



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.3095
888.231.9393
406.444.0169 (TTY)
opi.mt.gov

To: State Superintendent Denise Juneau
From: Variances to Standards Review Board
CC: Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent
Date: April 10 , 2014

Re: Variances to Standards Review Board (VSRB) recommendations to Superintendent Juneau

Application 1

Independent School District #52, Yellowstone County applied for a variance to standards Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.704 - Administrative Personnel: Assignment Of District Superintendents and 10.55.705 - Administrative Personnel: Assignment Of School Administrators/Principals.

This application is an Initial Request (2 years).

Recommendation: The Variances to Standards Review Board recommends to approve the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.704 and 10.55.705 from Independent School District #52.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.704 and 10.55.705. The VSRB was appreciative of the completeness of the application and agreed with the applicant that the unique nature of the Independent School District #52 could be served by 1 FTE as principal and superintendent.

Vote 6 – 0 to approve

Application 2

Laurel High School, Laurel Public Schools applied for a variance to standards for Arm 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12.

This application is an Initial Request (2 years).

Laurel High School has an approved Alternative to Standards for 10.55.709 that expires June 30, 2014.

Recommendation: The Review Board recommends to approve the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.709 from Laurel High School.

Comments/ Rationale: The VSRB requested additional information from Laurel High School regarding the use of Technology Integration Specialists (TIS). The additional information was provided in time for the Review Board to complete its deliberations on this application. Although the VSRB would have preferred the TIS assigned to the Laurel Library were not only assigned on an “as needed basis”, the fact the TIS assigned to the library were licensed teachers that worked with students instructionally as well as the teacher of record that accompanied their classes to the Library working instructionally with students under library program services 10.55.1801 Library Media Program Delivery Standards.

Vote 6 – 0 to approve

Application 3

Laurel Middle School, Laurel Public Schools applied for a variance to standards For ARM 10.55.709 LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES, K-12.

This application is an Initial Request (2 years).

Laurel Middle School has an approved Alternative to Standards for 10.55.709 that expires June 30, 2014.

Recommendation: The Review Board recommends to approve the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.709 from Laurel Middle School.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board was particularly impressed with the application from the Laurel Middle School for its completeness and depth of information that allowed them to have a clear understanding of how library program services under 10.55.1801 Library Media Program Delivery Standards is delivered at Laurel Middle School.

Vote 5 - 1 to approve

No Minority Statement was given.

Application 4

Malta K-5, Malta Middle School, Malta High School and Loring Colony School applied for a variance to standards for ARM 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12.

This application is an Initial Request (2 years).

Recommendation: The Review Board recommends to not approve the application for Variances to Standard ARM 10.55.709 from Malta K-5, Malta Middle School, Malta High School and Loring Colony School.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board was disappointed with the lack of supporting documentation for this application. Although the arithmetic logic for the request was clear, there was no effort made to describe for the VSRB how the Malta School system would meet the program standards under 10.55.1801 Library Media Program Delivery Standards.

Vote 6 - 0 to not approve

Application 5

Quentin Brown Primary School, Corvallis Public Schools applied for a variance to standards for ARM 10.55.710 Assignment Of School Counseling Staff.

This application is an Initial Request (2 years).

Quentin Brown Primary School has an approved Alternative to Standards for 10.55.710 that expires June 30, 2014.

Recommendation: The Variances to Standards Review Board recommends to approve the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.710 from Quentin Brown Primary.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board believed that the application adequately addresses the program standards under 10.55.1901 School Counseling Program Delivery Standards.

Vote 6 - 0 to approve

Application 6

Billings Skyview, Billings West, and Billings Senior High Schools, Billings Public Schools applied for a variance to standards to replace the Continuous School Improvement process in ARM 10.55.601 (3) with the AdvancED school improvement process in which the schools are currently engaged.

This application is an Initial Request (2 years).

Recommendation: The Variances to Standards Review Board recommends to approve each application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from Billings Skyview, Billings West, and Billings Senior High Schools be approved. The Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to OPI within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends Billings Skyview, Billings West, and Billings Senior High Schools for seeking a district-wide means of school improvement.

Vote 6 – 0 to approve

Application 7

Polson High School, Polson Public Schools applied for a variance to standards for ARM 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12.

This application is an Initial Request (2 years).

Polson High School has an approved Alternative to Standards for 10.55.709 that expires June 30, 2014.

Recommendation: The Review Board recommends to approve the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.709 from Polson High School.

Comments/ Rationale: The Review Board noted that that Polson High School had designed a unique configuration of staffing to provide student services under program standard 10.55.709 Library Media Program Delivery Standards.

Vote 6 -0 to approve

Review Board Chair Signature:



Date: 4/40/2014