

**BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE  
MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, July 16, 2020  
9:00 a.m. – Online Meeting

**MINUTES – FINAL**

1. **Call to Order** – Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Board members in attendance Moore, Pearson, Rayburn, Stiegler and Toynbee. BVEC admin staff in attendance Rammell, Hughes and Reynolds. Other staff in attendance Rachella Moresi, MH Therapist in Victor and Union Co-President, and Melissa Thayne, MH Therapist in Darby.
2. **Consent Agenda**
  - A. Minutes – June 16 Board Meeting
  - B. Warrants
  - C. Financial Report – N/A
  - D. Resignations – attached
    1. McKenna Mertes, CSCT Behavior Consultant, HMS
    2. HMS Thad Widmer, CSCT Therapist, HHS
    3. Michelle Welch, CSCT Therapist, HMS
    4. Kendra Tucker, Mental Health Program Clinical Supervisor
    5. Amanda Jensen, CSCT Behavior Consultant
  - E. Next Meeting – August date TBD based on MOA completion and ready for Board approval

**Moore - Consent agenda adopted at this time as approved by BVEC Board.**
3. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
4. **Correspondence** – no comments.
  - A. Letter from Korst to HSD Staff and Community
  - B. Letter from Miller to BVEC Staff and Community
5. **Board Action**
  - A. **Reduction in Mental Health Program Manager Contract – 212 to 200 days**

Motion to approve Hughes contract days reduction from 212-200 as recommended by Pearson. Second by Toynbee.

Discussion – Moore asked Hughes what this would mean for his role. Hughes explained he and Steve Zieglowsky, Clinical Supervisor, developed calendars to minimize their contract days due to the CSCT staff reductions. They developed calendars to ensure at least one of them would be available each day. This change will mean Hughes works 4 or 5 days per week throughout the school year, depending on what happens with any pandemic related school closures.

Moore called for the vote. Motion carries 5-0.

**B. Layoffs** – Motion from Stiegler to approve layoffs as recommended due to Hamilton School District Board not offering a portion of Emergency Relief Funds to restart the District CSCT programs and Stevensville School District reduction from 3 CSCT teams to 2 CSCT teams. Second by Rayburn.

Discussion-Stiegler asked about the impact of layoffs on school assignments. Rammell explained Hughes and Zieglofsky looked at both place or residence for staff and best fit for staff reassignments. Hughes thanked the CSCT staff for their flexibility and agreement in reassignments.

Moore called for the vote. Motion carries 5-0.

**C. Resignations** - Motion from Rayburn to approve the recommendation to waive the \$500 penalty for employees that had signed contracts and have since resigned. Second by Toynbee. No Discussion. Moore called for the vote. Motion carries 5-0.

**D. MTSS Grant Application** – Motion from Stiegler to approve the application for MTSS grant from OPI as recommended. Second by Rayburn.

Discussion – Stiegler asked about timeline for approval. Hughes explained we have verbal, but not sure how long official approval will take. Toynbee asked Hughes if/when OPI will see the importance of this funding for future years. Hughes explained the funding has run out, but the State has reapplied for funding, in addition the Co-op is looking at ways to continue to support MTSS with internal support from School Psychologist.

Moore called for the vote. Motion carries 5-0.

**E. Director's Phone** – Motion by Pearson to approve Miller's purchase of his phone at the purchase price of \$274. Second by Stiegler.

No Discussion.

Moore called for the vote. Motion carries 5-0.

## 6. Information and Discussion

**A. Memorandum of Agreement with Union** - Discussion with union on July 7, 2020 to discuss switching to hourly pay, reducing hours, and flexibility in layoff/recall procedures if conditions prevent schools and mental health programs from operating normally. Kaleva Law will review language in the MOA which will then be presented to BVEC Board for review the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Hughes added that we do have tentative agreement from Union representatives, but we are working with them to finalize wording. Thayne asked when employees would see the MOA. Rammell replied that it would be shared when final version is approved by Union and Board.

**B. CSCT** - BVEC is pursuing versatile options for both delivery of services and funding to provide continuation of services and sustainability in response to possible future school closures. Hughes spoke in detail of plans to provide more flexibility with staff hours and pay if schools close or we have to move to remote learning, what we learned about how to do this when schools closed in March 2020, tools needed and the importance of working with parents. The MOA to approve moving to hourly pay and revising the CBA language regarding the order of layoffs and recalls will be key to our flexibility to adjust to school closures. The Co-op will work with the individual districts to develop individualized plans for school closures and/or remote learning. All CSCT staff will be trained on how to efficiently move from providing CSCT services to Outpatient services if needed. The Co-op is applying for Case Management license which will allow an

option for Behavior Consultants versus furlough or layoff. The Co-op is also looking for any possible additional funding and is in the process of applying for recently approved HHS relief for Medicaid/CHIP providers.

Toynbee asked what was being done to improve the participation of elementary students via telehealth. Hughes explained that is an area of increased focus based on learnings from this year.

Stiegler asked about the \$75 million dollars Governor Bulloch announced yesterday and if it would provide relief. Hughes and Moore both stated they believe that funding is going to schools to support Special Education.

**C. Zoom Meeting** - Currently the cooperative is subscribing to both GoToMeeting and Zoom Video Communications. Due to access and compatibility, Zoom is used extensively in the CSCT program. To keep consistency with CSCT, Zoom will be the platform the BVEC will use for future board meetings. This will be a cost savings of \$600/year. Moore expressed concern over the cost of Zoom for school districts when/if they announce they will no longer provide the service to schools at no charge. The Co-op had to move to a paid subscription with the school closures this year as the free version did not provide the security needed for providing mental health services.

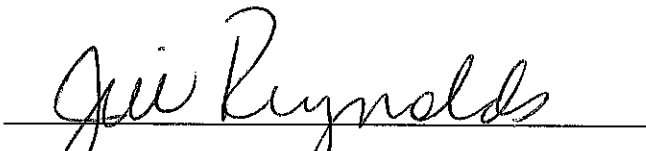
**7. Adjourn** – Moore adjourned the meeting at 9:51.

  
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Board Chair Signature

8-26-2020

Date

  
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Business Manager/Board Clerk Signature

8/26/2020

Date