

Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative
Special Council Meeting
11/19/2024

The Special council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held via Google Meet on November 19, 2024 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 9:02 am.

Members Present

- ☐ **Amsterdam**– Marisa Stewart;
- ☒ **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,

Staff Absent Executive Assistant Kim Wegner-Mccauley, School Psychologist/Special Education Coordinator

3. New Business:

a.) **Purchase of Fleet Vehicle Approval** (Motion/Discussion/Action)

Lani shared that one of the cooperative fleet vehicles was recently involved in an accident. Insurance has totaled the car and is providing a reimbursement to the Coop of \$17,594.55. The total purchase price of

the Corolla Cross is \$26, 910 from Toyota of Helena which includes 2 years of service maintenance. The total cost the Cooperative would be approving is \$9,315.45.

Chair Kristi Jacobs expressed gratitude that no one was injured in the accident. Board member John Nielson inquired about the availability of funds for the purchase. Director Lani Smith stated the out of pocket expense would come from the IDEA-B & Preschool Incentive Grants approved carryover from FY 2024.

Motion to approve the purchase of the Toyota Corolla Cross vehicle from Toyota of Helena

Motion: John Nielson

Second: Spencer Johnson -Passed Unanimously.

b.) **Consideration of School Psychologist Hire** (Motion/Discussion/Action)

Motion to table.

Motion: Spencer Johnson

Second: John Nielson -Passed Unanimously.

c.) **Consideration of Speech Language Pathologist Hire** (Motion/Discussion/Action)

Corrie Raphael has 24 years of experience in the private sector and public school sector. She lives in Big Sky so her school assignment would be at Big Sky only. Lani is recommending hiring her for a .4 position (2 days per week). Based on her experience and education she would be placed at a MA/45 Level S on the pay matrix with an annual salary of \$19,795 and \$533 prorated national certification stipend for a grand total of \$20,328. If approved, her contract would begin January 1st, 2025.

Member Nielson asked if Corrie would be willing to work more than two days per week. Lani reported that she had explored the possibility of additional days with Corrie but she is only interested in the two days per week for the remainder of this school year.

Director Smith also told the Board that this hire would mean looking at mid-year changes for all the cooperative SLPs. Further, knowing mid-year changes would not be ideal her aim would be towards minimal impact to member schools.

Motion to hire Corrie Raphael, SLP at .4 FTE beginning January 1, 2025

Motion: John Nielson

Second: Stephanie Stephans -Passed Unanimously.

d.) **2024-2025 Contract Amendments** (Motion/Discussion/Action)

Board Chair Jacobs asked if a meeting in December would be needed to address tabled items. Director Smith indicated that was likely but such a meeting would be virtual & short in duration.

Motion to table.

Motion: John Nielson

Second: Spencer Johnson

-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. January 16th In Person- Anderson School will host and provide lunch 11-12:30.

5. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Motion: John Nielson

Second: Dustin Shipman

-Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

Board Chair: _____ Date: _____