



Arlee Joint School District #8

Arlee Board of Trustees

Special Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 25, 2026 at 6:30 PM MST

Location

Elementary Commons - please enter through the new building

Agenda

Purpose Presenter

I. Opening Items

- A. Record Attendance
- B. Call the Meeting to Order
- C. Public Comment

II. New Business

- | | | |
|--|------|--------------|
| A. Roots to Rise Contract with Side by Side | Vote | Cory Beckham |
| B. Approve to request change from 6B to 7B for FY2027 | Vote | Cory Beckham |
| C. Tabled item from February 10, 2026: Recommendation to consolidate to K-8 in the new build | Vote | Cory Beckham |

Purpose Presenter

III. Closing Items

A. Next Regular Meeting: March 10, 2026

Discuss

Brian Johnson
BigSam

B. Adjourn Meeting

Vote

Coversheet

Roots to Rise Contract with Side by Side

Section: II. New Business
Item: A. Roots to Rise Contract with Side by Side
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Side By Side R2R contract.pdf

Roots to Rise Contract 2.2.26

SIDE-BY-SIDE EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING, INC. AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES ("Agreement") is effective as of February 2, 2026 (the "Effective Date") by and between Arlee Public Schools - Arlee, Montana (the "District"), and Side-by-Side Educational Consulting, Inc., a Montana Corporation ("Consultant").

BACKGROUND

- A. The Consultant has expertise in the Field of curriculum and instruction as it relates to literacy and the Science of Reading, including evidence-based literacy practices as defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Institute of Educational Sciences (IES), and What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards of evidence. Within the Field, the Consultant will provide virtual training and on-site support which includes, but is not limited to, professional development and support that: (1) leads to significant and improved changes in literacy achievement and educator effectiveness; (2) is aligned to the state standards and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS); (3) is focused on training an delivery of targeted, evidence-based instructional and assessment practices that close achievement gaps across all student subgroups; (4) addresses the development of a comprehensive assessment system with data-based decision making for MTSS.
- B. The District desires to obtain services of Consultant, and Consultant wishes to provide such services in the Field, all on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals, the mutual promises contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

- 1. Consultant: Side-by-Side Educational Consulting, Inc., a Montana-based corporation.
- 2. Field: Curriculum and instruction as it relates to literacy and the Science of Reading, including evidence-based literacy practices as defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Institute of Educational Sciences (IES), and What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards of evidence. Within the Field, the Consultant will provide virtual training and on-site support which includes, but is not limited to, professional development and support that: (1) leads to significant and improved changes in literacy achievement and educator effectiveness; (2) is aligned to state standards and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS); (3) is focused on training an delivery of targeted, evidence-based instructional and assessment practices that close achievement gaps across all student subgroups; (4) addresses the development of a comprehensive assessment system with data-based decision making for MTSS.
- 3. Services: The services to be provided by Consultant (the "Services"), and the dates for the performance of such Services, are described on Exhibit A hereto.
 - a. In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, on-site contracted days may be changed to virtual support at the request of either the District or Consultant, as desired by either party or if indicated by the public health guidance in the district, county, or state of service.
- 4. Fees: The fees to be paid by the District to Consultant for the Services (the "Fees") are set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto. Except for the reimbursable expenses specifically described in Section 5 below, the **fees are inclusive of all of Consultant's expenses for Services**. Consultant's invoices for Services will be sent to the address and billing contact set forth in Exhibit A. Payment for Fees shall be made to Consultant within forty-five (45) days of the invoice date.
 - a. The District shall select at the beginning of this Agreement from two payment options as indicated in Exhibit A and attached hereto:

