MONTANA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDIAN EDUCATION

JOINT MEETING WITH THE MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

CHARGING HORSE CASINO
LAME DEER, MT
2:00 PM

September 12, 2007 – Wednesday
2:00 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 1         REVIEW OF MACIE’S ROLE IN INDIAN EDUCATION
               FOR ALL AND INDIAN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN
               THE PAST TWO YEARS

Item 2         COLLABORATION WITH TRIBES

Item 3         REVIEW OF PROMINENT BOARD OF PUBLIC
               EDUCATION ISSUES
               Board of Public Education Members

4:00 p.m.     PUBLIC COMMENT
REVIEW OF PROMINENT BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ISSUES

TEACHER LICENSURE COMMITTEE-CSPAC LIAISON
Angela McLean-Chair

1. Proper response to critiques of Montana licensure procedures.
2. The proper licensure of dual enrollment teachers.
3. Using Teacher and Student Data to Improve Teacher and Teaching Quality. Answer: How will this data be used to appropriately impact teaching? Consider the use and implications of the data system before it goes online.
4. Research into programs that award college degrees for virtually no work. (Diploma Mills)
5. Research alternative licensing procedures.
6. Research the preparedness of incoming educators regarding the implementation of Indian Education for All.
7. Paraprofessional Certification/Licensure.

MSDB COMMITTEE – MSDB LIAISON
Patty Myers – Chairwoman

1. The MSDB Committee will address proposed legislation as recommended by the administration.
2. Review current practices for preparing, licensing and serving deaf and blind children.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Patty Myers - Chairwoman

1. Review and refine Board processes to make optimal use of meeting time and improve communication between meetings.
2. Improve research of current and emerging education issues, including use of student achievement and school performance data.
3. Develop and implement Board communications plan to improve public understanding of and support for public education.

4. Define and refine the license discipline process.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
Sharon Carroll - Chairwoman

1. Research current best practices in assessment and work with OPI to determine appropriate steps to improve Montana’s Comprehensive Assessment System.

2. Review student assessment results and utilize them to provide future direction for Montana education.

3. Explore replacement possibilities for NRT.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
Storrs Bishop – Chairman

1. Review, revisit, and rewrite the Board of Public Education’s Accreditation Standards.

2. BPE, through the Accreditation Committee, assists OPI in expeditiously clarifying existing “Rule” when necessary.

3. Stay abreast of the ever changing “face” of education and see that our Rules (ARMs) represent the BPE intent and are clearly defined.

4. The BPE will continue to help facilitate the implementation of the Accreditation Standards. The “bottom-line” is the BPE’s commitment to preserving the integrity and quality of the Accreditation Content and Performance Standards in a rapidly changing environment.

5. Special purpose and alternative accreditation standards.

DISTANCE LEARNING TASK FORCE
Kirk Miller – Chairman

1. Review and revise ARM 10.55.907 – Distance, On-line, and Technology delivered learning as needed to align the standard with current best practices.
2. Emphasize the guiding principle: “Distance education serves students’ learning needs of the present and future offering flexibility while maintaining quality.”

QUALITY SCHOOLS/QUALITY EDUCATORS TASK FORCE
Kirk Miller – Chairman

1. The Wyoming legislature’s action to increase educator wages significantly and its direct affect on retention of quality teachers in Montana.

2. Current study being conducted by APA for the Montana Quality Education Coalition. These results will provide additional evidence for funding based upon needs in our schools.

3. Action research into other state’s efforts to fund K-12 education in an equitable and adequate manner.

4. Action research into other state’s efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified education staff.

5. Support or non-support of the Board of Public Education Strategic Planning Initiative to establish a bold approach (legislation or rule revision) for school funding solutions that address recruitment and retention of highly qualified educators in Montana.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Kirk Miller – Chairman

1. Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) currently known as NCLB.

2. Federal legislation affecting program implementation in rural states.

3. Understand power restructure of Congress following the November 7, 2007 election.

4. 2008 Presidential Election – focus on candidate support of public education.
1. Implement a single system for educational data that links all education data systems from pre-kindergarten through higher education.

2. Require essential core course for all high school students. These include:
   - Four credits of English
   - Four credits of mathematics
   - Three credits of lab-based, college-preparatory science courses
   - Three credits in college-preparatory social studies

3. Set reasonable – but ambitious – annual targets toward meeting the 100 percent graduation goal and provide incentives to schools for meeting them.

4. Adopt an overarching dual enrollment policy statewide, establishing methods for developing, implementing and monitoring dual enrollment in Montana’s postsecondary institutions.
Board of Education Agenda
September 13, 2007, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Lame Deer, Montana

9:00 am  Meet at Lame Deer High School
          Present the Colors
          Flag and Honor song
          Lame Deer High School JROTC

          Welcome Remarks – President Little Coyote

          Tour Lame Deer High School

          Tour Lame Deer Elementary School

          Tour Chief Dull Knife College

10:30 am  Board of Education Business Meeting at Allen Rowland Complex
          Opening Remarks – Governor Brian Schweitzer
          Roll call
          Approve Minutes – January 2007
          http://www opi mt.gov/superintendent/BEMinutes.html
          Adopt Revised By-laws - State Superintendent Linda McCulloch, BOE Secretary

11:00 am  Kindergarten to College Workgroup Update - Regent Janine Pease, Vice Chair

11:15 pm  BOE discussion  (Tribal Council Members invited)

12:00 pm  Other Business

12:15 pm  Adjourn
          Students cultural presentation
          Lunch will be provided by TBD
August 15, 2007

Members of the Board of Education
State of Montana

Dear Members:

In preparation for your September, 2007 meeting, I am attaching copies of the following documents:

1. Minutes of the January 18, 2007 meeting
2. Current By-laws for the Board of Education
3. Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws
   a. The proposed changes to Article III and IV are suggested to comply with Constitutional provisions and for consistency.
   b. The proposed change to Article V is pursuant to a motion made at the September 11, 2003 meeting.
   c. The board may wish to consider amendments to Articles VII and IX to be consistent with the current practices of the board.
4. The first and last page of the minutes of the September 11, 2003 meeting. (The motion fixing the dates of the meeting is on the last page.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda McCulloch
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
The January 18, 2007 meeting of the Montana Board of Education was called to order by Governor Brian Schweitzer.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present were: Regents Steve Barrett, Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, Heather O'Loughlin, Janine Pease, Mark Semmens, Lila Taylor, Clay Christian and Board of Public Education members Cal Gilbert, Patty Myers, Storrs Bishop, Angela McLean, John Fuller, and Jenny Tiskus. Ex-officio members present were Governor Schweitzer, Superintendent McCulloch and Commissioner Stearns. BPE member Kirk Miller was excused.

The minutes of the July 13, 2006 meeting were approved as read.

Governor Schweitzer opened the meeting with remarks about Montana education being for life and in order for Montana to be competitive around the world we have to create and maintain an education system second to none. We need to develop an education pipeline system that delivers graduates with the skills we will need 20 years from now. The best indicator of what the future will look like is to look at trends from the past. The challenge is to predict what those jobs will be which is why we need a broad spectrum of stakeholders at the table. Mistakes made today will manifest 20 years from now.

Education attracts the kind of industries that pay more money. We don’t know exactly what jobs we will have 20 years from now, but we do have a good idea what we will have 5 years from now. We need to continue to modify programs based on emerging jobs. Our colleges of technology have to be at the forefront to create the kind of graduates that we need. The universities' education mission is to make people not only prepared for jobs but that are ready to be good citizens.

Governor Schweitzer stressed how important full-time kindergarten is. Previously he thought that the state should focus on 2 year higher education programs. While he still thinks this is vital to Montana, Linda McCulloch continued to describe how important full time kindergarten is for Montana. Since then he has heard from educators around the world about the importance of full-time kindergarten. A large part of Montana has also accepted that the time has come for full-time kindergarten.

Governor Schweitzer turned the meeting over to Jan Lombardi to facilitate a discussion on full-time kindergarten.

Ms. Lombardi introduced Billie Warford who was filling in for Anna Lovejoy of the National Governor's Association. Ms. Warford stated that early childhood education had been missing from education discussions and was delighted that the Montana education community was pursuing full-time kindergarten. Learning begins at conception and continues throughout a
person's lifetime. People need to broaden their vision and think about how important each of us are in creating a vision for education in Montana from the beginning.

Montana is ready for full-time kindergarten now for a number of reasons. The Governor and State Superintendent are committed to full-time kindergarten and have brought together groups to discuss the issues. School readiness teams have been meeting and working with Head Start which is a major player in preschool services in the state. DPHHS has been working with schools to create early learning guidelines to define what 3, 4 and 5 year old children should know and be able to do. Full-time kindergarten is a very important piece of early childhood education which is defined as birth through age 8. Research supports full-time kindergarten and has established that the programs work. Full-time kindergarten eases the transition to first grade, contributes to higher academic achievement, improves literacy, increases social and emotional development. Full-time kindergarten also decreases long term costs of education with lower retention rates and reduced costs for remediation.

To determine if the benefits are worth the cost, Ms. Warford suggested that we ask the school districts that already have full-time kindergarten programs. Full-time kindergarten programs should be voluntary at the local level. The state needs to support those that are ready. The districts need to calculate the costs and benefits. The teachers in the classrooms need to be knowledgeable about early child development. The university system needs to promote early childhood licensure and qualifications. Policy makers need to standardize policies and expectations and commit the resources.

Montana has a large number of parents working more than one job. Many people are living just above the poverty line. The result is that a lot of kids are spending long hours out of the home. Montana needs to network all the support services and be realistic in the things we can do.

Regent Pease asked how many districts currently have full-time kindergarten. Superintendent McCulloch responded that 63 school districts offer full-time kindergarten to about 28% of the kindergartners in the state. Many of the schools offer full-time kindergarten to all of its students. Great Falls is one example.

Regent O'Loughlin asked how educator training was being handled. Superintendent McCulloch responded that different districts were doing different things. Some teachers go to conferences on full-time kindergarten. A majority of the teachers have been studying and are ready to go. At the state level, trainings will be offered around the state.

Commissioner Stearns pointed out that there are also private full-time kindergartens, but they are expensive and income dependent. She stated that she encouraged and endorsed the effort to have full-time kindergarten in all districts. She commented that it would be wonderful if every parent could stay home and prepare their children for first grade, but that's not our world.

Governor Schweitzer asked for public comment and there was none.

