

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2018
Montana State Capitol, Room 172
Helena, MT

Friday, September 14, 2018
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Balsam took roll call. Chair Carroll read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed all visitors.

Board members present: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Dr. Darlene Schottle, Vice-Chair; Mr. Scott Stearns; Ms. Tammy Lacey; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Paris Becker, Student Representative. Staff present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Julie Balsam, Administrative Assistant. Ex-Officio members present: Ms. Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ms. Angela McLean, Commissioner of Higher Education Office. Guests present: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Sally King; Ms. Sharyl Albert, Conrad Public Schools; Terri Peters, Ms. Jeri Russell, Conrad Public Schools; Ms. Danele Dyer, Conrad Public Schools; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Ms. Melissa Kempke, Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Patty Muir, OPI; Mr. Scott Furois, OPI; Mr. Kyle Moen, OPI; Ms. Donna Sorensen, Superintendent MSDB; Ms. Susie Hedalen, OPI; Mr. Bob Currie, Montana Digital Academy;

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mr. Scott Stearns moved to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

*****Items are listed in the order in which they were presented*****

❖ **REPORTS – Sharon Carroll (Items 1-6)**

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 10 minutes
Sharon Carroll

Chair Carroll noted her continued involvement with Ed Ready and thanked both Ms. Stockton and Mr. Donovan for their work with the Chair on setting the agenda along with the Office of Public Instruction staff.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 15 minutes
Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan discussed his participation on the Governor's Future Ready Cabinet, his attendance at the Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching Conference put on by Board member Keith and noted the attendance of former student representative Ms. Molly DeMarco. Mr. Donovan thanked Ms. Balsam for her work preparing the meeting in the absence of Ms. Stockton. Mr. Donovan also reviewed the meeting of the Education Interim Committee the previous day and items discussed including a panel discussion on Gifted and Talented that Mr. Donovan took part in. Mr. Barnhart discussed some successes the Broadus School District has had in regard to Gifted and Talented Education programs. Mr. Donovan noted a second panel in the afternoon of past and current educators of the year, including CSPAC Chair Mr. Kelly Elder, and administrators, including board member Lacey, who discussed education in Montana.

Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – 15 minutes
Deputy Superintendent Jule Walker

Ms. Walker updated the Board on items from the OPI including a grant which would hire one individual at OPI to assist districts on school emergency management plans and school safety issues, and a stock grant which would provide for professional development to compliment the school safety grant. Ms. Holly Mook has been hired to run the Title IV Part A Funds. A brief update on the Hazard and Emergency Response Negotiated Rulemaking Committee was discussed, Superintendent Arntzen's participation on the National School Safety Committee, and the Chief State School Officer's Steering Committee. Ms. Walker also discussed the money returned to the OPI from the state from funds which were taken during budget cuts, and the upcoming announcement of the Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Walker fielded questions from the Board.

Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT – 15 minutes
Angela McLean

No report.

Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT
Siri Smillie

No report.

Item 6 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – 15 minutes
Paris Becker

Ms. Becker gave the Student Representative Report, updating the Board with school activities including the new school year, Student Body elections in which Ms. Becker was elected Vice President, Homecoming activities during the week, date set for State Student Council October 22-23 where Ms. Becker will give a presentation and will speak about the Board of Public Education. Ms. Becker also discussed her involvement in the selection of the Teacher of the Year.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Board on every action item on the agenda prior to final Board action.

❖ MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Item 7)

Item 7 MSDB REPORT – 20 minutes
Donna Sorensen

Ms. Bremner opened the MSDB report and turned the item over to Superintendent Sorensen for the MSDB report. Ms. Sorensen reported three new students are now attending the school with five to six more potential students awaiting final paperwork approval. Ms. Sorensen updated the Board on several of the conferences she attended over the summer, reviewed the Crisis Prevention and Intervention

Techniques PIR days the MSDB staff went through, summarized the beginning of the new school year, a recent Family Advisor Training, Long Range Building Planning Meeting with the Office of Budget and Program Planning, and an upcoming trip to the Griz game for students

- **Approve MSDB Housing Policy 5110 – First Reading**

Mr. Donovan noted that the draft in the packet does not have the requested statement from the committee that Temporary Housing Employees be subject to a fingerprint/background check. The Board will take Action on the Housing Policy at the November meeting.

Ms. Bremner asked for clarification from Ms. Sorensen for several of the travel requests before the Board took action. Ms. Sorensen fielded questions from the Board regarding the travel requests.

