

Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative
Regular Council Meeting
1/16/2025

The Regular Council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held via Google Meet on January 16, 2025 for the purpose of considering business to come before the Council. Chair, Kristi Jacobs, presided over the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Kristi Jacobs called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

Members Present

- ☒ **Amsterdam**– Marisa Stewart 11:09 arrived;
- ☒ **Anderson**– Kristi Jacobs;
- ☐ **Big Sky**–Dustin Shipman;
- ☒ **Ennis**– Jared Moretti;
- ☒ **Gallatin Co. Supt.**– John Nielson;
- ☐ **Gateway**–Kelly Henderson;
- ☐ **Harrison**–Stephanie Stephans, Designated Harrison Board Representative
- ☒ **LaMotte**– Spencer Johnson;
- ☒ **Monforton**– Laura Axtman;
- ☒ **West Yellowstone**– Kevin Flannigan;
- ☒ **Willow Creek**– Bonnie Lower

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	a. Approval of October 10th, 2024 GMSEC Board Meeting Minutes b. Approval of November 19, 2024 GMSEC Special Board Meeting Minutes c. Approval of December 9, 2024 GMSEC Special Board Meeting Minutes d. Approval of expenditures: (#318010- #318025-Oct; #318026-#318039-Nov; #318040- #318053-Dec)
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Motion: Kevin Flanagan
Second: John Nielson

- Passed Unanimously.

4. New Business:

a.) Business Manager's Report:

(Informational)

Cash reconciliation numbers by fund for September through December 2024 were presented to the Board with the November & December totals being tentative. Reports for November may be issued by end-of-week with the December reports expected in early February from the Gallatin County Finance Department [GCFD]. Attention was drawn to the anticipated drop in fund 315 by the end of December due to the return of our November & December cash requests from OPI. Since the recent OPI audit we are now required to include the dates service was provided or the specific time frame a payment represents in the object code narrative & why it is a grant allowable cost. The reports have been resubmitted & will be reviewed by OPI after the 25th with payment expected February 10th.

Expenditures comprising October through December 2024 continue the ongoing trend of being consistent with past years across all funds. Joyce highlighted that after one of the fleet vehicles was totaled in November we used the insurance payout to cover a large portion of the new vehicle cost with the remainder being approved & split between the IDEA-B & Preschool Incentive grants.

The MAC Random Moments situation remains unchanged since the Board met in October 2024. We continue to be encouraged to submit Participation Lists & Financial Data Reports per the MAC calendar. As information becomes available we will send email updates to each member school district.

Strom & Associates completed their fieldwork on FY 2023-24 on October 23rd as reported to the Board in October. To date we have not received the report or a draft to review for accuracy. Per the Strom & Associates representative, the information is expected to be reviewed in the next month & a draft sent to the GMSEC before the report is published.

We have received payment from all member school districts for the 1st half FY 2024-25 with three SDs having paid the 2nd half as well. Riley will be emailing the 2nd half invoices on or near February 3rd to the remaining SDs.

b.) Director's Report:

(Informational)

i. SLP Re-assignments

SLP's impacted by Alyssa Mount leaving and the new SLP starting. Lani thanked the Board for being so flexible during this time.

ii. Utilization of School Psych.

Julianna is working with preschool evaluations instead of being assigned to a school. She will also continue to help with private school evals and will help to ease the burden on everyone else.

iii. Staff Recruitment

Kate Harding will not be returning next year. This year she worked in West Yellowstone two days a week. The Director will post for 1 FTE. Some part-time SLPs may increase their time as well.

iv. MCEC Conference April 2nd & 3rd

MCEC is held in Butte this year and there is a discount for 3+ people. In the past, member schools were able to combine with the Co-op for the discounted rate. This is a rich conference with lots of useful Professional Development.

There has been an uptick in Evaluation requests from Private Schools. The Director will be meeting with Private Schools to educate them in the referral process and hopefully develop a relationship. It still is important to enroll a student from a private school in your district to get them evaluated. If any of the member schools have a knowledgeable Administrative Assistant who knows how to navigate Infinite Campus please let the Director know and they can help other member schools. There was a question about what to do in regard to private schools. The Director plans to address this more at the next Board meeting.

c.) Director's Performance Review: (Executive Session)

Motion to table Director's Performance Review until the next Board Meeting.

Motion: Spencer Johnson

Second: John Nielson

-Passed Unanimously.

4. Board Meeting Schedule: Projected 2024-2025 Third Thursday of the Month (Zoom/In-Person)

***no less than 5 meetings per year**

a. February 20th In Person at 11:00am-Anderson School

b. April 17th-Virtual at 9:00am

c. June 19th In Person at 11:00am-Location TBD

5. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Motion: Spencer Johnson

Second: John Nielson

-Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

Board Chair: _____ Date: _____