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- i. PAYMENT OPTION #1: For the specified school year, Consultant fees will be paid ***IN ADVANCE*** to Consultant by the District for services contained within this Agreement, including Exhibit A. Selection of this option by the District shall be indicated in written form by initialing and dating the chosen payment option in Section 4 of the Agreement, as well as in the Payment Schedule of Exhibit A. In the event services for the specified school year are not fulfilled by the Consultant, as outlined in Exhibit A, Consultant agrees to reimburse District within thirty (30) days of the last day of services for the school year the amount for the number of days services yet performed. Reimbursement from Consultant to the District shall be calculated based upon the calculation of services contained in Exhibit A of this agreement.
 - ii. PAYMENT OPTION #2: For the specified school year, fees will be paid on a monthly basis to the Consultant by the District for services contained within this agreement, including Exhibit A. Invoices will be submitted at the beginning of each month and the District will pay in full on each invoices on a monthly basis for the services rendered pursuant to this agreement, as in outlined above in Section 4.
 - iii. *Selection by the District shall be indicated in written form by **initialing and dating** the chosen payment option in Exhibit A.*
5. Reimbursable Expenses: In addition to the Fees set forth on Exhibit A, the District shall reimburse Consultant for all non-refundable travel expenses incurred by Consultant in the event that the District cancels or requests the rescheduling of the Services. Such reimbursable expenses shall be invoiced and paid in accordance with Section 4 above.
 6. Printing Costs: Consultant shall send copies of training materials to be printed (if applicable) to the District at least one week prior to the commencement of the Services. The District shall be responsible for ensuring all participating educators have the required number of copies in hand, at the District's sole expense, for purposes of receiving Services.
 7. Insurance Coverage. Consultant shall maintain throughout the Term, at Consultant's expense, insurance coverage that includes business liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance. Consultant shall provide the District with copies of certificates evidencing such insurance coverage upon request.
 8. Confidential Information: In the event that the District discloses any tangible confidential information to Consultant, it shall be clearly identified, in writing, as "confidential" (all information so identified, "Confidential Information"). Consultant agrees to hold all Confidential Information disclosed to Consultant by the District in confidence, and Consultant shall neither disclose nor use the Confidential Information for any purpose other than providing the Services as contemplated herein. Upon the termination or expiration of the Term, Consultant agrees to return or destroy all Confidential Information supplied to Consultant by the District.
 9. No Solicitation of Consultant's Employees, Contractors, and/or Consultants: Except after discussion with and the written approval of Consultant, during the Term and for twelve (12) months after the expiration or termination thereof, the District shall not solicit or initiate contact or communications with the employees or independent contractors of Consultant for the purpose of hiring or causing a third party to hire such persons, or cause or attempt to cause an employee or contractor of Consultant to terminate his, her or its employment or engagement with Consultant. The District agrees that a breach of its obligations under this Section 9 could not reasonably or adequately be compensated in damages in an action at law and that Consultant shall be entitled to injunctive relief, which may include, but shall not be limited to, restraining the District from engaging in any acts that would breach this Section 9. However, the injunctive relief conferred by this Section 9 is not intended to be exclusive of any other remedy that may be available to Consultant, and it shall be in addition to every other remedy given hereunder or now or hereafter existing at law or in equity.
 10. Relationship of the Parties: In performing Services, pursuant to this Agreement, Consultant and its agents, employees, and independent contractors, are not employees of the District. Accordingly, although the District may provide input regarding the general nature of the work to be performed and the goals to be met, the details, direction, and control of

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performing such work and meeting such goals shall be provided by Consultant, meeting the goals outlined in Part A of this agreement.

11. **Term and Termination:** The term of this Agreement (the “Term”) shall be from the Effective Date until the date that the Services are completed per Exhibit A, or until otherwise terminated in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. Subject to the provisions of Section 12 below, either party may terminate this Agreement at any time, for any or no reason, upon written notice delivered to the other party. Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, the District shall pay Consultant (in accordance with the invoicing and payment procedures set forth in Section 3 and Section 4 above) all Fees owed for all work performed and shall reimburse Consultant for all reimbursable expenses incurred (in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 3, Section 4, and Section 5 above) as of the date of such expiration or termination.
12. **Liquidated Damages for Untimely Terminations:**
 - a. If the District presents Consultant less than thirty (30) days prior written notice of the District’s election to terminate this Agreement, the District shall pay Consultant, as liquidated damages and not as a penalty, the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day and/or partial day of Services thereby cancelled; however, District shall not be liable for liquidated damages under the termination of this agreement if termination is due to an emergency, such as, but not limited to personal illness, family illness, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and/or natural disasters.
 - b. If Consultant gives the District less than thirty (30) days prior written notice of Consultant’s election to terminate this Agreement (for any reason other than the personal illness of Carrie L. Cole or any other individual that Consultant has scheduled to perform the Services on its behalf), Consultant shall pay the District, as liquidated damages and not as a penalty, the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day and/or partial day of Services thereby cancelled; however, Consultant shall not be liable for liquidated damages under the termination of this agreement if termination is due to an emergency, such as, but not limited to personal illness, family illness, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and/or natural disasters.
13. **Severability:** Should any valid federal or state law or final determination of any administrative agency or court of competent jurisdiction invalidate or otherwise affect any provision of this Agreement, the provision or provisions so affected shall be conformed automatically and to the extent possible to the law or determination in question, and in all events the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.
14. **Filming:** District must receive prior approval from Consultant to film Consultant performing classroom instruction and/or training, in accordance to District filming policies of students. If film is made, a copy of the recording shall be provided to Consultant. Further, subject to compliance with District’s policies, District may request that online Zoom sessions be recorded by the Consultant and uploaded into Google drive shared training folder for participants to access as needed. Recordings of Zoom training sessions can be made available in the shared folder until completion of contract. Copies of Zoom recordings or classroom instruction shall not be distributed to any third party without the prior written consent of both parties.
15. **Governing Law:** This Agreement has been entered into under the laws of the State of Montana and the parties hereto agree that it shall be interpreted and all disputes arising hereunder shall be resolved in accordance with Montana law. The parties acknowledge and agree that the provisions of this Section 15 are reasonable because Consultant is a Montana Corporation, Consultant has significant operations in Montana, and Consultant has a need for consistency in the interpretation of its contracts with independent contractors, and, therefore, Montana has a substantial relationship

to the District’s engagement by Consultant pursuant to this Agreement, and Montana has a material interest in the determination and resolution of any issues or disputes arising under this Agreement. This Agreement has been entered into and has been executed by Consultant in Montana following its execution by the District. Exclusive jurisdiction and

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venue for any dispute arising hereunder shall be with the state or federal courts located in the County of Lincoln, State of Montana, where the contract is performed.

