Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative
Regular Council Meeting

The regular council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held at the Gallatin Madison Special Education Cooperative Office on 2/28/19, for the purpose of considering business to come before the Council. Vice-Chair, Kevin Flanagan, presided via phone.

1. Call to Order

Kevin Flanagan called the meeting to order at 11:39 pm.

Members Present

Amsterdam-- Katherine Dawe via phone; Anderson-- Scott McDowell; Gallatin Gateway-- Travis Anderson; Harrison-- Fred Hofman via phone; LaMotte-- LeeAnn Burke; Monforton-- Darren Strauch; West Yellowstone-- Kevin Flanagan via phone

Members Absent

Big Sky-- Dustin Shipman; Ennis-- Casey Klasna; Gallatin Co. Supt.-- Matthew Henry; Willow Creek-- Bonnie Lower

Visitors

Tom Fanta, Executive Director SWMSS

2. Public Comments

None

Staff Present

Michelle Halberg, Director, Riley Russell, Executive Assistant, and Joyce Schmidt, Clerk & Business Manager

Staff Absent

None

3. Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes & Expenditures

Motion: Scott McDowell Second: Darren Strauch - Passed Unanimously.

4. New Business

a.) Tom Fanta, Executive Director SWMSS.

(Informational)

Tom Fanta, the new Executive Director of SWMSS attended the board meeting to get acquainted with some of the board members as well as discuss services offered by SWMSS this year. Tom stated that SWMSS needs to restructure in the future, looking at their economic climate, their present model is not sustainable. There was discussion about SWMSS hiring special educators that could be used across Districts and Cooperative member schools

b.) Personnel Cost Projections

(Informational)

Michelle is proposing a 1.5% increase in salary for her next year as well as 1 or 2 additional personal days. The
board was given a heads up that the staff may be approaching them concerning extending the salary matrix. An abundance of applications have been coming in for the SLP position, only 1 applicant for Psych, and possibly a contracted provider interested in the Occupational Therapist position. As of now it looks like the school psych position can’t get by with less that 2 days added next year and O.T. will need 1.5 to 2 additional days. We have three applicants for the special ed teacher position. Shey, Audiologist, and Rosie’s, CPA, costs are stable and not expected to increase much. Michelle stated that she will be advertising to hire a Special Education Teacher full time or part time depending on if the schools have trouble hiring one themselves. Even if there is no inflationary increase to ANB and flat funding the Co-op will be able to absorb new hiring costs but will not realistically be able to leave match monies with member districts.

c.) Director’s Report

(Informational)

Michelle thanked member schools for allowing staff to be out of their buildings during the MCEC Conference in Helena.

The Co-op’s staff are all taking different Spring Breaks that coincide with the schools they serve and will keep the board updated on when they will be out of buildings. Michelle requested that the Board has conversations with their Business Managers about Maintenance of Effort and if they believe they will meet it, if not they need to let the Co-op know so that RSBG funds can be requested.

Handouts on Early Education Standards and Executive Function were distributed and discussed.

MASS and MCASE Conferences are in the fall and will overlap. Discussion on themes, venue, time in the year, and the difficulties of staff being able to attend.

5. Cooperative Business Manager Report:

The Co-op received a letter from Granite Technology Solutions (GTS), earlier this month notifying the Co-op that they have selected the Co-op to receive services from them for 2019 at a reduced rate. This represents an in-kind donation rate of 24%, a substantial savings for the Co-op’s IT needs. A letter of acknowledgement for the GTS in-kind donation for 2018 & 2019 rate reduction have been sent in addition to the audited TFS FY 2018 per their request. GTS has been a wonderful vendor to work with in the past and their kindness is greatly appreciated- the Co-op looks forward to a continued working relationship with this exceptional local business.

Joyce distributed and explained the expenditure report summary to the Board. The December 2018 reports have been received from the Gallatin County Treasurer and reconciled with the GMSEC books.

6. Board Meeting Schedule & Future Agenda Items

March 28, 2019 -West Yellowstone School is on Spring Break and several schools have Administrator Meeting ending at 11:30.
April 18, 2019
May 16, 2019 – Divisions Track at West Yellowstone, Travis in Washington D.C.
June 13, 2019 – Most schools are out.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:24pm.

Motion: Darren Strauch
Second: Scott McDowell -Passed Unanimously.