



# Board of Public Education

## BOARD MEMBERS

### APPOINTED MEMBERS:

Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair  
 Savage

Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair  
 Miles City

Madalyn Quinlan  
 Helena

Julia Maxwell  
 Marion

Renee Rasmussen  
 Clancy

Lisa Schmidt  
 Conrad

Dr. Hannah Nieskens  
 Cardwell

Lydia Comstock, Student Rep.  
 Great Falls

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Clayton Christian,  
 Commissioner of  
 Higher Education

Susie Hedalen,  
 Superintendent of  
 Public Instruction

Greg Gianforte,  
 Governor

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

McCall Flynn

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature authorized the establishment of public charter schools in Title 20, Chapter 6, Part 8 of Montana Code Annotated with the intent to create innovative and high-performing public charter schools under the general supervision of the Montana Board of Public Education; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education is responsible for evaluating charter proposals, approving and denying proposals that meet identified educational needs, and promote a diversity of educational choices; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education reviewed, interviewed, and allowed public comment on each authorized public charter application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana Board of Public Education denies the following public charter schools for the following reasons:

**Custer County CLASS Academy:** The Board denies this proposal based on the lack of evidence that the proposed public charter school will create an innovative public charter school.

**Stevensville Alternative Steps Charter School:** The Board denies this proposal based on the lack of evidence that the proposed public charter school will create an innovative public charter school.

**Lion's Path Academy:** The Board denies this proposal based on the lack of evidence that the proposed public charter school will create an innovative public charter school.

**SOAR Academy:** The Board denies this proposal based on the lack of evidence that the proposed public charter school will create an innovative public charter school, will create a high-quality academic program, and has demonstrated a clear and convincing proof of likelihood of success.

**Columbia Falls Trades Academy:** The Board denies this proposal based on the lack of evidence that the proposed public charter school will create a high-quality academic program, has demonstrated a clear and convincing proof of likelihood of success, and has demonstrated that they can open and operate a successful public charter school.

RESOLVED BY THE MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ON  
 JANUARY 16, 2026.

Dr. Tim Tharp  
 Chairperson  
 Board of Public Education