Governor Schweitzer summarized by stating that full-time kindergarten contributes to higher academic achievement, increases graduation rates, increases success rates in college, increases
wages in the workplace and decreases expenditures in corrections. An economist found that investment in full-time kindergarten pays 16% compounded from the time we’re educating students. He stated that he hoped the rest of Montana could be brought on board. He acknowledged that two bills have passed the Senate - SB 123 and SB 152 - both include full-time kindergarten.

Jan Lombardi stated that the Board of Education had disbanded the committees they formerly had and created a kindergarten to college (K-C) work group. Erin Williams, a parent representative, is the chair and Regent Pease is the vice chair of the work group.

Ms. Williams is a professional counselor and works as an advocate for children that are having difficult starts in life. She stated that the purpose of the work group was to assist the Board of Education with planning and coordination to build a strong education system in Montana. The work group meets four times a year to assist the Board of Education in meeting deliverables, completing homework assignments, coordinating strategic plans, gathering information and providing advice. The work group will oversee current and future task forces and sub groups created by the Board.

Ms. Williams handed out the Governor's homework assignments. The work group has the responsibility to see that the homework assignments are completed. The task forces that presented the work they had accomplished were dual enrollment/dual credit, school counseling leaders, writing proficiency, and assessment alignment. The task force reports are available on the Governor's website. The work group decided to put the task forces on hold for now.

The K-C work group will compare strategic plans for the Board of Public Education, Board of Regents and State Superintendent. One of the key issues that was brought forth was that the educational industry should be planning and working more together. Keith Kelly, Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry presented information at the December K-C meeting about Bull Mountain and the need for a skilled workforce in Montana. Ms. Williams requested that he present some of this information to the Board of Education.

Commissioner Kelly stated that the Department of Labor and Industry's goal was to make sure we have an adequate workforce. Out of 100 kids that go to school only 25 go on to college. It's the remaining 75 that he wants to focus on. The Governor asked the Workforce Investment Board if Montana has workers in the pipeline. We have natural resources in Montana, but do we have the means to take advantage of that opportunity? The Bull Mountain project is a good example. If it comes on line, will we be ready? We want more Montanans to have a shot at those good paying jobs. They're looking at 6800 people in the construction stage and they need to be skilled construction workers. We have to have them in the pipeline.

The second example is the Alberta pipeline. Mike McNeil from Northwestern Energy stated that they are facing a very serious issue in the near future with the transmission pipeline. Montana has a real shortage of trades to complete this project. Montana applied and received money for the project to line up the needs that are out there for employment and education.
The Department of Labor is focusing on workforce training. There are 32 counties in eastern Montana that are struggling, including Indian nations, tribal colleges, community colleges and colleges of technology. They are working with the apprenticeship programs and workforce centers in that region to find and recruit students and to develop curriculum specific to the trades that will be needed. They have worked with Commissioner Stearn's office on curriculum development. There is a very good opportunity for skilled trades in Montana. With the energy situation Montana can be a major player.

Governor Schweitzer commented that Fort McMurray in Alberta had grown from a town of 2,000 to over 120,000 workers, 80% coming from outside Alberta and over 50% coming from outside North America. They used up their workforce very quickly and have had recruiters all over the world looking for skilled labor.

Mike McNeil addressed the Board regarding employment issues Northwestern Energy is currently facing. Several years ago they realized they were facing an upcoming lack of labor and skilled trades. Their workforce is aging - the average age is 50 with 25 years of service. This situation is typical of other coops and utilities in Montana. Mr. McNeil is currently leading a group of people from industry, labor and state government whose purpose is to do more to encourage people into the line trade. They are trying to put a line college in Butte. In each of the next ten years they will need 40-50 new people in the trade. This does not include some of the work that will be in the pipeline such as new transmission lines. The closest pre-apprenticeship line schools are in North Dakota, South Dakota and Idaho. They need seed money to develop the curriculum and programs so people don't need to leave the state to gain basic skills. Mr. McNeil encouraged the Board of Education to focus some attention on the value two year institutions can provide to the labor shortages we’re going to see in skilled trades.

Commissioner Kelly said that we need to get the information to the counselors in the high schools to make them aware of the other options out there.

Governor Schweitzer introduced Adam Young who spoke about Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED). They are working on an innovative way to link education and economic development to fill the education pipeline. They try to identify the high growth sectors in regions and then find the workers to fill those sectors. In Montana bioproducts/bioenergy is the hot growth sector. Montana is part of a four state group looking at the shortage of oil and gas workers. They are developing ways to work with higher education, workforce investment and industry. Industry knows what they are looking for. They can define what they need out of two year and four year programs. Montana needs to get students into the programs and let them know that they can stay in Montana and have a good salary.

Ms. Williams stated that the next step is for the strategic planning group to meet next month and the whole group meeting the end of May.

Regent Semmens commented that Mike McNeil had raised the issue that programs were expensive to develop. He asked if some of the proceeds available from the WIRED grant would be available for program development at 2-year colleges.
Adam replied that there has been an investment. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education received approximately one million dollars in curriculum development funds. Miles Community College, Dawson, Havre and Fort Peck were the four institutions that were funded. Right now they're working on building curriculum for these programs. They are bringing industry into the mix so that industry contributes funds and says what skills they want 2-year graduates to come out of school with.

Regent Hamilton asked if they had the number of apprenticeship enrollees that are either students at tribal colleges or residents on reservations and how many go through apprenticeship training and then go on to the next level. Commissioner Kelly replied that he did not have those figures but would get back to her with the exact number. He also commented that they need to develop some kind of cross training with the apprenticeship programs and the colleges of technology.

Regent Pease suggested that the discussion they had was extremely important in looking at the work of the task forces that had been in existence and looking at strategic plans of those at the table to see where the common ground is. They need to develop a vision in education and connect it to the Department of Labor and the industry movement in Montana. Montana is in a changing environment and needs the ability to bring these strategic plans together. It is essential to have foreseeable outcomes and connect them to the children and people in state.

Steve Meloy commented that it was important to talk about school counselors and their role regarding at-risk kids. The counsellorship initiative has momentum and they are anxious to work with the K-C work group to achieve what the Governor is aiming for.

The Governor opened the meeting for public comment. There was none.

Governor Schweitzer stated that they wanted people to see what they're attempting to do in the areas where the economy is not growing. The WIRED grant fits the entire energy industry. The strategic plan will include the biotech industry, information technology and construction trades. This plan is a 25 year plan and starts with children at an early age. It won’t finish until they’re in the work place. Montana has to continue to fill the pipeline with students.

The next agenda item was the Legislative agenda - homework assignments update. Jan Lombardi handed out information regarding Governor Schweitzer's proposed education budget. The intention of the proposed budget was to allow sufficient funds so the homework assignments could be completed. Funding is proposed for full-time kindergarten and start up costs. They have also included a request for funding for curriculum specialists. Other key areas are funding the best and brightest scholarship and technology framework and distance learning. The final item includes resources to do additional work with Indian Education for All and tribal histories.

Superintendent Linda McCulloch reported to the Board that there were over 700 bills introduced so far this session dealing with education. The Superintendent's legislative priorities are:

1. Full-time kindergarten under Senate bill 123 which also includes ten million one time only funds for start up costs.
2. Federal retirement cost correction under Senate bill 56. These retirement costs are currently being taken out of federal funds for the neediest programs such as Title I funding.
3. Indian Education for All increase of funding to schools under House bill 152 and professional development which is in House bill 2 which is a trade off from ready to go grants and closing the achievement gap and lowering the drop-out rate.

4. House bill 152 is the Superintendent's funding bill. This is not in conflict with the Governor's bill. She supported the Governor's bill with some suggestions for changes.

5. Inflationary adjustments were requested.

6. Increase the quality educator component from the 2005 session. This increase was arrived at by using figures passed by both parties during the quality schools interim committee. This component does not raise local property taxes.

7. A one-time-only funding for facilities energy cost relief.

8. Increasing the mileage reimbursement for transportation of students. Currently the school cannot receive reimbursement to pick up students that live within 3 miles of the school. In our urban areas or on large highways it can be dangerous for students to walk.

9. On-going funding for the K-12 data system which was funded two years ago with one-time-only money. OPI has been working with Commissioner Stearn's office so that the K-12 data system and the higher education data system flow together and then to the Department of Labor. The data system cannot go forward without on-going funding.

10. New funding for curriculum specialists at OPI. Montana is the only state in the US which does not have curriculum specialists at the state level. The funding for these positions was eliminated 10-15 years ago.

Superintendent McCulloch addressed the K-12 homework update. The Power Point presentation showed the updated timeline on the high school initiative. OPI has school support teams that are working with the schools most in need. Currently 33 schools are in that program. The support teams go to the schools and work with the staff, community, parents, etc. to formulate ideas to help improve student achievement.

Last fall the State Superintendent had a Call to Greatness Summit targeting those 33 schools most in need of improvement by bringing together principals, superintendents and trustees to discuss goals. Most of those schools are on or near American Indian reservations. Call to Greatness II is scheduled for February 25-26 in Helena. An emphasis will be placed on the School Support Team process.

Part of the funding appropriated to OPI for Indian Education for All was specified for a public education campaign about what Indian Education for All is about. Radio ads ran all through the fall starting on American Indian Heritage Day. The ads have been very well received.

Indian Education Day was held two weeks ago at the Capitol Rotunda. OPI teamed up with Fish, Wildlife and Parks to give lessons to kids. OPI also partnered with the Historical Society for trunks that go out to schools. The University of Montana produced three DVD’s that are breathtaking.

Governor Schweitzer called for public comment - there was none.

Steve Meloy reported that the Board of Public Education had been before the Appropriations Committee and that Chairman Wells requested their strategic plans and wanted accountability
for the money appropriated the last session. He reported to the Committee the Board's concern that 109 schools in the state are not meeting basic accreditation requirements. The Board of Public Education supported the Governor's funding bill and intend to support Superintendent McCulloch's bill.

The 2005 session attempted to pass a bill to mandate a policy on bullying which the Board of Public Education felt was under its Constitutional authority. The bill did not make it out of committee and the Board of Public Education now has a rule in place that mandates districts to have a policy on bullying. The Board continues to keep a close eye on bills that attempt to infringe on the Board of Public Education's authority. This session there are several bills that they are watching, one bill which died in committee attempted to allow an interim committee legislative veto of any administrative rule. There are bills to encourage teaching the attributes of marriage, encourage science curriculum on sound scientific principles, requiring 30 minutes of exercise, and alternative teacher certification. These bills by pass the Board of Public Education and go directly to the schools. This is not the work of the legislature.