- **Approve Out of State Travel Requests**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the out of state travel requests. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Approve Golden Triangle Cooperative Agreement**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Golden Triangle Cooperative Agreement. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey with the addition of the \$3,505 payment.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Approval of MSDB New Hires**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the following New Hires: Kimberly Cortez – Cottage Behavioral Counselor; Christine Lay – Cottage Life Attendant; Angela Andrews – Cottage Life Attendant; Tabatha Soliz – Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments; Brenda Warren – Teacher of the Deaf; Andrea Reimer – Paraeducator in the DHH Department; Jennifer Perrin – Paraeducator in the DHH Department; Brenna Lewis - Paraeducator in the DHH Department; Sandra Ortiz – Paraeducator in the VI Department. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to accept the resignations of the following: Ameer Sevrin, Will Stroud, Polly Bartoletti, Debra Mason. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Ms. Sorensen noted that Debra Mason was not a resignation. Ms. Tammy Lacey noted in the future all hires/resignations should be done as one "Personnel Actions". All members agreed.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 8)**

Item 8 **MACIE REPORT – 10 Minutes**
Elsie Arntzen

- **Approve Re-authorization of MACIE**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to reauthorize the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) through September 2020. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Ms. Jule Walker reviewed the history of MACIE, how the Council membership is chosen, and the purpose of the Council. Mr. Donovan noted that the Legislature now requires that all Advisory Council's be reviewed every two years and be approved. Ms. Bremner attended the last MACIE meeting and spoke to the quality of the meetings. Mr. Barnhart questioned a portion of the By-Laws and Chair Carroll requested Ms. Bremner follow up with MACIE.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Approve MACIE Appointment – Gerald Gray**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the nomination of Mr. Gerald Gray to MACIE. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Question on which member Mr. Gray is replacing.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 9-10)**

Item 9 **FEDERAL REPORT – 15 minutes**
Susie Hedalen, Jule Walker

Ms. Hedalen discussed the draft of the ESSA State Report Card being developed by the OPI and distributed the most updated version to the Board. Ms. Hedalen discussed how the draft report card has been created to date and reviewed the report card with the Board. Ms. Hedalen fielded questions from Board members and noted suggestions and input Board members had for the Report Card.

Item 10 **MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT 15 minutes**
Bob Currie

Mr. Bob Currie, Director of the Montana Digital Academy presented the annual report to the Board. This year's report focus was on Student Outcomes. Mr. Currie announced the updated Indian Education for All website that is now accessible through mobile devices, as well as an update on the Advanced Placement courses that the Digital Academy offers, noting the growth in the AP courses. Mr. Currie also reviewed the progress in the Credit Recovery courses, the changes from 2014 to 2017 in what courses students are choosing to take via the Digital Academy, course completion rates from 2014 to 2017, Enrollment by School Size, and a review of a national report of nine states, including Montana, on Digital Learning. Mr. Currie also highlighted a survey of high school principal's the Digital Academy sent out to get feedback on the Academy and how it's used.

Item 9 FEDERAL REPORT – 15 minutes

Susie Hedalen, Jule Walker

It was noted by Chair Carroll that the portion of the Federal Report regarding the Reauthorization of the Perkins program was missed during the Federal Report. Chair Carroll asked Deputy Superintendent Jule Walker to give that update to the Board before continuing to Item 11. Ms. Walker highlighted changes to the program for the Board, including reporting on Dual Credit, Workplace Learning, Career and College Readiness, and Special Populations (military families). Ms. Walker discussed how the OPI will address reporting these new additions. Chair Carroll asked for Mr. Stutz to address the letter from the Department of Education regarding the new requirement that districts report teachers engaging in sexual misconduct, and guidelines on notifying other districts. Mr. Stutz noted that he contacted the Montana School Boards Association who have issued a model policy to address this issue. MTSBA reports that most schools have adopted the model policy and MTSBA has been conducting training sessions across the state. OPI has a concern about non-licensed staff, as the requirement only covers licensed educators.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 11)**

Item 11 ASSESSMENT REPORT – 15 minutes

Ashley McGrath, Scott Furois

Ms. McGrath gave the Assessment Update to the Board, beginning with an overview of the six statewide assessments offered in Montana. Ms. McGrath reviewed participation levels, and student results by student group statewide for each test. Ms. McGrath fielded questions from the board regarding scores, statistics, test differences, and clarified information for the Board. Ms. McGrath also reviewed the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for the proposed rule revisions for Assessment as well as the timeline for the revisions to be complete. Ms. McGrath fielded Board member questions regarding the timeline.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Darlene Schottle (Item 12)**

