiegler made a motion to approve the motion to RIF as presented. Mr. Fiske seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- B. **Mental Health Contract Nonrenewal Recommendation** – Ms. Rammell reviewed the mental health contract non-renewal list explaining the staff represented was based on the Darby and Stevensville staff due to those districts exiting the cooperative mental health services and the reduction in staff approved for the Victor and Florence districts. Mr. Fiske made a motion to approve the mental health non-renewals as presented. Mr. Stiegler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- C. **Mental Health Contract Renewal Recommendation** – Ms. Rammell reviewed the mental health staff for contract renewals, explained the process followed the CBA agreement using seniority and tenure for staff covered by the CBA. The cooperative had two employees with tenure. Mr. Fiske made a motion to approve the mental health contract renewals as presented. Mr. Biesiot seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- D. **Special Education Contract Renewal Recommendation** – Ms. Rammell reviewed the list of contract renewals for special education staff. Mr. Fiske made a motion to approve the special education contract renewals as presented. Mr. Stiegler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Information and Discussion

- A. **Restructure Communication** – Ms. Rammell reviewed plans for communicating the mental health restructuring to parents and school staff. This communication will begin ?. Ms. Rammell asked who the school contact would be in Darby and Stevensville regarding summer programs and continuity of

care for their students. Mr. Thennis and Mr. Biesiot will be those contacts. Ms. Rammell explained Ashley will be the contact for Victor, Florence, and Lone Rock schools.

Ms. Rammell explained the cooperative would like to ensure the school staff communication aligns with the superintendent and district communications. She will send electronic copies of the cooperative communication to all superintendents. The superintendents will distribute to staff.

- B. Assistance with Furnishings at Site Closures/Downsizing Locations** – Ms. Rammell explained the cooperative will begin the process of closure and downsizing. Ashley and Rocky will be going to each site to remove books and therapeutic tools that can be used by the remaining services. Ms. Rammell explained that most of the CSCT office furniture and décor was purchased second hand and the cooperative has no space to store this inventory or a way to remove it. She asked the districts if they could support us with any removal using the district maintenance/custodial staff. Ms. Rammell also explained we will be creating an inventory list of everything remaining that we are willing to donate back to schools for their use or it can be removed from the school. Ms. Rammell clarified that all technology should be returned to BVEC (laptops, monitors, keyboards, mouse, printers). Any technology that was provided by the districts should remain in the districts. The superintendents agreed we could reach out if we need help.
- C. Ms. Rammell added one item to the discussion regarding contract renewals for the administration staff. Those were not included as those roles will be included in the budget reviews and approval. They will be presented as contract renewals after the budget approvals.
- D. Mr. Stiegler thanked Ms. Rammell for her leadership and guidance through the CSCT and mental health discussions, RIF process, etc. Mr. Fiske added his thanks to Ms. Rammell. Mr. Thennis also agreed and added his thanks.

6. Adjourn – Mr. Thennis adjourned the meeting at 2:15 PM.