

## Management Council Regular Meeting Minutes

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Date: July 31, 2024  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Meeting called to order by: Dale Olinger, Board Chair

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The Management Council of the Missoula Area Education Cooperative met for a regular meeting (established that this is the regular August, 2024 meeting) in person with a virtual (Zoom link) option at the MAEC Conference Room located at 2825 Stockyard Rd, Suite i-2, Missoula, MT. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise stated.

### ATTENDEES

Stacia Vaughn, Cooperative Director  
Dale Olinger, Superintendent, Lolo Schools  
Jason Sargent, Superintendent, St. Ignatius School  
Jim Howard, Superintendent, Bonner School  
Logan Labbe, Superintendent, Superior School  
Rhonda Decker, Cooperative Business Manager

### ABSENT

Erin Lipkind, Missoula County Superintendent of Schools

### GUESTS

Bea Kaleva, Cooperative Legal Counsel  
Linda Swanson

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Logan Labbe moved to accept the Minutes of the July 11, 2024 Management Council meeting. Jason Sargent- Second.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

2. None

### CORRESPONDENCE

3. None

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

4. None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

5. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Information & Action
  - A. Rhonda Decker, Cooperative Business Manager, reported to the Board. Year to date expenditures through July were \$44,233.00.
  - B. The Board approved the Business Manager to pay September claims and payroll. Logan Labbe moved to approve the Business Manager's report. Jason Sargent- Second.

#### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

6. Stacia Vaughn, Director, presented the following:
  - A. Request from Linda Swanson to waive the liquidated damages fee of \$1,500 for breach of contract. Jason Sargent moved to uphold the current Professional Agreement and deny the request to waive liquidated damages. Jim Howard- Second. Bea Kaleva explained that this request contained no circumstances that meet any criteria to allow for waiving the fee. Jason Sargent reiterated the need to uphold the language and not set any precedent. Linda Swanson advocated for her request. Dale Olinger stated he does not believe that this request meets the threshold for the illness clause and Logan Labbe agreed.
  - B. Recommendation that the board hire Kelsie Maricelli as a 1.0 FTE Speech Language Pathologist for the 2024-25 school year. Logan Labbe moved to approve the hiring of Kelsi Maricelli. Jason Sargent- Second.

#### **GRANTS/CONTRACTS**

7. Interlocal Agreement
  - A. Bea Kaleva explained the need to update the Interlocal Agreement and Stacia reviewed the only change as the Invitation to Join being sent out July of each fiscal year. Jason Sargent moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Logan Labbe- Second.

#### **POLICY UPDATES**

8. None

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

9. Ms. Vaughn reviewed her Director's report.
  - A. Retirement Costs 2024-2025- The Flow Through process was established to allow the Cooperative to participate in Medicaid billing for related services provided by specialists (SLP, School Psychs, OT, PT) for those students who are Medicaid eligible. It was originally intended to keep retirement costs to the districts low and provide the Cooperative with an additional revenue stream. We want to help member districts to plan early and give them the information that they need in order to do so.

Without knowing what OPI will decide regarding the Flow Through process and when, it is prudent for member districts to budget for retirement costs and for the Cooperative to anticipate the need to go back to direct billing. These retirement costs are budgeted through each districts' fund 14 retirement fund, which are levied annually through the respective countywide levies. (Reminder, the Cooperative is comprised of district from four counties – Missoula, Lake, Mineral and Sanders.)

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

B. NEXT MANAGEMENT COUNCIL DATE: 9/4/2024, 8:30 a.m.

**OTHER**

C. None

**ADJOURN**

D. ADJOURN: Dale Olinger called the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Rhonda Olinger  
Business Manager, Attest

9/10/2024  
Date

9/10/2024  
Date Copies sent to JAB

Dale Olinger  
Chairman

9/10/24  
Date