

Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative
Regular Council Meeting
2/20/2025

The Regular Council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held at Anderson School on February 20, 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 11:07 am.

Members Present

- ☒ **Amsterdam**– Marisa Stewart(arrived 11:10am);
- ☒ **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 January 16th, 2025 GMSEC Board Meeting Minutes
	b.	Approval of expenditures: #318054- #318070 (January)

Motion to approve mentioned minutes and expenditures.

Motion: Spencer Johnson

Second: Marisa Stewart

- Passed Unanimously.

4. New Business:

a.) Business Manager's Report:

(Informational)

The reconciled cash totals by fund for November & December 2024 were presented to the Board. The Business Manager also provided tentative numbers for January 2025 excluding interest that is expected in both the retirement & interlocal funds. The retirement fund is also expected to have a disbursement in January per John Nielson, Gallatin County Superintendent of Schools but the amount was not available at meeting time.

The IDEA-B & Preschool Incentive grant reports have been submitted to OPI through January with all having been reimbursed or approved. Reimbursement for IDEA-B requests 3 & 4 totaling \$106,767 will be reflected in the GCFD February financial statement. Requests 3 & 4 of the Preschool Incentive grant totaling \$2,790 will also be reflected in the GCFD February financial statement.

The Deaf & Hard of Hearing Instructor personnel costs are captured in the Medicaid portion of fund 315 & as of the end of January total \$2,999.45. The Amsterdam School District has been invoiced through January 2025 for these costs with the payments being treated as revenue on the GMSEC books. Once all payments have been received the net effect to the co-op is zero. To date we have received payment for all invoices & thank Amsterdam SD for paying so promptly.

The difference between the two FYs in the Medicaid portion of fund 315 result from the vehicle purchase in November & paying the Amsterdam SD for their School Based IEP totaling \$1,133.35.

The remaining differences in fund 315 as well as 314 & 382 are the result of changes in staff. Therefore, the ongoing trend of expenditures being consistent with past years across all funds continues.

The external audit performed by Strom & Associates has yet to be issued. Joyce has requested a draft so narrative errors found in the previous year audit could be corrected.

b.) MAC Random Moments Update:

(Informational)

Use of the new system for MAC begins with the April through June 2025 quarter. Training was offered a couple weeks ago that we were told only Riley & Joyce needed to attend. In retrospect anyone who completes the Participation List &/or Financial Report for our member school districts should have attended. The vendor is providing an additional training session today 11:00 am to 12:00 pm & we alerted those individuals at our schools earlier this week encouraging them to attend.

Riley & Joyce completed the cooperative portion with the exception of certifying the input in an effort to be better able to assist our member schools. We found the system very friendly and have assisted Norma at West Yellowstone SD & Tanya at Anderson & LaMotte SDs with what we learned.

c.) **Consideration of Speech Language Pathologist Hire:**

Jill Imsand-Chumbley, Speech-Language Pathologist: \$45/hr. Interventions/Service Time/Evaluations assistance to Amber and Shannon from March-May (up to 4 hours per week on Mondays-\$2,160/month), Maternity Coverage for Amanda Massey May-end of year (up to 32 hours per week-\$5,760/month).

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Jill has worked for the Co-op before so she was an obvious choice to cover maternity leave and help relieve the workload on Amber and Shannon. She will be keeping Amanda's schedule if possible.

Motion to approve offering a contract for up to 32 hours per week.

Motion: Spencer Johnson

Second: Jared Moretti

-Passed Unanimously.

d.) **Director's Report:**

(Informational)

i. Staff Recruitment

Almost all of the staff's professional intention forms have been returned. Julie(OT) and Kate Harding(Consult) will not be coming back next year. A SLP position will be posted but it is a difficult position to fill at this time. Kaitlin Sonderer at Ennis will continue next year 1 day a week and plans to increase her days in the following years once her children are in school. SLP students have been reaching out for placements for their CFS year. This could be a good opportunity to recruit them once they have graduated and Lani appreciates the schools for helping work with them. If the Co-op's SLPs work with a student then they will be provided a stipend.

ii. Sick Leave

Lani is having surgery March 18, 2025. It is scheduled over spring break and she plans to take a full week of sick leave the following week. Kim Wegner-McCauley has offered to help out if anyone needs anything during this time and Jarred and Kristy have Special Education backgrounds and can help if needed as well.

iii. Dept. of Education Updates

It will be business as usual until informed if things are changing. There likely will be changes coming but none have been confirmed as of yet. As IDEA-B might disappear if not being utilized, the Co-op plans to look for another vehicle this year and start preparing to talk about the budget. The Co-op has until September 30th to utilize the Fed Grant funds. The budget is spent down in the summer and the Co-op plans to continue to do so.

iv. Private School Evaluations

Lani met with Cottonwood Day School, MCS, and MT Ellis to make sure the private schools are following the same guidelines. Discovery in Big Sky hasn't had a lot of contact in years past and have been struggling with the process. She plans to follow up with them again and show them a consistent slideshow. Lani also wants to go through the process with Special Education Teachers and do structured training. If a school is accredited it is considered a Private School and if not it falls under Home School. John asked the Board to have any Private School kids to check in with him.

e.) **Director's Performance Review:** (Executive Session)

The Board and Lani Smith went into an Executive Session at 11:42am.

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

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

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

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

5. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Motion: Spencer Johnson

Second: Marisa Stewart

-Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

Board Chair: _____ Date: _____