The distance learning rule was paramount to the Governor's assignment to everyone at the last meeting. With the help of the OPI the Board put this issue on the fast track and today noticed proposed amendments of the distance learning rule for hearing which will be on March 5th. This is the result of work of the Distance Learning Task Force which was comprised of members from the education stakeholders. Mr. Meloy handed out copies of Power Point slides which detailed the committee's proposals and resulted in the proposed amendments to the rule. Mr. Meloy advised the Board of Education that the hearing on the proposed amendments would be March 5th and that the public would have an opportunity to comment. The Board of Public Education wants the final version of the rule in place in time for the schools to deal with the variance in standards for the next school year.

Storrs Bishop commented that a lot of this work will have an impact on the dual enrollment committee.

Commissioner Stearns presented a report on behalf of the Board of Regents. Commissioner Stearns commented that this was Regent Semmens last meeting with the Board of Education. Their number one priority was the college affordability plan. They will be presenting that to the Joint Subcommittee on Education tomorrow. She stated that their homework assignment connects the opportunity to advance education through financial aid. This connects with the Legislative agenda through the Best and Brightest Scholarships and the MUS Honors Scholarship Program which is being changed to a mix of merit and need. She encouraged people to testify at the committee hearing on these funding bills.

She stated that they have been working on transferability of credits and student data for years. The heat has been turned up on dual enrollment. Transferability is not just college to college – its high school to college and takes a quality data system to make it work. They have a proposal for one-time-only funding for an information data system to sync up with the OPI student data system and base funding to sustain the effort. She acknowledged its not easy to persuade fiscal conservatives that we need this in the budget.
They are also working on coordinating and enhancing distance learning. This is a high priority for the Board of Regents. Now we need to convince the legislature. We need to make sure that a student at our high school or college or a place bound person that wants to take a distance learning course has the opportunity.

Commissioner Stearns introduced the nationwide campaign – KnowHow2Go which is focused on getting kids ready for college. In middle school 90% know that their kids will go to college, but they feel more scared and less informed as they go through to high school.

On writing proficiency they are working face to face with counselors and English teachers across the state to make sure that students aren’t being taught composition in a way that they aren’t being prepared. Montana should be proud that we have been competitive in getting Gear Up, Talent Search and other grants that a lot of states didn’t get last spring.

Governor Schweitzer opened the meeting for public comment.

Dulce Whitford spoke on behalf of the Montana Indian Education Board of Directors. She stated their appreciation for the Indian Education for All support and funding to close the achievement gap. Ms. Whitford handed out fast facts on tribal governments. She asked for continued support to provide adequate funding to schools and invited everyone to attend the Montana Indian Education Conference held in Bozeman in April.

There was no further public comment.

Governor Schweitzer made closing remarks. He stated that if everyone's homework was done they could answer the questions from the legislature and demonstrate that there is a strategic plan to bring education and economic investment together across Montana.

Patty Myers stated that a couple of Board of Public Education members were not able to attend, Kirk Miller was attending a government relations conference at NASBE and Diane Fladmo resigned last week. The Board of Public Education had a reorganization meeting that morning and elected Patty Myers chair and Angela McLean Vice Chair.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Linda McCulloch
Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent
Secretary to the Montana State Board of Education
ARTICLE I. NAME

The legal name of the board is The Board of Education.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The board is responsible for (1) long-range planning; (2) coordinating and evaluating policies and programs of the State's educational systems; and (3) submission of unified budget requests.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

The board consists of the seven members of the Board of Regents and the seven members of the Board of Public Education. The Governor is an ex-officio member of the board and may vote to break a tie vote.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

The Governor shall serve as chair of the board. The chair is responsible for: (1) calling the meetings of the board; (2) planning the agenda of the meetings, in consultation with the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Executive Director of the Board of Public Education, staff in the governor's Office, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and members of the board; (3) presiding at board meetings; and (4) ensuring that the board faithfully executes its Constitutional and statutory duties. The chair of the board of Regents and the chair of the Board of Public Education will serve alternate years as vice-chair of the Board of Education. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chairman will preside. The vice chair shall have full authority to fulfill the duties of chair should the chair not fulfill those duties for any reason.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

The board shall meet not less than twice a year.

ARTICLE VI. QUORUM

A majority of the appointed members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

There will be three standing committees of the board: (1) Long-range planning committee; (2) policy and evaluation committee; and (3) budget committee.
The chair of the board, the chair of the Board of Regents and the chair of the Board of Public Education will appoint committee members.

Ad hoc committees may be appointed from time to time by order of the board.

ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

The presiding officer of any meeting of the board may close the meeting if the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure.

ARTICLE IX. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The following shall be the regular order of business:

1. Roll call
2. Minutes of preceding meeting
3. Report of standing committees
4. Report of special committees
5. Old business
6. New business
7. Adjournment

ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY LAW

On questions of parliamentary law, Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be added to or amended by a majority vote at any meeting of the board provided a quorum is present.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO:

BY-LAWS OF THE
MONTANA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The board consists of the seven members of the Board of Regents and the seven members of the Board of Public Education. The Governor is an ex-officio member of the board and may vote to break a tie vote. The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of Higher Education are ex-officio members of the board.

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The chair of the board of Regents and the chair of the Board of Public Education will serve alternate years as vice-chair of the Board of Education. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair will preside. The vice-chair shall have full authority to fulfill the duties of chair should the chair not fulfill those duties for any reason.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall serve as secretary to the board.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

The board shall meet not less than twice a year. The meeting dates shall be concurrent with the January meeting of the Board of Regents and with the September meeting of the Board of Public Education.
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(NOTE: CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE)

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ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be added to or amended by a majority vote at any meeting of the board provided a quorum is present.
Dr. Kirk Miller, Chair of the Board of Public Education called the meeting to order. Members present included: Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, Ed Jasmin, Richard Roehm, Mark Semmens, Lila Taylor, Christian Hur, Storrs Bishop, John Fuller, Randy Morris, Diane Fladmo, Joyce Silverthorne, Patty Myers and Erik Engellant. Others present included: State Superintendent Linda McCulloch, Commissioner Dr. Sheila Stearns, BPE Executive Director, Steve Meloy and Kris Goss, Governor Martz K-12 Education Advisor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Diane Fladmo, seconded by Joyce Silverthorne, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

BOARD OF REGENTS’ REPORT

The Board of Regents report was submitted by Ed Jasmin, Chair. Regent Jasmin reported that:

- The Board had been involved with a search firm from Washington, D.C. to fill the Commissioner's position. He stated that they were fortunate to secure the services of Dr. Sheila Stearns who started in her position as Commissioner on September 1, 2003. Regent Jasmin also stated that the Regents had been fortunate in their choice of Dr. Carroll Krause as interim commissioner and that he had done an outstanding job.
- Deputy Commissioner Joyce Scott accepted a new position in Texas and Roger Barber, the provost at MSU-Northern was appointed Deputy Commissioner on an interim basis.
- The budget committee has been doing extensive work on the budget and plans to release information on the budget soon.
- The tuition policy committee continues to work on areas of tuition concerns.
- The education and local government committee recently met and agreed that there would be a new post-secondary education policy committee. Regents Mark Semmens and John Mercer will serve on the committee.
- Enrollment in the Montana University System is up by about 1,000 students. Most of the increase is from in-state students.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

Dr. Kirk Miller presented the Board of Public Education report as follows:
Interim Education and Local Government Committee Report

Kris Goss presented the Interim Education and Local Government Committee report on behalf of Senator Bill Glaser. The report includes their first meeting minutes and the Proposed Work Plan.

Public Comments

Chairman Miller opened the floor for comments from the public. There were none.

Further Business

Regent Semmens brought up the issue of establishing meeting dates. The Board members discussed the options.

Regent Semmens moved that the By-laws be amended to set meeting dates to be concurrent with the January meeting of the board of Regents and with the September meeting of the Board of Public Education. The motion was seconded by Patty Myers and unanimously carried. The Board of Regents meeting is January 15th and the officers of the two boards will work out the details.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on motion by Regent Jasmin, seconded by Storrs Bishop.

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Linda McCulloch
Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent
Secretary to the Montana State Board of Education
DIRECTIONS:

FROM HARDIN TO LAME DEER VIA I-90

When arriving in Lame Deer from Hardin via I-90, turn right onto Boundary Street. The Allan Rowland complex is the first right at the bottom of the big hill coming into Lame Deer; before the flashing red light. The address is 103 Boundary.

FROM COLSTRIP TO LAME DEER

When arriving in Lame Deer from Colstrip, turn right at the main intersection in town. (The intersection with the flashing red light – it’s the only light in town.) Then turn left at the next intersection onto Boundary Street. When you turn onto Boundary Street, you will see two blue buildings on your right. Turn right across the cattle guard and the Allan Rowland Complex is the first building on your left just past the end of the football field.
Driving Directions from Lame Deer, MT to Super 8 Motel, 6227 Main St, Colstrip, MT

START Lame Deer, MT US

Super 8 Motel: 406-748-3400
6227 Main St, Colstrip, MT 59323, US

Total Est. Time: 29 minutes
Total Est. Distance: 23.21 miles

Maneuvers

1: Start out going NORTH on CHEYENNE AVE toward US-212.  <0.1 miles
2: CHEYENNE AVE becomes MT-39.  22.7 miles
3: Turn RIGHT onto BOX ELDER AVE.  0.3 miles
4: Turn RIGHT onto PARK AVE.  <0.1 miles
5: End at Super 8 Motel:
6227 Main St, Colstrip, MT 59323, US

Total Est. Time: 29 minutes  Total Est. Distance: 23.21 miles

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2007

ALLAN ROWLAND COMPLEX
103 BOUNDARY
LAME DEER, MT

September 13, 2007 - Thursday
1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER
a. Pledge of Allegiance
b. Roll Call
c. Statement of Public Participation
d. Welcome Visitors
   • Greeting – William Walksalong, MTSBA’s Director,
     Representing the Indian School Boards Caucus from Lame Deer
e. Adopt Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA
a. BPE Finance
b. Approve July 12-13, 2007 Meeting Minutes

INFORMATION ITEMS

❖ REPORTS – Patty Myers (Items 1 – 2)

Item 1   CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Patty Myers
Board Member Appearances

Item 2   EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT
KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE WORKGROUP
DISTANCE LEARNING TASK FORCE PHASE II
Steve Meloy

❖ CSPAC LIAISON - Angela McLean (Item 3)

Item 3   CSPAC REPORT
Peter Donovan

❖ REPORTS – Patty Myers (Items 4 – 7)

Item 4   STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
SUPERINTENDENT’S GOALS
ASSESSMENT UPDATE
INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL REPORT
MACIE NOMINATION (Action Item)
• Jennifer Flat Lip, Apsalooke Nation Representative
State Superintendent Linda McCulloch

Item 5
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT
Commissioner Sheila Stearns

Item 6
GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT
Jan Lombardi

Item 7
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT
Katie Wood

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Storrs Bishop (Items 8 – 9)

Item 8
ACCREDITATION RESPONSE OPTIONS
Linda Vrooman Peterson

Item 9
PROPOSAL BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE TO ADD A MASTER OF
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Linda Vrooman Peterson

❖ GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Dr. Kirk Miller (Item 10)

Item 10
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REPORT
Nancy Coopersmith

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Angela McLean (Item 11)

Item 11
QUALITY EDUCATOR LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SB 2)
Nancy Coopersmith

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September 14, 2007 – Friday
8:30 a.m.

