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 3/28/19, for the purpose of considering business to come before the Council. Casey Klasna presided due to the Chair and Vice Chair’s absences.

1. **Call to Order**

Casey Klasna called the meeting to order at 11:40pm.

Members Present

Amsterdam-- Katherine Dawe; Anderson-- Scott McDowell; Ennis-- Casey Klasna; Gallatin Gateway-- Travis Anderson; Gallatin Co. Supt.-- Matthew Henry; Harrison-- Fred Hofman; LaMotte-- LeeAnn Burke; Monforton-- Darren Strauch

Members Absent

Big Sky-- Dustin Shipman; West Yellowstone-- Kevin Flanagan; Willow Creek-- Bonnie Lower

Visitors

Daniel Champer, LCPC – Clinical Director Intermountain

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: LeeAnn Burke
Second: Darren Strauch - Passed Unanimously.

4. **New Business**

a.) Daniel Champer, LCPC- Clinical Director Intermountain

*(Informational)*

The Board introduced themselves to Daniel Champer and informed him on the size of their schools, what mental health programs they are presently using as well as providers. Daniel gave the board some history of Intermountain West and explained what services they provide. Michelle asked the board to consider learning more about Intermountain’s CSCT and SBOT, (School Based Outpatient Therapy), programs. This may be a good layer of therapeutic support to consider for several of the Cooperative’s schools in the future.
b.) Melissa Hanson, Resignation

(Informational)

Melissa Hanson handed in her letter of resignation last Wednesday and stated she is not open to reconsidering. The board suggested letter of confirmation be sent following the board meeting.

c.) Director’s Report

(Informational)

Discussion with the school psychologists in the last several months indicated that the half time position previously requested should be increased to full time due to requested services and expectations of district participants. Given Melissa’s resignation Michelle would like to advertise for 2 FTE. Michelle discussed expanding the school psychologist calendar and the board suggesting bringing it to a meeting.

Michelle would like to close the advertisement for SLPs as there has been a lot of interest and the present pool seems adequate to select from. The Occupational Therapist position has had some interest and interviews will begin in the next couple weeks. There are also special education candidates to interview.

Some of the Cooperative staff have been looking at the current matrix and would like to make changes based on comparison with other districts. The board would like them to present a proposal. Last time the matrix was changed was 2013. Michelle will let the staff know and they will choose representatives to work with the board committee. Darren Strauch, Scott McDowell and Matt Henry volunteered to be on the negotiating committee.

There has been a low utilization of the Rethink program this year. Michelle recommends dropping use of this program for next year. There is a need for strong discrete trial program for students with Autism and an understanding with special education teachers as to the importance of this method and others for instruction. Michelle would like to retain GoalBook for next year as the program data suggests strong usage by special education teachers and SLP case managers.

d.) Personnel: Hire Para-educator, Danielle White

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Danielle got her degree as a SLP Assistant which has more training than an Aid. She previously has worked in another state and then locally in a clinic. She will be considered a Para-Educator and will work at Cottonwood School District, LaMotte and other districts as assigned. She will be hired at $23/hour. She will also be reimbursed for travel in her personal vehicle at the state rate. She is open to working in the summer if any of the member schools are looking for help.

Motion to hire Para-Educator, Danielle White, at $23 per hour in addition to mileage at the state rate for the remainder of the 2018-19 School year.

Motion: Scott McDowell
Second: Katherine Dawe -Passed Unanimously

5. Cooperative Business Manager Report:

The January 2019 reports have been received from the Gallatin County Treasurer and reconciled with the GMSEC books. Joyce distributed and discussed the Co-op’s expenditures and cash reconciliation.
6. **Board Meeting Schedule & Future Agenda Items**
   April 25, 2019
   May 16, 2019
   June 13, 2019

7. **Adjourn**

   Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:30pm.

   Motion: Darren Strauch
   Second: LeeAnn Burke
   -Passed Unanimously

Submitted by: _________________________________ Date: _______________________

Board Chair: _________________________________ Date: _______________________
