

Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative
Regular Council Meeting
10/10/2024

The regular council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held via Google Meet on October 10, 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 9:04 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**–David Shreeve
- ☒ **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; Kim Wegner-Mccauley, School Psychologist/Special Education Coordinator

Staff Absent Riley Russell, Executive Assistant

3. Consent Agenda

Approval of Motion to approve the minutes of August 15, 2024 as well as
Minutes & (#3317987-3317995)- August and (#3317996-3318009)-September
Expenditures

Motion: Spencer Johnson
Second: Dustin Shipman

- Passed Unanimously.

4. New Business:

a.) Business Manager's Report (Informational)

Joyce provided the cash totals by fund for the period May 2024 thru August 2024 that have been reconciled with the GCFD. Tentative numbers for September 2024 were also included. The anticipated significant decrease in fund 315 between August & September was highlighted & is tied to our grant request submissions.

The grant year ends September 30th each year & in the past we have held the submission of July through September reimbursement requests until the new federal fiscal year opens in an effort to mirror the differing end dates of federal & county FYs. As of 09-24-2024 the window for the new grant year had not been opened by OPI & it is uncertain when that event may happen. Therefore, the decision was made to submit the July through September reports before the cutoff date of the 25th in order to receive payment in early October. We have been notified by OPI our requests have been reviewed & approved. We will receive \$94,930 for the IDEA-B grant & \$1,391 for the Preschool grant in our GCFD October reports.

The Deaf & Hard of Hearing Instructor personnel costs will be invoiced to the Amsterdam SD again this FY. There have been no costs through September. We expect our first invoice will be sent to Amsterdam SD after our October books close.

As in the previous month expenditures across all funds were consistent with past years.

Regarding the Fund Balance totals, Joyce reported the spending authority for the IDEA-B & Preschool grants reflect the inclusion of the reimbursement requests for July through September of our current FY. If the carryover had reflected 12 months rather than 15, the IDEA-B grant carryover amount would have been \$280,659. The Preschool grant carryover would have been \$6,288. The Board was encouraged to discuss the carryover amount desired for this, & future years. Joyce cautioned the Board that changes could be made at the federal level that limit or eliminate any spending authority carryover.

On October 21st the external audit fieldwork with Strom & Associates will begin for FY 2023-24.

b.) Medicaid Random Moments Update (Informational)

On October 1st all member SDs participating in MAC Random Moments for 4Q 2024 were contacted via email explaining why they had not received the survey forms for their SD. The vendor the state had been using, WEB RMS, was no longer available after June 30th. The state has been exploring options & their decision is pending. For now, it is unlikely there will be any survey forms sent in October. As information becomes available we will send email updates to each SD.

In a previous Board meeting there had been a question regarding school nurse's being included in the surveys. Kristi Jacobs shared that school nurse's can be listed as participants but they have to be employed at least ½ time.

c.) **Director's Report** (Informational)

i. Developmental Screening Updates

Lani shared that Developmental Screeners are almost wrapped up, two left at Willow Creek and West Yellowstone. Lani shared that some schools have not had families sign up for the past two years and that she is considering a monthly revolving date for smaller co-op schools. She shared this is something that will likely be implemented for the 2025-2026 school year. Lani thanked the member districts for their flexibility with changing schedules impacted by hearing screenings and child find.

ii County Nurse/School Nurse-Health Care Plans

Anderson and Monforton
MOU through Madison Valley Medical Center at Ennis
Kristi shared Madilyn might be
Taking meds at school should be on a health care plan

iii Sped Director Evaluation Process

The next meeting is in January of 2025. Kristi is open to the Board Chair sending out the questionnaire instead of the Director. In the years past the Director has done a narrative review and she will continue this going forward.

iv IDEA Consolidated E-Grant Update

Due to problems at OPI the consolidated grant application opened much later than previous years. Lani reported none of our member districts or the co-op were identified for additional reporting but as of last week we are unable to submit. The consolidated grant submission date is November 30, 2024. That being said, with the many unknowns the decision was made to submit the July through September 2024 reimbursement requests as Joyce mentioned above to preserve our available cash.

v OPI Tuition Handbook

Was updated in July of 2024. Kristi pointed out that students need to be .5 time before they can bill.

vi Upcoming Professional Development

1. Behavior Threat Assessment Training

This training is at a reasonable price of \$105.

2. Kaleva Law Conference

Kim and Lani plan to attend this year. Lani shared the templates and stated that it is a great training. In the past home school students were not included in the Child Count. This year there is a new form and all home school students/private school students that have an IEP need to be counted.

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.**

b. February 20th- (9am-10am)

c. April 17th (9am-10am)

d. **June 19th In Person (11-12:30pm)**

6. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Motion: Spencer Johnson

Second: Laura Axtman

-Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

Board Chair: _____ Date: _____