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.

ACTION ITEMS

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Patty Myers (Items 12 – 15)

Item 12
ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS
Steve Meloy

Item 13
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
Patty Myers

Item 14
SET ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDARS
Patty Myers

Item 15
BPE BYLAWS
Patty Myers

INFORMATION ITEM

◆ MSDB LIAISON – Patty Myers (Item 16)

Item 16   MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
         Steve Gettel

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS BPE MEETING– NOVEMBER 8-9, 2007
Assessment Update
NCLB Update
Alternative Standards Request
MACIE Annual Report
Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update
Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (Action)
Distance Learning Task Force Phase II
Teacher of the Year – Gary Carmichael – Friday, November 9, 2007
Licensure Denial – James S. Osborne – Friday, November 9, 2007
Case #2007-702, Folio No. 67559 – Thursday, November 8, 2007 (Tentative)
Case #2007-703, Folio No. 57013 – Friday, November 9, 2007 (Tentative)
Case #2007-701, Folio No. 32876 – Thursday, January 3, 2008 (Tentative)
## PART-A ACTUAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT SUMMARY

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## PART-B BUDGET EXPENSE ACCOUNT SUMMARY

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**PART-B BUDGET EXPENSE ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

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| TOTAL 61000 Personal Services        |      | 7,144.92      | 7,144.92     | 7,144.92    | 7,144.92   |

| 62102 Consult & Prof Services        | 02219 | 3.50          | 3.50         | 3.50        | 3.50       |
| 62104 Insurance & Bonds              | 02219 | 337.00        | 337.00       | 337.00      | 337.00     |
| 62114 Payroll Service Fees           | 02219 | 20.00         | 20.00        | 20.00       | 20.00      |
| TOTAL 62100 Other Services           | 02219 | 360.50        | 360.50       | 360.50      | 360.50     |

| 62417 Out-Of-State Meals             | 02219 | 130.00        | 130.00       | 130.00      | 130.00     |
| 62418 Out-Of-State Lodging           | 02219 | 655.76        | 655.76       | 655.76      | 655.76     |
| 62427 Commuter Allowance             | 02219 | 178.56        | 178.56       | 178.56      | 178.56     |
| 62485 NonEmployOutStateCommerc/Trans | 02219 | 753.10        | 753.10       | 753.10      | 753.10     |
| 62489 Non-Employee In State Mileage  | 02219 | 935.08        | 935.08       | 935.08      | 935.08     |
| 62490 Non-Employee In State Meals    | 02219 | 185.00        | 185.00       | 185.00      | 185.00     |
| 62492 Non-Employee Out State Meals   | 02219 | 238.00        | 238.00       | 238.00      | 238.00     |
| 62493 Non-Employee Out State Lodging | 02219 | 1,348.62      | 1,348.62     | 1,348.62    | 1,348.62   |
| 62497 Non-Employee In-State Lodging | 02219 | 71.69         | 71.69        | 71.69       | 71.69      |
| TOTAL 62400 Travel                   | 02219 | 4,195.81      | 4,195.81     | 4,195.81    | 4,195.81   |

| TOTAL 62516 Meeting Rooms            | 02219 | 127.50        | 127.50       | 127.50      | 127.50     |
| 62817 Meetings/Conference Costs      | 02219 | 315.00        | 315.00       | 315.00      | 315.00     |
| TOTAL 62000 Operating Expenses       | 02219 | 5,298.81      | 5,298.81     | 5,298.81    | 5,298.81   |

| TOTAL FUND 02122 Advisory Council    |      | 7,044.92      | 7,044.92     | 7,044.92    | 7,044.92   |
| TOTAL FUND 02219 Research Fund       |      | 5,398.81      | 5,398.81     | 5,398.81    | 5,398.81   |

| TOTAL 62400 Travel                   | 02219 | 4,195.81      | 4,195.81     | 4,195.81    | 4,195.81   |

| TOTAL PART-A ACTUAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT SUMMARY | 12,443.73 | 12,443.73 | 12,443.73 | 12,443.73 |

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**TOTAL PART-A ACTUAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

210.47  210.47  210.47

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**TOTAL PROGRAM 2007**

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**TOTAL PART-B BUDGET EXPENSE ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

210.47

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**TOTAL PART-C CURR MONTH DETAIL EXPENSE TRANSACTIONS**

210.47
BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

JULY 12-13, 2007
FRONT STREET LEARNING CENTER
815 FRONT STREET
HELENA, MT

July 12, 2007 - Thursday
8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER
Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 12, 2007. Ms. Jenny Tiskus led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted. Ms. Patty Myers introduced the new Board of Public Education’s Student Representative, Ms. Katie Wood. Ms. Patty Myers acknowledged that due to Dr. Kirk Miller’s absence she would preside over the Government Affairs Committee and an Item 16a will be added to the agenda to address the recently created K-12 Interim Subcommittee presided by Mr. Casey Barrs.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chairperson Ms. Patty Myers, Vice Chairperson Ms. Angela McLean, Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Cal Gilbert, Ms. Sharon Carroll, Ms. Jenny Tiskus, and Ms. Katie Wood. Staff present at the meeting included Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education; Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council; and Ms. Carol Will, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Mr. Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, represented ex-officio Board Member Ms. Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent. Ms. Jan Lombardi, Governor’s Education Policy Advisor, represented ex-officio Board Member Governor Brian Schweitzer. Visitors in attendance at the meeting included: Ms. Beck McLaughlin, Montana Arts Council; Ms. Karen Richem, OPI; Mr. Larry Baker, MSU; Ms. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kris Wilkinson, LFD; Ms. Cathy Warhank, OPI; Ms. Debbie Casey, OPI; David Strong, OPI; Ms. Anna Green, Governor’s Office; Mr. Bob Runkel, OPI; Mr. Dick Clark, CIO; Mr. Al McMilin, OPI; Mr. Casey Barrs, LSD; Ms. Cindy O’Dell, Salish Kootenai College; Mr. Doug Ruhman, Salish Kootenai College; Ms. Joanne Sherwood, consultant; and Ms. Angela Helvey, teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the consent agenda. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

Items are presented in the order in which they appeared.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT-Patty Myers
- 5-14-07 MSDB Spring Program
- 5-26-07 MSDB Graduation
- 6-13-07 (SAM) Dinner for state award winners
- 6-21-07 Conference call with Commissioner Sheila Stearns, Ms. Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, and Mr. Steve Meloy
- 6-26-07 MSDB Committee
- 6-28-07 Meeting with Mr. Steve Gettel and Ms. Diane Moog
- 7-1-07  Interview with Billings Gazette
- 7-8-07  Meeting with Ms. Cheryl Crawley (New Superintendent in Great Falls)
- 7-11-07  Breakfast with Regents hosted by MSU-COT

**Item 2  EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT-Steve Meloy**
- Conference call with Commissioner Sheila Stearns, Ms. Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, and Ms. Patty Myers to examine areas of interest and alignment between the Board of Regents and the Board of Public Education
- CSPAC began the total review of Chapter 57
- Continued work with LSD on fiscal responsibility process for SB 152
- Contacted NASBE regarding NASBE’s operational concerns by the Board of Public Education
- K to College Workgroup meeting – July 25, 2007
- NCLB implications and future reauthorization of ESEA
- Legislative debriefing session
- SB2-Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

**Item 3  CSPAC REPORT-Peter Donovan**
Mr. Peter Donovan shared his message to the Board of Public Education as the President of NASDTEC. In July 2007 the 79th Annual NASDTEC Conference was held in Salt Lake City, UT titled: *Who Will Educate Our Children: An Olympic Challenge*. During the business meeting at the conference, the NASDTEC membership adopted the following goals:
- **Goal #1**: Review the future administrative needs of the organization in light of established goals and objectives.
- **Goal #2**: Increase the associate membership by 25% by 2010.
- **Goal #3**: Use information from the Troops to Teachers Mobility Study to determine how the Interstate Agreement might be modified for the 2010-2015 edition, including the possibility of portability of Highly Qualified status among states.
- **Goal #4**: Provide national leadership in the areas of on-line teacher preparation, the credentialing of virtual school teachers, and on-line professional development for educators by consulting other national organizations with areas of particular expertise with the goal to develop guidelines and standards to present back to the membership.
- **Goal #5**: Make the Clearinghouse and Knowledge Base databases even more efficient and effective for NASDTEC members.
- **Goal #6**: Strengthen NASDTEC’s relationships and partnerships with other stakeholders interested in quality educator preparation and certification.

