The regular council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held via Google Meet on April 18, 2024 for the purpose of considering business to come before the Council. Vice Chair, Kristi Jacobs, presided over the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
   Casey Klasna called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

   Members Present:  
   Amsterdam– Marisa Stewart; Anderson– Kristi Jacobs; Big Sky–Dustin Shipman; Ennis– Casey Klasna; Gallatin Co. Supt.– John Nielson; LaMotte– Spencer Johnson; Monforton– Laura Axtman; West Yellowstone– Kevin Flannigan; Willow Creek– Bonnie Lower

   Members Absent: Gateway–Kelly Henderson; Harrison–Sharyl Allen

   Visitors: None

2. **Public Comments**
   None

   Staff Present:  
   Lani Smith, Director; Joyce Schmidt, Clerk & Business Manager; Riley Russell, Executive Assistant; Kim Wegner-Mccauley, School Psychologist/Special Education Coordinator

   Staff Absent: None

3. **Consent Agenda**
   Approval of Minutes & Expenditures
   Motion to approve the minutes of March 7, 2024 as well as expenditures (#317859-317872).

   Motion: Kristi Jacobs  
   Second: Spencer Johnson  
   - Passed Unanimously.

4. **New Business:**
   a.) **Business Manager's Report:**  
      (Informational)
The February & March 2024 reports have been received from the GCFD & reconciled with the cooperative books. In addition to the normal monthly revenues, we had interest earnings in both months for the Retirement Fund [314] & the Interlocal Fund [382]. The cooperative also received a small disbursement from GC for retirement in March.

The ESSER Annual Federal Data Report for FY 2022-23 has been completed & submitted to OPI. The cooperative did not have any ESSER funds for the current FY & as a result this is our final report.

IDEA-B & Preschool Incentive Grant reports have been submitted through March with payment received or approved by OPI. The Preschool Incentive Grant payments continue to be counted against the 2023-24 allocation in error. Joyce will follow up with OPI on the needed correction.

The Deaf & Hard of Hearing Instructor personnel costs have been invoiced to the Amsterdam SD for March & payment has been received.

The vehicle fleet of eleven returned to full function in mid-March with the repair completion necessitated by a deer running into the side of one of the vehicles. Our cost included the $1,000 deductible & mileage reimbursement for the professionals using their personal vehicles while it was being repaired.

Costs in ‘Travel-In-District’ were not budgeted this FY but represent lodging & meals for those days when it was advantageous to stay in West Yellowstone for one of our SLP’s allowing for more instruction time &/or dealing with inclement weather.

Expenditures across all funds were consistent with past years.

Strom & Associates has completed the audit & reports are being sent as of this week.

b.) **Director’s Report**

(Informational)

i. Threat Assessments

During MCEC Bea put on a training addressing dangerous behaviors in the classroom and provided a template that the Co-op would like to try out. In the Co-op policy it states that threat assessment requires consent from an adult. If any member schools do not have this policy they may move forward how they see fit. Lani would like to set up a threat assessment training for counselors, administrators or behavior teams. The biggest obstacle for creating behavior teams in schools would be the amount of School Psychologists currently employed.
ii. Special Committee for Staff Negotiations

Lani asked the Board who would be willing to form a special committee to listen to staff’s recommendations. Kristi and Bonnie agreed to help out.

c.) **2024-2025 Personnel: Speech Language Pathologist**
6th contract offer for Amber Fortier: MA30/Level (g), remain at 1.0 FTE $51,074 ($49,074 Salary and $2000 Nat. Stipend) (Motion/Discussion/Action)

No lane change or change of FTE. Amber has been an amazing asset to the Co-op and everyone is thrilled to have her back. Casey agreed stating that she has been pleasant and brings a genuine feel and is great at her job.

Motion to offer contract to SLP for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion: Bonnie Lower  
Second: Kristi Jacobs - Passed Unanimously.

d.) **2024-2025 Personnel: Speech Language Pathologist**
14th contract offer for Shannon Childs: MA60/Level (t), remain at 1.0 FTE $77,343 ($75,343 Salary and $2000 Nat. Stipend) (Motion/Discussion/Action)

No lane change or change of FTE. Shannon has been an integral part of Co-op and has taken a role as the lead SLP. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge and is always willing to help. She is getting close to the bottom of the pay matrix.

