Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative
Regular Council Meeting
6/18/2026

The Regular Council meeting of the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative was held at the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative Office on June 18, 2026 for the purpose of considering business to come before the Council. Chair, Laura Axtman, presided over the meeting.

1. <u>Call to Order</u>
Laura Axtman called the meeting to order at <u>11:10am.</u>

Members Present
- ☑ **Amsterdam**– Marisa Stewart
- ☑ **Anderson–** Spencer Johnson
- ☐ **Big Sky**–Dustin Shipman
- ☐ **Ennis–** Jared Moretti
- ☐ **Gallatin Co. Supt.–** John Nielson
- ☐ **Gateway**–Kelly Henderson
- ☐ **Harrison**–Stephanie Stephens, Designated Harrison Board Representative
- ☑ **LaMotte–** Scott Poloff
- ☑ **Monforton–** Laura Axtman
- ☑ **West Yellowstone**– Kevin Flanagan
- ☑ **Willow Creek–** Bonnie Lower

Visitors:

2. <u>Public Comments</u>

Staff Present	Kim Wegner-McCauley, Director; Joyce Schmidt, Clerk & Business Manager; Riley Russell, Executive Assistant
Staff Absent	

3. <u>Consent Agenda</u>

Approval of Minutes & Expenditures	a.	Approval of May 21, 2026 GMSEC Board Meeting Minutes
	b.	Approval of expenditures: (#318360-#318373, #318359-void)- May

Motion to approve minutes and expenditures.

Motion: Spencer Johnson
Second: Marisa Stewart - Passed Unanimously.

4. <u>New Business:</u>

a.) **<u>Director's Report</u>**

(Informational)

i. Program Narrative

The program Narrative has been submitted and is in the "review" process. OPI sent back a few notes and I made those updates and resubmitted the narrative. I hope to hear back soon that it has been approved.

ii. Insurance

Our Blue Cross Blue Shield medical and dental accounts are set up in the BCBS portal. We are still waiting for the vision coverage and accounts to be finalized. While we were in the enrollment process, we had one employee who had insurance with the coop in the past but has decided to move to her husband's plan. This was an unexpected change to our enrollment. When our staff enrollment was submitted to BCBS with one less staff member, they had to update our rates. The new rates with the loss of coverage for one employee included about a 4% increase to the numbers they had provided us. The annual total for this 4% increase is about $2600. Instead of having staff pay for the increase, I would recommend the coop cover the cost of the 4% increase. Next spring, when new rates are provided, if there is a large increase with the 4% increase this year and next year's rates, we can discuss the new rates with staff as well as the fact that the coop covered the 4% increase to support this year's plans. Joyce has reviewed the budget and the coop can afford to cover that $2600 difference.

5. Approval of Storm & Associates 2026-27 Contract: $12, 150 (Motion/Discussion/Action)

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Kim will send the Board an updated contract as the one included in the Board packet was meant for a different school. The Co-op is up for a 3 year contract for the years 2026-2029. They estimate the audit will be $10,900 with a $1,000 cost for the report.The price is capped at $12,150. In the past Strom & Associates have been very professional and thorough and the Co-op has enjoyed working with them.

Motion to approve Strom & Associates 2026-27 Contract.

Motion: Marisa Stewart
Second: Scott Poloff -Passed Unanimously

6. Approval of Fleet Vehicle Purchase: Fleet Vehicle of $30,000 or less

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

The purchase of a fleet vehicle was approved two years ago but was never purchased. Kim wants to ensure staff have safe, reliable cars and plans to either trade in or sell one of the older models.

Motion to approve purchase of a fleet vehicle of $30,000 or less.

Motion: Kevin Flanagan
Second: Spencer Johnson -Passed Unanimously

7. Approval of GMSEC 2026-2027 Preliminary budget

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

The board approved the preliminary budget numbers and will review the final budget at the August board meeting.

Motion to approve the GMSEC 2026-27 Preliminary Budget.

Motion: Bonnie Lower
Second: Spencer Johnson -Passed Unanimously

8. Approval to move forward with Third-Party Speech Language Pathologist Contract by Director

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Kim will continue to recruit speech language pathologists and will work with outside agencies to support the fulfillment of the open SLP position within the cooperative.

Motion to give the Director full discretion to hire one of the Third-Party Speech Language Pathologists.

Motion: Marisa Stewart
Second: Spencer Johnson -Passed Unanimously

9. Contract approvals:

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

a. 2026-2027 Personnel: School Psychologist Offer of Contracts:

i. 2026-2027 Personnel: School Psychologist Internship Offer of Contract:

a. Gael Granados: BA75/Level B, 1.0 FTE (Motion/Discussion/Action)

Motion to approve contract for School Psychologist Intern for the 2026-27 school year.

Motion: Marisa Stewart
Second: Kevin Flanagan -Passed Unanimously

b. 2026-2027 Personnel: Director of Special Education Offer of Contract:

i. Kim Wegner-McCauley: Administrator Contract, 1.0 FTE

(Motion/Discussion/Action)

Final approval will be tabled until the August board meeting to support changes to language in the proposed contract.

Motion to offer a contract to the Director of Special Education for the 2026-27 school year after seeking council from the Co-op's attorney.

Motion: Kevin Flanagan
Second: Scott Poloff -Passed Unanimously

7. Board Meeting Schedule: Projected 2025-2026 Third Thursday of the Month (Zoom/In-Person) *no less than 5 meetings per year

a. August 20th, 2026-In-Person @ the Co-op
b. October 8th or 22nd (MEA 15 & 16)
c. January 21st In Person
d. February 18th
e. April 15th
f. May 20th
g. June 17th In Person

8. <u>Adjourn:</u> Motion to adjourn meeting at <u>12:21pm</u>.

Motion: Scott Poloff
Second: Marisa Stewart -Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: ______________________________ Date: ____________________

Board Chair: ______________________________ Date: ____________________