**Item 4  STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-State Superintendent Linda McCulloch**
Mr. Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, presented the following information on behalf of State Superintendent Linda McCulloch:
- **Achievement in Montana (AIM)** - OPI completed student identifiers and assessment pre-label collection phases of AIM. Student enrollment information for registering students for the MontCAS Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). This collection replaced the requirement that districts submit student enrollment files to Measured Progress. Note that districts need to submit counts of the number of students that are expected to take the CRT-Alternate to Measured Progress.
- **NAEP News** - The National Assessment of Educational Progress takes place every two years. Spring 2007 testing was one of these main NAEP years for reading, math, and for some schools, writing. The results of this cycle are due to be released in late summer 2007. NAEP is slated to release the results of the 2006 12th grade testing in economics and a long awaited study comparing NAEP and state performance categories.
• Full-Time Kindergarten Funding Information – SB 2, which was passed in the 2007 Special Legislative Session, provides state ANB funding for students enrolled in full-time kindergarten programs. MCA 20-1-301 requires 360 minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction for a half-time program and 720 minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction for a full-time program as defined in MCA 20-7-117. MCA 20-7-117 states, “A kindergarten program that is designated as a full-time program must allow a parent, guardian, or other person who is responsible for the enrollment of a child in school, as provided in 20-5-102, to enroll the child half time.” Elementary school districts that intend to offer and enroll students in a full-time kindergarten program in FY2007-08 may apply for additional ANB funding.

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL REPORT – Topics included were: Indian Education for All Ready to Go Grants; Indian Education for All Museum Educator Best Practices Program; Museum and Schools and Co-Educators; curriculum development; professional development; and public education campaign.

10:20 a.m. Jan Lombardi arrived

Item 5 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT-Commissioner Sheila Stearns
No report presented because Commissioner Sheila Stearns and the Board of Regents were meeting in Great Falls at the same time as this Board of Public Education Meeting.

Item 6 GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT-Jan Lombardi
• Governor’s office is delighted with the legislative session on behalf of education.
• Governor won a National Cable Leaders and Learning Award and Policy Makers Excellence Award.
• Key focus since the 2007 Legislative Session is the Math And Science Initiative. Anna Green has been brought on staff to catapult the Math And Science Initiative.
  - Attended a GEAR UP Camp in Dawson Community College.
  - Attended Helena National Youth Forest Monitoring Project.
  - Attended Clark Fork Watershed Science Partnership Academy at Montana Tech.
  - Partnered with Montana National Guard with a grant titled Star Base. It is a math, science, and technology curriculum for 5th graders.
  - First lady has partnered with the United States, Alberta, and British Columbia to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park.
• Business Summit in Early Childhood.
• Partnering with the National Council on State Legislatures. Ms. Carol Juneau is the chair. A focus is to address the American Indian achievement gap.
• The First Lady and Ms. Jan Lombardi met with the women’s prison to determine what the needs are for adult education. The focus was how to help the women and women with children to help provide them some technical skills to live with a livable wage.
• Board of Education – Delighted that the meeting is in Lame Deer. The BOE meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, September 13th from 9-1:00. The Northern Cheyenne Council will be invited by Governor Brian Schweitzer to attend.
• K to College Workgroup will be meeting on July 25, 2007 to look at successes and strategic plans of BOR and BPE to continue collaboration. The report from the Southern Regional Education Board, Building Transitions from High School to College and Careers for Montana’s Youth, will be used as a template for the meeting.

Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT-Jenny Tiskus
Katie Wood (Introduction)
• Introduction of new Student Representative Ms. Katie Wood from Laurel, MT.
• Ms. Jenny Tiskus hopes that Ms. Katie Wood will continue with the radio spots and advertising from the NASBE grant and incorporate the on-line survey into the Montana Association of Student Council’s meeting in the fall.
• Addressed the concern that during the interview process for the BPE Student Representative position, the question was asked whether or not the potential representative has a parent with a credit card to
help pay for travel expenses. Ms. Jenny Tiskus requested that the Board looks into this process so that no one is denied from this position due to economic reasons. She suggested that the Board should consider paying for the Student Representative’s hotel room in advance.

- Ms. Jenny Tiskus suggested that the Board of Public Education consider partnering with the Montana Association of Student Council to market the support for the public school system through pennants to be displayed in community business’s windows.
- Ms. Jenny Tiskus thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent the students of Montana. She concluded by saying, “The Board has great heads and great hearts to do great things.”

Item 8  BPE’S STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE-Steve Meloy
Mr. Steve Meloy provided an overview of the Board of Public Education’s Strategic Planning Session held on Wednesday, July 11, 2007. The highlights are as follows:

- Reviewed those in attendance at the meeting.
- Topics discussed under public comment were: Learning First Alliance; fractured relations; review technology standards beyond distance learning; K to College Workgroup; marketing public education; and review of Chapter 57.
- Reviewed Legislative Finance Committee template for the Board of Public Education. Standardization allowed each appropriations subcommittee member to find the same information on each budgetary unit. The template will be amended every year to reflect the goals, measurable objectives, and the current status of measures.
- Draft of the Board of Public Education’s Annual Agenda Calendars for September 2007 – November 2008 and September 2008 – November 2009 was presented.
- Suggested revisions for the Board of Public Education’s bylaws.
- Each BPE committee reviewed the goals and emerging issues for the upcoming year.
- Alignment with Board of Regent’s Strategic Plan.
- Draft performance measures for 2007-2008 will be presented to the Board for review.
- The next 5-year strategic plan will be in July 2008. The Board will hire a consultant to assist in this process.

Item 9  ANNUAL GED REPORT-David Strong
Mr. David Strong, GED Administrator, presented the 2006 Montana GED Statistical and Demographic Reports. In addition the report of status of current fees charged for administration of the GED was also presented. The 2006 Montana GED Statistical and Demographic Reports were used to give an overview of the GED testing program in Montana and to identify current trends occurring in the state. The five top reasons on the Demographic Statistical Report for not completing high school were: Did not like school; was absent too many times; was bored; had trouble in math; and poor grades. Montana will be piloting some sites in 2008 to take the GED on-line through computer based testing centers. The yearly status report of GED fees was also presented, including rationale for a proposed increase from $48 to $55. OPI does not want to see a fee increase because the majority of the people taking the GED have a total annual income from $0 - $10,000 and a fee increase may cause an additional barrier; however, the costs of the expenses at the testing sites have increased. There has not been a fee increase since 2002 and the cost per student has risen by 15%. Mr. Steve Meloy reviewed the ARM rule to establish fees of 10.66.104. The rule states: “(1) Upon advice and consent of the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall establish annually a schedule of fees that may be charged for the administration of the GED test battery. The schedule of fees shall be commensurate with the testing program centers’ actual costs related to the GED test. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall report annually to the Board of Public Education the status of all fees associated with the GED test.”

The Board of Public Education agrees with the Superintendent of Public Instruction’s recommendation of raising the GED fees from $48 to $55 effective January 1, 2008.

Item 10  ASSESSMENT REPORT-Nancy Coopersmith
The Office of Public Instruction presented the 2007 Aggregated Iowa Test Results that were embargoed until July 13, 2007. The report aggregated results by:

1. *The National Percentile Rank (NPR). The NPR refers to the percent of students in the national
norm group that earned the same score or lower than Montana students. For example, a NPR of 57% would mean that Montana students scored the same as or better than 57% of the students in the national norm group.

2. **Montana performance levels.** Montana has designated four performance levels: Novice, nearing proficiency, proficient, and advanced.

Included in this report are charts and tables for the following:


The July 2007 *Jump Newsletter* was presented to the Board of Public Education to show how the Office of Public Instruction was notifying schools on the action of the Board on norm referenced testing. This edition of the newsletter was not distributed until the Board approved the BPE meeting minutes from May 10-11, 2007 at the July 12-13, 2007 Board of Public Education Meeting. Discussion ensued concerning how schools were being notified of this action and other significant issues. Some methods mentioned were: *Jump Newsletter*; list serves; staff, BPE/OPI websites; school district highlights; and educational partners. The Board and OPI agreed that they need to take extra steps to enhance communication among their constituents.

**Item 11 ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT-Bob Runkel**

The report included information on trends in special education child count and student enrollment, special education funding, and an analysis of twenty performance indicators that measure student outcomes.

- **Part I Students Served** – There has been a decline the last 2 years of special education students due to the following factors: Implementation of interventions in general education resulting in fewer referrals; student progress reviews that identified students no longer in need of special education instruction; decreases in student enrollment; and Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Services (CSCT) programs are providing services to emotionally disturbed students without special education support. The number of students identified as having Autism (AU) has increased substantially over the last 10 years.

- **Part 2 Funding** – Montana’s special education funding structure distributes state appropriations in accordance with 20-9-321, MCA, based on a combination of school enrollment and expenditures. Seventy percent of the appropriation is distributed through block grants, which are based on enrollment. Twenty-five percent is distributed through reimbursement for disproportionate costs, which is based on expenditures. The remaining 5 percent is distributed to special education cooperatives to cover costs related to travel and administration.

- **Part 3 Accountability** – Twenty federal indicators were listed based on a revised State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR). Some indicators listed were: Participation and performance of children with disabilities on statewide assessments; rates of suspension and expulsion; percent of preschool children with IEP’s who received special education and related services in settings with typically developing peers; percent of children with IEP’s, aged 6 through 21, in less restrictive and more restrictive educational environments; and percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

**Item 12 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS-John Fuller**

Mr. Steve Meloy presented this item in Mr. John Fuller’s absence. *The State Education Standard: Preparing for Tomorrow by Restructuring Today: Reforming America’s High Schools*, December 2006, was presented to the Board. Mr. Steve Meloy referred to the American Diploma Project (ADP) that states, “we must provide all students with a curriculum that will open the door to better opportunities, including post-secondary education and well-paying jobs. ADP calls for four years of grade-level English, including literature, writing, reasoning, logic and communication skills, and four years of math, including Algebra I and II, geometry, data analysis, and statistics. States in the ADP Network have pledged to raise their requirements over time, either by specifying the high-level courses students must take to earn a diploma
or by working with school districts to raise their local requirements."

Ms. Beck McLaughlin from the Montana Arts Council provided the Board with some research documenting the need for the arts in high school graduation requirements. A key point among many was: "The Arts enable students to make decisions and seek multiple solutions. They improved perception, reflection, and creative thought. They advance higher order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. The Arts provide powerful tools for understanding human experiences and cultures – past, present, and future."

Discussion ensued about the need to make learning real and relevant for students; providing a balanced education; and inviting Dr. Willard Dagget to the Board of Public Education as this topic is explored in greater depth.

**Item 13 REPORT OF SURRENDERS (3)-Cathy Warhank**
The Associated Press under the Montana Open Records Law requested information regarding the number of teachers who lost their educator licenses due to misconduct. The request was also for the names and previous districts of employment for those who lost a license due to sexual misconduct. OPI sought a letter of advice from Attorney General McGrath. Assistant Attorney General Ali Bovingdon advised that, because educators hold a position of public trust, the right to individual privacy in this case, was outweighed by the public’s right to know. This letter was presented to the Board under correspondence of the May 10-11, 2007 meeting. The individuals who are named in the response were notified of the disclosure by mail on April 16, 2007.