16. **Amendments.** Any amendment or modification to this Agreement shall be valid only in writing and signed by both parties.
17. **Notices:** Any notice, request, demand or other communication hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be duly given (i) when personally delivered to Consultant or to the District, as the case may be, (ii) three (3) days after deposit with the U.S. Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested, with postage prepaid, or (iii) two (2) days after deposit with a reputable overnight delivery service, delivery fees prepaid. Such notices shall be addressed as follows:
 - a. If to Consultant:
Side-by-Side Educational Consulting, Inc.
PO Box 1641
Libby, MT 59923
Attn: Carrie L. Cole, President
 - b. If to the District:
To the address for notices set forth on the signature page of this Agreement.

Each party may specify a different address for notices by giving notice of such changed address to the other party in accordance with this Section 17.

18. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties respecting the Services, and there are no representations, warranties or commitments which may be relied upon by either party except as expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements, commitments, representations, writings, and discussions between the parties, whether oral or written. This Agreement may be amended only by an instrument in writing executed by both of the parties hereto.
19. **Acknowledgments.** The District expressly acknowledges that it has read the terms of this Agreement, has had the opportunity to discuss those terms with its own legal counsel, and understands that this is a legally binding contract.
20. **Assignment.** This Agreement shall be binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the parties' respective successors and permitted assigns. Neither party shall assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably conditioned, withheld or delayed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Consultant may engage one or more subcontractors to perform the Services contemplated herein.
21. **Mediation of Disputes.** In the event of a dispute relating to the parties' performance hereunder or the interpretation of this Agreement, prior to instituting any legal action other than injunctive relief, the parties agree to mediate in good faith before a mutually selected, neutral third party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither party shall have any obligation to mediate under this Section 21 for more than forty-five (45) days after the date that a dispute first arose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

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Consultant

SIDE-BY-SIDE EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING, INC.

By: Carrie L. Cole

Title: President

Signature: *Carrie L. Cole*

Date: February 2, 2026

Address for Notices:

Side-by-Side Educational Consulting
ATTN: Carrie Cole, President
PO Box 1641
LIBBY, MT 59923

Primary Contact Person for Invoicing:

Name: Tilly Gurley
Email: tilly@sidebysideconsulting.com
Phone: 800.585.8304

District or Program

Arlee Public Schools- Arlee, Montana

By: Cory Beckham

Title: Superintendent

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address for Notices:

Address

Primary Contact Person for Invoicing:

Name: Cory Beckham
Email: cbeckham@arleeschools.org
Phone: Phone Number

EXHIBIT A		
Arlee Public Schools – Arlee, Montana (February 2, 2026 – June 30, 2026)		
AMOUNT	CONSULTATION SERVICES	PRESENTER
5 On-Site days @ \$2900.00 per day = Total \$14,500.00 22 Virtual Hours @ \$250.00 per hour = Total \$5,500.00	ROOTS TO RISE: SCHOOL-BASED IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT Support may also include collaborative system development, instructional coaching, cultural curriculum development and integration, data-informed instructional decision-making, and leadership support to build long-term capacity and sustainability. ROOTS TO RISE: VIRTUAL SUPPORT Virtual support provided in between on-site implementation support visits to problem solve, provide instructional coaching, data analysis, and leadership support in order to move the work forward.	Drea Beale and Marci Parks
PAYMENT SCHEDULE (CHOOSE ONE OPTION)		
FEE TERMS AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 4 OF AGREEMENT (CHOOSE ONE OPTION)		
Payment Option #1 Initial _____ Date _____	For the specified school year of this agreement, Consultant fees will be paid IN ADVANCE to Consultant by the District for services contained within this Agreement, including <u>Exhibit A</u> . Selection of this option by the District shall be indicated in written form by initialing and dating the chosen payment option in <u>Section 4</u> of the Agreement, as well as in the Payment Schedule of <u>Exhibit A</u> . In the event services for the specified school year are not fulfilled by the Consultant, as outlined in <u>Exhibit A</u> , Consultant agrees to reimburse District within thirty (30) days of the last day of services for the school year the amount for the number of days services yet performed.	
OR		
Payment Option #2 Initial _____ Date _____	For the specific school year, fees will be paid on a MONTHLY BASIS to Consultant by the District for services contained within this agreement, including <u>Exhibit A</u> . Invoices will be submitted at the beginning of each month and the District will pay in full upon receipt of invoice, as in outlined above in <u>Section 4</u> of this Agreement. Selection of this option by the District shall be indicated in written form by initialing and dating the chosen payment option in <u>Section 4</u> of the Agreement, as well as in the Payment Schedule of <u>Exhibit A</u> .	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
All expenses included as defined in Section 4, Section 5, and Section 6 of this Agreement. 5 On-Site Days = \$14,500.00 and 22 Virtual Hours = \$5,500.00 For a total of \$20,000.00 per school year as outlined in the starting date and ending date of this Agreement.		

