Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative
Regular Council Meeting
5/18/2023

The regular council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held virtually on May 18, 2023 for the purpose of considering business to come before the Council. Chair, Casey Klasna, presided over the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
Casey Klasna called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

Members Present
- Anderson – Kristi Jacobs
- Big Sky – Dustin Shipman
- Ennis – Casey Klasna
- Gallatin Co. Supt. – John Nielson
- LaMotte – LeeAnn Burke
- Monforton – Darren Strauch
- Willow Creek – Bonnie Lower

Members Absent:
- Amsterdam – Katherine Dawe
- Harrison – Billi Taylor
- Gallatin Gateway – Kelly Henderson
- West Yellowstone – Coul Hill

Visitors: None

2. **Public Comments**
None

Staff Present
- Lani Smith, Director
- Joyce Schmidt, Clerk & Business Manager
- Riley Russell, Executive Assistant

Staff Absent
None

3. **Consent Agenda**
Approval of
- Motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2023 as well as expenditures
- Minutes & Expenditures
  - Motion: Bonnie Lower
  - Second: Darren Strauch
  - Passed Unanimously.

4. **Approval of Records Destruction:** Resolution Record Destruction In Accordance With The State Retention Schedule: Resolution Number: 2023-002

Motion: Bonnie Lower
- Second: Darren Strauch
- Passed Unanimously.

5. **New Business:**
a.) **Director’s Performance Review**

*(Executive Session)*

b.) **Business Manager’s Report:**

*(Informational)*

The reconciled cash totals by fund for March were provided to the board as reference having been reported at the previous meeting. The anticipated totals for April were also reported with the financial reports from the GCFD expected later this month. Fund 315 known revenue for the month of May include grant payments in the amount of $81,031 & the reimbursement of $1,739 from the West Yellowstone SD for the Special Education Coordinator April expenditures. The only possible revenue for fund 382 in May would be interest & the Sprinhiill SD Local Costs totaling $7,753.29.

Grant reimbursement requests for expenditures through April have been submitted & approved by OPI for all grants with the March & April payment being made to the cooperative in May. As previously reported, the spending authority for the ESSER II & III grants will expire at the end of this FY & we anticipate no problem in meeting that deadline.

April expenditures across all funds are as expected & that extends to the Y-T-D numbers as well. To date the cooperative has not had any material unanticipated expenditures that would draw on the approved budget.

May expenditures through the 15th are consistent with the previous two months & no additional invoices are expected before month end. The 3-pay payroll in early June is the final known material expenditure this FY with reimbursement from OPI for the portion covered by grants expected in June.

The cooperative will be moving forward alone with MUST for the new plan year beginning on September 1st. The option involving just cooperatives failed when more than 10% of those eligible chose not to participate.

c.) **Director’s Report**

*(Informational)*

Darren referred a SLP-A that was a para educator at his school. The only caveat is Aids need more direct training. Lani has spoken with the Co-op SLPs to see if they believe adding an Aid would be worth it and they seem to think it would be alright. She has a Bachelor’s degree and is SL certified but not SLP certified. Lani believes that long term she could be a huge asset as she wants to stay in schools and get her certification.
The Behavior Coordinator position is going to fall through because at the end of the day there is not enough funding. As much as Lani wanted it to come to fruition it was just too risky at this point.

Lani suggested cost sharing for the Goalbook app. The total annual fee is $7,297.50 and the Co-op would cover the SLPs and Special Education Teacher at $2,432.50. It was proposed that each district would purchase one license at $486.50 and Monforton purchase two due to their size. County schools and Willow Creek would not pay because of the use of the Special Education Teacher. The Co-op would pay the initial fee and then invoice each district in August.

There has been a decline in numbers for the recent Child Find Days with students trickling in later in the year. Lani proposed potentially doing a monthly day instead of just one at the beginning of the year.

d.) 2023-2024: GMSEC 187-day Calendar

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

No major changes to the Coop Calendar this year, the start date will be August 22nd with the first two days dedicated to Coop PIR training with staff planning to be in buildings on the 24th. Our last day will be June 7th with the last day of staff in buildings June 3rd for those districts still in session.

Motion to approve GMSEC’s 187-day Calendar for 2023-24.

Motion: Darren Strauch
Second: Kristi Jacobs - Passed Unanimously.

e.) 2023-2024 Personnel: Physical Therapist /1st Offer of Contract

39-day contract: Caroline Rehder: $60.00/hr (39 days, 312hrs.); 1 day per week; .2FTE equivalent; $18,720

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Caroline has worked for the Park Cooperative for the past 12 years as a School Based PT. In total she has 32 years of experience treating clients in school-based settings, pediatric rehabilitation, outpatient orthopedics, acute care, geriatrics and adult sub-acute rehabilitation. She has a strong working knowledge of the role of school based Physical therapy. She will be working for the GMSEC Coop 1 day per week typically on Mondays for the ‘23-’24 school year.

Motion to approve Contract for Caroline Rehder for the 2023-24 School Year.

Motion: LeAnn Burke
Second: Kristi Jacobs - Passed Unanimously.

f.) 2023-2024 Personnel: Special Education Director /2nd Offer of Contract
Increase 3% 2022-2023 salary, $85,000, for salary compensation of $87,550.

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

This would be a $2,755 increase which Casey stated he thought was appropriate and supported. Darren suggested that for longevity sake they may want to offer some kind of language to make it a 2 or 3 year contract going forward.

Motion to approve Contract for Lani Smith for the 2023-24 school year.

Motion: Darren Strauch
Second: Kristi Jacobs - Passed Unanimously.

5. Board Meeting Schedule and Future Agenda Items:

(Informational)

a. June 12th (In Person)@11am-12:30pm - Location TBD, lunch will be provided

6. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:59am.

Motion: Kristi Jacobs
Second: Darren Strauch -Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: ____________________________ Date: ________________

Board Chair: ________________________________ Date: ________________