**3:25 p.m. CLOSED SESSION**

This report of the surrender of licenses by individuals who resigned from their current teaching positions to avoid termination. Their resignations were reported to the State Superintendent by their respective school districts as required under MCA 20-4-110.

**3:42 p.m. BPE MEETING RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION**

**Item 14 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REPORT-Nancy Coopersmith**
This presentation included information about recent No Child Left Behind (NCLB) activities including a federal on-site review of NCLB Title I, electronic applications for NCLB funding, and the federal appropriation for NCLB programs. It is the hope that the appropriations will be approved on time by September 30, 2007 and go in effect by October 1, 2007 with the distribution of funds by July 1, 2008. OPI received grant awards after July 1, 2007 and there was no attachment "T" and that indicated that the Office of Public Instruction is in compliance with Title II funds. Many doubt that the reauthorization of NCLB will occur before the next presidential election due to three significant issues that are not resolved in the draft bill: Minimum number for accountability; growth models; and how to deal with the achievement of children with disabilities. In June 2007 OPI had the on-site federal review of NCLB Title I which included: Title I Part A; Title I Even Start; Title I Neglected and Delinquent; and Homeless Programs. On-site reviews were conducted at Rocky Boy, Butte, Billings, and Hardin. An exit conference was held and a draft of the review will be made available within 35 working days. The accountability workbook or application for funding can only be revised with an amendment request. The Office of Public Instruction requested the following: All schools are to be allowed to be part of the small schools accountability process; if that isn't approved, then change the "N" for the subgroup to "All Students" subgroup to "40"; and flexibility of special education. The results were that the only amendment request that was approved was the flexibility of special education. The Office of Public Instruction plans to mail the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) proposed determinations around August 1, 2007 to school districts.

**Item 15 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT-Steve Gettel**
Mr. Steve Gettel distributed the following documents for the MSDB Annual Report: Present Law Adjustments-Agency Level; MAD (Montana Association of the Deaf, Inc.) Resolutions-2007; Montana Association of the Deaf, Inc. letter from Ms. Alice Guilbert, Secretary; Office of Public Instruction letter
dated May 24, 2007 from Ms. Marilyn Pearson, Acting Direction Division of Special Education; and District Performance Report on State Performance Indicators for school year 2005-2006. The items that were discussed during the MSDB Committee Meeting Report were:

1. MSDB Annual Report
2. Human Resources
   -Personnel actions
   -Update on negotiations with MEA-MFT and UFCW
3. Professional Development
   -Orientation plans for 2007-2008
4. 2007 Legislative Session
   -Review of actions taken
5. MSDB Foundation
   -Update of activities
6. Conferences, Meetings, and Contacts
7. Finance and Facilities
   -Update on year-end finances and maintenance projects
8. School Calendar of Events
9. Student News
   -Summer Programs
10. Public Comment for Non Agenda Items

July 13, 2007 – Friday
8:30 a.m.

Item 16 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND STATE CONNECTIVITY-Dick Clark, Chief Information Officer

Mr. Dick Clark presented the following to the Board of Public Education: His information technology vision; the package that was presented during the 2007 legislative session; the outcome of the session; and the challenges for the future of information technology and state connectivity.

• Vision – Mr. Dick Clark explained that Ireland was the largest exporter of people due to the immigration of their children to search for better jobs. This caused the Irish to establish a plan to build the connectivity in their country. As a result, the Celtic economy is the fastest growing economy in Europe today. Mr. Dick Clark stressed that Montana is experiencing the exportation of its children as did Ireland.

• Package presented to 2007 Legislative session: Mr. Dick Clark prepared a package to take to the 2007 Legislative Session dealing with the executive agencies investing in the lighting up of some dark fiber and upgrade the network connectivity to move a tremendous amount of data quickly for research within the university system and other institutions.

• Outcome – The technology package of connectivity received a lot of focus during the session. The telecommunication industry in the state of Montana was adamantly against this dark fiber being lit. A compromise was reached where the state executive agencies would not be able to use the fiber for transport, but the university system could use the fiber for research. The university system has money budgeted to light this fiber, but the law is ambiguous as to what can go on this fiber. In the preamble of the law it states that it shall be used for research and education, but later on in the law it only talks about research. Mr. Dick Clark states that if you don’t include education, it is hard to separate out research. So it will be litigated so that this dark fiber can be lit.

• A challenge for the future – The Board of Education’s mission is to educate Montana’s children just as the Board of Regent’s. Mr. Dick Clark asked what the education of K-20 look like? He stressed that it can’t be split. How is the Board of Public Education going to work with the telecommunication’s industry? Kids don’t live in audio. Kids live in video today, but it takes a lot of bandwidth and connectivity. The Board of Public Education along with the Board of Regent’s need to have a strategic plan to build this connectivity for the education of Montana students. In order to build the future of Montana we need to have a balanced economy between knowledge and finances.
A rich discussion followed in regard to the transferability of data being expensive to collect and the importance of being able to share the data and maintain its security. In conclusion, Mr. Dick Clark stressed that other states are doing what we are just talking about. This can’t wait. Every day that passes is another day that is wasted.

Item 16a K-12 SUBCOMMITTEE – Casey Barrs, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division
On June 29, 2007 the Education and Local Government Interim Committee created the K-12 Public Education Subcommittee. This subcommittee’s membership could include: 4 legislators; 2 Board of Public Education members; 1 executive appointee; and 1 Superintendent of Public Instruction as an ex-officio. The four legislators to date are: Senator Sam Kitzenberg, Chairman; Senator Dave Lewis; Representative Wanda Grinde; and Representative John Ward. The other two subcommittees formed were: Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget; and HB 49. The purpose of these subcommittees is the need to make the education system more seamless. Mr. Casey Barrs distributed the Education and Local Government Interim Committee 2007-2008 Work Plan. The 2007-2008 committee schedule:
- June 29, 2007
- September 25, 2007
- December 13-14, 2007
- March 13-14, 2008
- June 12-13, 2008
- September 4-5, 2008
- Final decision by committee on content of reports and proposed legislation, if any.
- Selection of bill sponsors.
- Review proposals and decide whether or not to request that staff draft Board of Education, Board of Public Education, Board of Regents, or the Office of Public Instruction’s legislation for pre-introduction.

Mr. Casey Barrs identified six possible topics for consideration:
1. New distance learning rule and dual (high school – college) credit programs
2. Department of Administration school facilities inventory
3. Funding in second year of biennium
4. Financial challenges for rural schools
5. Preparedness for college
6. Education Savings Plans

The Distance Learning Task Force will be a great vehicle for Mr. Casey Barrs and he requested to be notified of all upcoming meetings. Dr. Kirk Miller and Ms. Patty Myers will be the Board of Public Education members on this subcommittee.

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.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 17 ACCREDITATION UPDATE – ADDENDUM TO THE 2006-07 RECOMMENDATIONS-AI McMillin
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended to the Board of Public Education the approval of the Addendum to the 2006-2007 Accreditation Status as presented at the May 2007 Board of Public Education meeting. The addendum is for the Manhattan Public School 7-8 in Gallatin County to change from Advice (No library services offered) to Regular. The reason is the librarian FTE was not reported correctly by the district. Manhattan 7-8 does provide library services. This change affects the middle grade school summary data as reflected on the bar charts. The percent of middle grade schools in regular status now becomes eighty-one percent and the percent of middle grade schools in advice status now becomes seven percent. The change is too small to affect the all schools category.
MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the addendum to the 2007-2007 Montana Accreditation Status Recommendations. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

Item 18 ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARDS REQUEST-Al McMillin
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended to the Board of Public Education the approval of the Alternative to Standards Request for the five-year renewal in accordance with 10.55.604, ARM, and including an on-site visit when practical and appropriate for Wisdom Elementary from school year 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. The standards that were reviewed and evaluated were: 10.55.709, Library Media Services; and 10.55.710, School Counseling Services. The Accreditation Status Summary – Addendum #1 and #2 – June 2007 was included.

MOTION: Mrs. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the alternative standard five-year renewal application for standards 10.55.709, Library Media Services and 10.55.710, School Counseling Services for Wisdom Elementary in Beaverhead County per the recommendation of the State Superintendent. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

Item 19 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM PROPOSED BY SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT-Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson and Cindy O’Dell
On April 10-12, 2007, the Office of Public Instruction conducted a state review of the Professional Education Unit at the Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo, MT. The purpose of the review was to validate the Professional Education Unit’s Institutional Report (IR) for the Elementary Education Program at SKC. The review was based on the standards articulated in the Board of Public Education’s approved 2007-2013 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) and Procedures Manual. SKC requested initial accreditation for its Elementary Education program.

Professor Audrey Peterson, the University of Montana-Missoula, served as chairperson of the review. Mr. Peter Donovan, Ms. Bonnie Klein, and Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson served as members of the State Verification Team.

The review found that the standards, as established by the Board of Public Education, were met. The State Verification Team recommends initial accreditation for the Elementary Education program in the Professional Education Unit at the Salish Kootenai College, with a follow-up visit to be scheduled in 2009 to review the assessment system and the Salish Kootenai College Elementary Education program data regarding student knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

The State Superintendent recommends to the Board of Public Education the approval of the initial accreditation. The following documents were included: *Salish Kootenai College Professional Education Unit State Review, April 10-12, 2007, Exit Report*; and *Professional Education Unit, Salish Kootenai College, Program Review Report Form, April 2007*.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to accept the State Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the initial accreditation of the Elementary Education program in the Professional Education Unit at Salish Kootenai College. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

Item 20 REQUEST TO PROCEED ON ACADEMIC DENIAL OF LICENSE-Cathy Warhank
Ms. Nancy Gede appealed the decision of the Office of Public Instruction to deny her a Special Education Endorsement for the state of Montana during the May 2007 Board of Public Education meeting. The Board moved to delay action from the Board until July 2007 to provide Ms. Nancy Gede the opportunity to obtain a transcript review from a higher education institution. Ms. Brenda Hanson, Licensure Specialist, University of Montana, School of Education, notified Ms. Nancy Gede via e-mail on June 2, 2007 that of
the 30 credits required for a teaching minor, Ms. Nancy Gede completed 6 credits. In addition to the 24 credits that are needed, Ms. Nancy Gede would also need to pick up a teaching major to be eligible for licensure in Montana.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended to the Board of Public Education to take final action on Ms. Nancy Gede’s denial. Ms. Cathy Warhank explained to the Board that Ms. Nancy Gede may not appeal to the Board on the same ground for three years, but could submit new data and reapply her appeal.