Item 12 STEP 2 INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS PARENTAL NOTIFICATION LETTERS - 10 minutes

Patty Muir

Ms. Muir informed the Board that all the Parental Notification letters from the schools who presented to the Board in July are contained in the Board packet. Ms. Muir noted that most schools chose to use the template letter form created by the OPI and the Board.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Mr. Stutz noted that a request had been made from the appellant in BPE Case #2018-05, Item 17 to be moved ahead in the schedule to allow the appellant to travel home for a family issue. The request was granted.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 13-21)**

Item 17 HEARING: BPE CASE #2018-05, KING – 30 minutes

Rob Stutz

Licensure Chair Lacey turned the item over to Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services who reviewed the nature of the item, and a request from the OPI to approve the item under the Unusual Cases Rule. The request was forwarded to Board members Lacey, Schottle, and Carroll prior to the meeting. Ms. Lacey noted she would prefer to hear the case before reviewing any requests from the OPI. Mr. Stutz swore in the witnesses. Ms. Sally King made her opening remarks and presented her case to the Board.

Item 16

HEARING: BPE CASE #2018-02, THOMAS - 30 minutes

Rob Stutz

Mr. Stutz opened the hearing, swore in Ms. Thomas and Ms. Thatcher, and asked Ms. Thomas to make her opening statement regarding the denial of a Class 3 Administrative License by the OPI. Ms. Thomas reviewed the circumstances of her denial and a review of her credentials for the Board. Ms. Thomas distributed letters of support as exhibits. Ms. Thomas answered Board member questions. Mr. Moen, Chief Legal Counsel, OPI, called Ms. Kristine Thatcher, Educator Licensure Manager, OPI, to review the reasons for the OPI denial of Ms. Thomas' application for a Class 3 Administrative License. Ms. Thatcher answered Board member questions regarding how Ms. Thomas could gain licensure. Mr. Stutz questioned Mr. Moen on the application and licensure review process at OPI. Board members asked questions of Mr. Moen regarding the review process at OPI, reasons for denial now, versus the reasons for the previous denial, and request for Unusual Cases in March 2018. Mr. Stutz called for closing remarks from both parties.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Class 3 Administrative license for Ms. Thomas. No second. Motion died for lack of second.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to uphold the denial of the Office of Public Instruction for a Class 3 Administrative License. Motion seconded by Ms. Bremner.

Comments from Dr. Schottle and Ms. Bremner on the motion and reasons for upholding the denial.

Roll Call vote – Barnhart, Bremner, Carroll, Schottle, Keith vote “aye”. Lacey vote “no”.

Motion to uphold the denial passed.

Item 18

HEARING: BPE CASE #2018-04, RUSSELL 30 minutes

Rob Stutz

Mr. Stutz opened the case for the Board, swore in all witnesses, and Ms. Russell made opening remarks, reviewing her educational and professional background. Mr. Moen waived opening remarks and Ms. Russell called her witnesses. Board members asked questions of the witnesses and of OPI asking for clarification of what Ms. Russell needs for licensure in Montana. Board members also asked questions of Ms. Russell, and of Mr. Moen. Ms. Russell gave her closing remarks to the Board requesting approval of her licensure.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to grant a Class 5 License to Ms. Russell, waiving the University Plan of Study and replace with a BPE requirement that within 3 years of the Class 5 license Ms. Russell complete Counseling 565 and Counseling 566 at the University of Montana. Dr. Schottle seconded the motion.

Ms. Lacey noted the unusual nature of this motion by the Board, and Mr. Stutz noted that it is within the purview of the Board to do so.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 19

INTERNSHIP EXTENSION REQUEST – Linder -10 minutes

Kristine Thatcher

Ms. Carroll nominated Dr. Darlene Schottle as Chair. Seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No other nominations were made. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Schottle thanked the Board for the nomination.

Mr. Donovan opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Dr. Schottle nominated Ms. Tammy Lacey as Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

No other nominations for Vice-Chair were made. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lacey thanked the Board for the nomination and noted that since she will be retiring at the end of the year that the timing is perfect.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS November 8-9, 2018

Committee Appointments – C

MACIE Annual Report

Assessment Update

Critical Quality Educator Shortage Area Report

Federal Update

Variance to Standards Requests & Renewals

Accreditation Report

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update (Odd Years)

Annual Renewal Unit Providers List - C

MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT

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