Motion to offer contract to SLP for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion: Spencer Johnson  
Second: Marisa Stewart - Passed Unanimously

e.) **2024-2025 Personnel: Speech Language Pathologist**
11th contract offer for Amanda Massey: MA30/Level (k), remain at 0.8 FTE $45,786 ($44,186 Salary and $1600 Nat. Stipend) (Motion/Discussion/Action)

This last year Amanda started at a .6FTE but then moved up to a .8FTE to help out with overflow of caseloads. She will remain at a .8FTE for next year. Amanda does excellent work and has been an asset when helping with Private Schools.

Motion to offer contract to SLP for the 2024-25 school year.
Motion: Kevin Flannigan
Second: Kristi Jacobs - Passed Unanimously

2024-2025 Speech Language Pathologist/Independent Contractor

2nd contract offer for Kaitlin Harding CCC-SLP: (2 days per week (16 hrs); up to 74.8 days, $55.00/hr); $32,912
(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Kaitlin, who was previously a private SLP, came to work for the Co-op this year one day a week at West Yellowstone. She has done a great job and is a fast learner. She currently works virtually with another state but would like to get away from that and increase her time with the Co-op next year. There were discussions about putting her on the matrix but it didn’t make sense to her financially so it was decided to have her be an Independent Contractor. She will have no mileage, insurance, or sick/personal leave. She is committed to two days but she is willing to amend her contract if necessary. Laura asked if this may sway other positions to consider going hourly if they don’t need the insurance. Lani believes it may be an outcome but we may also want to consider it as a bargaining tool if the Co-op wants to compete with the private sector.

Motion to offer contract to SLP/Independent Contractor for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion: Dustin Shipman
Second: Kristi Jacobs - Passed Unanimously

2024-2025 OT Personnel/Offer of Contracts:

14th contract offer for Jennifer Lewis: MA60/Level (t), remain at 1.0 FTE $77,343 ($75,343 Salary and $2000 Nat. Stipend)
(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Jen is in a similar position to Shannon as they are at the end of the pay matrix. She has been an incredible support and lead for O.T.s and P.T.s and also helps with training new staff and problem solving. Jen is willing to step up if/when things change.

Motion to offer contract to Occupational Therapist for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion: Kevin Flannigan
Second: Marisa Stewart - Passed Unanimously
h.) **2024-2025 OT Personnel/Offer of Contracts:**
5th contract offer for Julie Zimmerman: MA30/Level (h), decreasing to 0.6 FTE $31,528 ($30,328 Salary and $1200 Nat. Stipend)
(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Julie was at .8FTE and decreasing to a .6FTE. She is considering a different profession and has been offered to run a Pediatric Facility but nothing has been solidified. As of now she works for the Co-op 3 days and elsewhere 2 days. Lani is considering different options to fill the position and will need someone 1 day a week to fill the gap.

Motion to offer contract to Occupational Therapist for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion: Kristi Jacobs
Second: Dustin Shipman - Passed Unanimously

i.) **2024-2025 Special Ed. Teacher Personnel/Offer of Contracts:**
5th contract offer for Julia Tucker: BA/Level (f), remain at 1.0 FTE $41,124 (Salary)
(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Julia will be remaining full time and works at Willow Creek and the County Schools. She is on the BA Matrix and has no national stipend.

Not all contracts are being presented during this meeting and the remaining will be presented at the next meeting. Alyssa who is a SLP is deciding what to do next year as her boyfriend may need to move internationally for his Medical School Residency and she may leave mid year. Lani has posted the position already.

Motion to offer contract to Special Education Teacher for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion: Spencer Johnson
Second: Laura Axtman - Passed Unanimously

5. Board Meeting Schedule: Projected 2023-2024 Third Thursday of the Month (Zoom/In-Person)
*no less than 6 meetings per year

   a. May 9th @ 9:00am (virtual) - Changed to May 8th @8:30am.
   b. June 11th @ 11:00am (In Person), Location TBD - Changed to June 4th.

6. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:47 am.
Motion: Marisa Stewart
Second: Kevin Flannigan  -Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: ________________________________  Date: ______________________

Board Chair: ________________________________  Date: ______________________