**MOTION:** Ms. Angela McLean moved to accept the recommendation of the State Superintendent to deny Ms. Nancy Gede, Case No. 2007-01 BPE, the Special Education Endorsement for the state of Montana. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

**Item 21 TEACHER LICENSURE**
- **ANGELA HELVEY – Steve Meloy**

Ms. Patty Myers stated that Montana statute allows the presiding officer of a public meeting to close a meeting during the time a discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy, if the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure. Ms. Patty Myers believed that the public’s right to know should prevail in this particular case.

Mr. Dick Richardson, Superintendent of Heart Butte School, notified Mr. Steve Meloy that Ms. Angela Helvey breached her contract for the 2006-2007 school year. The Heart Butte School Board felt that there was a substantial and material nonperformance of the employment contract between the teacher and the trustees of the school without good cause or the written consent of the trustees. The Heart Butte School Board requested that the Board of Public Education complete an investigation and take action they feel is appropriate. Mr. Steve Meloy reviewed ARM 10.57.801 in regard to “substantial and material non-performance of the employment contract.”

Ms. Angela Helvey read a letter written by her to the Board of Public Education, dated April 30, 2007. A prepared packet of materials was distributed in the Board’s agenda packets two weeks prior to the Board of Public Education’s July meeting to be reviewed.

An in depth discussion occurred between Ms. Angela Helvey and the Board of Public Education in regard to the following: “Good cause”; improvement plans; and contractual obligations. The Board of Public Education expressed its concern that there is the development of a negative employment pattern.

**MOTION:** Ms. Angela McLean moved to place a letter of reprimand in Ms. Angela Helvey’s public record licensure file for a breach of her teaching contract with the Heart Butte School District. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kris Wilkinson, Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division, wanted to notify the Board of Public Education of a change in process used by the Legislative Finance Committee in which the Board reports. The Board of Public Education’s budget is appropriated by the legislature during the interim time when the legislature is not in session. The Legislative Finance Division oversees the finance matters of the state and its appropriations. When the Board of Public Education made its presentation to the subcommittee on education, the Board created a template with goals and objectives. The Finance Committee has made a decision to have various members of each subcommittee look at how each agency is doing on its goals and objectives. Senator David Wanzenried and Ms. Kris Wilkinson are assigned to the Board of Education to review the progress of its goals and objective and report to the Finance Committee every 6 months. In addition, the report will be made available to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee.
11: 30 a.m. CLOSED SESSION

Item 22 REVOCATION (S) OF LICENSES (3)-Cathy Warhank
After initial investigation, the State Superintendent has found that sufficient grounds exist to recommend revocation of educator licenses held by three individuals. The State Superintendent believes that the right to privacy of the individuals involved exceeds the public's right to know in these instances and requested a closed session.

12:22 p.m. BPE MEETING RECONVENCED TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke license 2007-7-1. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke license 2007-7-2. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke license 2007-7-3. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to have the revocation of 2007-7-1 come into effect in 30 days after notification unless the person involved in this case chooses to appeal. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to have the revocation of 2007-7-2 come into effect in 30 days after notification unless the person involved in this case chooses to appeal. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to have the revocation of 2007-7-3 come into effect in 30 days after notification unless the person involved in this case chooses to appeal. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS BPE MEETING– SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2007
Set Annual Agenda Calendar
Election of Board Officers
Committee Appointments
Superintendent Goals
BPE Goal Review
Assessment Update
NCLB Update
MACIE Update
Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update will be moved to November 2007 BPE meeting
Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (Discussion 9-13-2007)
Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (Action 9-14-2007)
Amendments of BPE Bylaws – Action
Strategic Planning Working Document 2007-2008 – Action
Invite State Superintendent candidates to BPE meeting in November 2007
Invite Teacher of Year to an upcoming BPE meeting
Meeting was adjourned by concurrence of the Board of Public Education at 12:40 p.m.
7/12/07

Ms. Patty Meyers, Chair
Montana Board of Public Education
46 North Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 200601
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. Meyers,

I am writing to formally request the opportunity to be a member of the Board of Public Education’s task force on Distance Learning which will be meeting over the next two years to discuss the implications of the recently adopted Distance Learning Rule. I have testified on two occasions regarding the Kalispell Schools’ interest in this issue and feel that the viewpoint I have represented is important to this process. Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this possibility.

Respectfully,

Dan Zorn, Assistant Superintendent
Kalispell Public Schools
233 1st Ave E
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-751-3434 (office)
406-261-1827 (cell)
zornd@sd5.k12.mt.us
August 6, 2007

Dan Zorn, Assistant Superintendent
Kalispell Public Schools
233 1st Ave E
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Dan,

The steering committee of the Distance Learning Task Force has decided to use the same membership for Phase II as it did for Phase I. Soon we will be sending out a letter of invitation to all of the organizations involved, extending to them the opportunity to keep their representation the same or to name an alternate.

In this regard, I would suggest that you contact Mr. Darrell Rud of the School Administrators of Montana. In Phase I this organization was represented by Mr. Rud, but the process does not foreclose his ability to substitute someone to Phase II. Please be reminded that all of the meetings will be open to the public, and that at each meeting public comment will be welcomed. Thank you for your interest in this important work. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Steve H. Meloy
Executive Secretary

Cc: Patty Myers
Kirk Miller

clw
July 13, 2007

Ms. Patty Myers
Chairperson
Montana Board of Public Education
P.O. Box 200601
Helena, MT 59620-0601

Dear Ms. Myers:

As you know, the Education and Local Government (ELG) Interim Committee met on June 29th. Among other things, it resolved to form three subcommittees. Two of those include the K-12 Public Education Subcommittee and the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee.

The creation of a subcommittee dedicated to K-12 issues will help ensure that legislative members stay apprised of current issues and innovations in education, both in the state and nationwide. This is an ongoing obligation, especially in light of term limits and the loss of Legislators with significant institutional memory in K-12 educational matters. Another reason it was deemed important to create this subcommittee was the venue it can provide for our members to sit and work with those in the education community. We propose that the K-12 subcommittee consist of four Legislators, two Board of Public Education members, one executive appointee, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction (the only ex-officio non-voting member).

We are very pleased to learn that the Board will be interested in delegating two members to the K-12 subcommittee. Please let this letter serve as our formal invitation. Kindly respond, when you are able, with the names of the two Board members you would like to designate in this capacity. You are welcome now, and at any time over the Interim, to contact us with your thoughts about how the ELG committee can most productively work with the Board.

We look forward to the collaboration.

Sincerely,

Rick Laible
Senator Rick Laible
Chairman
ELG Interim Committee
MEMORANDUM

TO: BPE MEMBERS

FROM: STEVE MELOY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DATE: JULY 18, 2007

RE: SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL BOARD (SREB)

Dear Board,

Please find attached the SREB (Southern Regional Educational Board) report regarding building transitions from high school to college and careers. This is the report to which I referred in my Executive Report to the Board at our July 2007 meeting. What brings particular importance to this document is that Jan Lombardi has determined that its ideas are in line with the Governor’s vision of workforce development from the 10,000 foot level. The emphasis of the work of the K-College Workgroup from this point forward will focus on one piece of the Governor’s previously mentioned homework assignments. That piece is career and workforce development in Montana.

As you will read in the report, not only are transition strategies mentioned, but suggestions specific to Montana are given. Therefore, a determination has been made to use this document as a template for the future work of the K-College Workgroup.

If you have any questions in this regard please do contact me.
MISSOULA (AP) — State education officials have dropped the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a standardized test administered in Montana elementary schools since 2000.

The test doesn’t work well with federal No Child Left Behind rules, state officials say. The new system wants measurements of how close students are to mastering a given set of concepts and skills for their grade. No Child Left Behind mandates that all U.S. children be able to master those grade-level requirements by 2014.

“The MontCAS test that is required by NCLB is such a high-stakes test, schools are really having to focus on that,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch told the Missoulian newspaper in a story published Wednesday. “We haven’t heard from folks who wanted to keep the tests, but we have heard a lot that we’re over-tested,” she said.

MontCAS is the new format designed to meet the federal testing requirements. It is the basis of the adequate yearly progress ratings that schools must publish each year about their students’ performance.

The Iowa Test was used for decades by many school districts because of its ability to rank students against one another and against peers in other regions. It also covered more subject areas than the MontCAS test.

The state Board of Public Education opted to impose the Iowa Test statewide in 2000, with a three-year contract worth about $300,000 a year, McCulloch said. It extended that contract two times at two years each but decided not to renew the contract when it expired in May.

Next year the federal rules demand testing in reading and math in grades three through eight, plus high school sophomores, along with a new science test in fourth, eighth and sophomore grades. Poor performance on those tests at the school level can cost a district federal dollars or trigger management changes.

Another test, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, gets assigned to random schools every other year in various subjects.
July 20, 2007

Mr. Casey Barrs, Research Analyst
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Mr. Barrs:

The Montana Board of Public Education is committed to the upcoming work of the K-12 Subcommittee that was established by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee on June 29, 2007. Dr. Kirk Miller, Government Affairs Committee Chair and Ms. Patty Myers, Chair for the Board of Public Education have been designated as the appointees to the K-12 Subcommittee.

Thank you for bringing this invitation to the Board of Public Education at its July 11-13, 2007 meeting. If there is anything else that can be done to support the work of this committee, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Steve H. Meloy

Cc: Governor Brian Schweitzer
    Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent
    Jan Lombardi, Governor’s Education Policy Advisor
    Kris Wilkinson, Fiscal Analyst, LFD
July 23, 2007

Dr. Joseph McDonald, President
Salish Kootenai College
PO Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear Dr. McDonald:

The Board of Public Education congratulates Salish Kootenai College on being awarded initial accreditation to the elementary education teacher preparation program. The Board recognizes the significance that Salish Kootenai College is the only tribal college in Montana to offer a state accredited teacher preparation program.

Teacher recruitment and retention has been given a high priority by this Board of Public Education. In addition, legislative initiatives are constantly explored to encourage this state’s teacher candidates to remain in Montana. Also quality teachers not only play the crucial role, but have been identified by the federal government as necessary in order to increase student achievement.

The Board again congratulates Salish Kootenai College for stepping up to the challenge of producing more highly qualified Montana motivated teacher candidates as well as recognizing your promise of increasing the numbers of well qualified American Indian teachers in Montana schools.

Sincerely,

Steve H. Meloy

Cc: Cindy O’Dell, Chairperson Professional Education Unit
Doug Ruhman, Education Instructor
PRESS RELEASE

Board of Public Education Accredits Teacher Education Program at Salish Kootenai College

HELENA – The Board of Public Education has awarded initial accreditation to the elementary education teacher preparation program at the Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo, Montana. The SKC is the only tribal college in Montana to offer a state accredited teacher preparation program.

The accredited program has developed over a ten year period and evolved from a multi-year partnership with the teacher preparation program at the University of Montana-Western. Patty Myers, Chair of the Board, hailed the accreditation of the SKC program as a “significant achievement that will provide long-term benefits to the children in Montana and help to increase the number of American Indian teachers in our schools.”

The state conducted an on-site review of the SKC Teacher Education program on April 10 to 12, 2007. The review team found that all of the standards, as established by the Board of Public Education, were met. The state will conduct a follow-up visit in 2009 to review the college’s assessment system.

Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE, stated, “Having an accredited teacher preparation program at a tribal college is a major accomplishment for the faculty and administration of SKC. The Board is pleased with SKC’s promise of increasing the numbers of well qualified American Indian teachers in our Montana schools.”
Salish-Kootenai College will offer degree in education
By KRISTEN CATES
Tribune Staff Writer

Salish Kootenai College will be the first tribal college in Montana to offer a bachelor's degree in elementary education, according to the Montana Board of Public Education.

For several years, Salish Kootenai College has had an education program, but it was operated through the University of Montana-Western, according to Steve Meloy, executive secretary for the board of public education.

The college now has its own program after being accredited by the board of public education, following an on-site review in April.

The education program, which offers a kindergarten to eighth grade teaching degree, is open to anyone and is comparable to a degree one would receive at any four-year college in the Montana University System.

However, Meloy said there is a specific aim for Salish Kootenai College's program.

"The idea is to get more young Native American teachers in the ranks," Meloy said.

The college is located in Pablo on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Under the previous guidelines, students spent two years studying education in Pablo and two years at the University of Montana-Western in Dillon, said Alice Chumrau, vice president of academic affairs at the college.

Now students can stay closer to home while earning their degrees, she said.

Meloy said hopefully the teachers who graduate from the program will work in Montana.

Chumrau said the goal now will be getting districts to hire Native Americans who graduate from the program.

She credited professors in the education program for helping to gain accreditation. The next goal will be to develop an early childhood education program as well.

"We're really excited about it," she said.
BOARD MEMBERS

APPOINTED MEMBERS:
Patty Myers – Chair
Great Falls

Angela McLean – Vice Chair
Anaconda

Kirk Miller, Ed.D.
Bozeman

Storrs Bishop
Ennis

John Fuller
Whitefish

Cal Gilbert
Great Falls

Sharon Carroll
Ekalaka

Katie Wood, Student Rep.
Laurel

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sheila Stearns, Ed.D.
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Linda McCulloch,
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Steve Meloy

August 13, 2007

Gary Carmichael
221 Peregrine Lane
Whitefish, MT 59937

Dear Mr. Carmichael:

Congratulations on being the 2007 recipient of the Montana Teacher of the Year award by the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation. This honor signifies your passion to ensure the highest quality of education for Montana students.

As the Teacher of the Year, the Board of Public Education would like to extend an invitation to you to attend one of its meetings. Two meetings that will be held in Helena during the upcoming school year are scheduled for November 8-9, 2007 and March 6-7, 2008. The Board invites you to attend one of these meetings to discuss any issues you see that affects current education efforts as well as to honor you and your achievements as an educator. Your presentation would be between 15 and 20 minutes and would be heard by the entire Board.

The Board of Public Education looks forward to the opportunity to acknowledge your achievement. Please contact me in regard to which date would be best for you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steve H. Meloy
Executive Secretary
Memorandum

TO: Chris Buslee, Assistant Attorney General
FROM: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary
DATE: August 24, 2007
RE: Revocations

Please find enclosed copies of correspondence in regard to the three pending revocations brought before the Board by the Office of Public Instruction. In the event that any licensee responds in a timely manner requesting a hearing, we most likely will need your legal guidance and assistance. We have also attached a copy of the proposed meeting schedule for the Board for the next two years.

Thank you for your assistance in these matters. Your comments and suggestions have been most helpful. If you have any questions regarding these cases, please do not hesitate to contact me.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Board of Education's Schedule</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2007</td>
<td>LAME DEER</td>
<td>BOE Determined by Board of Public Education's Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Set Annual Agenda Calendar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Election of Board Officers</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Committee Appointments</td>
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<td>Superintendent Goals</td>
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<td>BPE Goal Review</td>
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<td>Assessment Update</td>
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<tr>
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<td>NCLB Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER 8-9, 2007</td>
<td>HELENA</td>
<td>Assessment Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NCLB Update</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Alternative Standards Request</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>MACIE Annual Report</td>
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<td>Joint MACIE/BPE/OPI Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>MACIE Update</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update (Odd Years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY 3-4, 2008</td>
<td>HELENA</td>
<td>BOE Determined by Board of Regent’s Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5 YCEP Process Update</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Exiting Board Member-Last Meeting</td>
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<td>Transportation Report</td>
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<td>MACIE Update</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Report on Teacher Education Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 6-7, 2008</td>
<td>HELENA</td>
<td>Executive Secretary Performance Evaluation &amp; Contract Extension Discussion</td>
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<td>MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation &amp; Contract Extension Discussion</td>
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<td>Establish Executive Staff Salaries</td>
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<td>CSPAC/BPE Joint meeting</td>
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<td>Annual CSPAC Report</td>
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<td>Annual School Food Services Report</td>
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<td>Assessment Update</td>
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<td>Accreditation Recommendations</td>
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<td>NCLB Update</td>
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<td>Alternative Standards Requests &amp; Renewals</td>
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<td>MACIE Update</td>
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<td>Special Education Report</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Board of Education’s Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAY 8-9, 2008</td>
<td>GREAT FALLS</td>
<td>Distribute Survey Instruments (May 2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Student Representative Survey Report</td>
</tr>
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<td>CSPAC Appointments</td>
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<td>BASE Aid Payment Schedule</td>
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<td>Assessment Update</td>
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<td>MACIE Update</td>
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<td>NCLB Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY 9-11, 2008</td>
<td>HELENA</td>
<td>Strategic Mtg –Review Bylaws &amp; Operational Rules</td>
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<td>Student Representative Last Meeting</td>
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<td>Annual GED Report</td>
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<td>PABLO</td>
<td>BOE Determined by Board of Public Education’s Schedule</td>
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Revised 07/11/2007
### BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
### ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDAR  September 2008 – November 2009
(Proposed Items from OPI are in italics)

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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
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<th>Agenda Items</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2008</strong></td>
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<td>BOE Determined by Board of Public Education’s Schedule</td>
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<td>Joint MACIE/BPE/OPI Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>JANUARY 8-9, 2009</strong></td>
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<td>Report on Teacher Education Program</td>
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<td><strong>MARCH 5-6, 2009</strong></td>
<td>HELENA</td>
<td>Executive Secretary Performance Evaluation &amp; Contract Extension Discussion</td>
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<td>Establish Executive Staff Salaries</td>
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<td>Special Education Report</td>
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<td><strong>MAY 7-8, 2009</strong></td>
<td>GREAT FALLS</td>
<td>Distribute Survey Instruments (May 2009)</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 8-10, 2009</strong></td>
<td>HELENA</td>
<td>Strategic Mtg.—Review Bylaws &amp; Operational Rules</td>
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<td>Student Representative Last Meeting</td>
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Smoky summer is almost history and the Board continues to be involved in many projects. We have coordinated efforts to begin Phase II of the distance learning work which has proven to be challenging, given the busy schedules of the many participants. Work continues in the coordination with OPI on an assessment working group to continue identifying appropriate and meaningful assessments for all of our school districts. The new curriculum specialists will be involved with assessment and that should be helpful. The K-College Workgroup has met and is scheduled to meet again in October. The CSPAC crew continues its work with the licensure folk at OPI to continue the important review and modification process tied with Chapter 57. We met with the Governor’s Chief of Staff regarding the past session and to begin the work of identifying legislation for the next biennium. The Legislative Audit will begin a performance audit of MSDB. We have worked with the new attorney at OPI to review and change the way license disciplines are brought before the BPE. An out-of-town buyer has purchased our building; which has hastened the need to identify what the BPE and OCHE will do in the near future for work space.

Board work continues to include but is not limited to: Implementing various pieces of global legislation from the ‘07 session; the future of the NRT as well as future assessments to inform instruction; total review of Chapter 57; the K-College Workgroup; Distance Learning Task Force Phase I follow-up and Phase II; the Dual Enrollment/Credit work; the Counsellorship Initiative; the assessment alignment work; MSDB coordination and oversight; MSDB strategic planning; the follow-up of the previous Interim Committee work; monitoring the MQEC and their efforts; CSPAC Assessment Study Group; Pilot (Praxis II) testing efforts; NCLB implications and future reauthorization of ESEA; the work of the Montana E-Learning Consortium and its future; meetings of the Ed Forums; the Special Purpose Schools Task Force; Chapter 55 review process; the PEPPS Review Advisory Panel; the BPE five-year plan; involvement with planning for NASBE’s annual meeting; the monitoring of the Writing Assessment Consortia Project; the writing implementation committee work; monitoring the Indian Education for All efforts; the High School Improvement Initiative; results of the Legislative Audit Committee on high school drop-out rate in Montana and data alignment between OCHE and OPI; performance based budgeting proposals and preparation of a template for the 2009 session; work on project to implement the teacher loan repayment plan found in SB 2; work on issues revolving around “alternative to our standards” requests; ongoing questions related to the bullying issue; financial education curricular concerns; school nutrition and physical education; civic education; site planning for the BPE in the next biennium; NASBE grant in student leadership; special meetings of the BPE; strategy development for the 2009 Legislative session; license discipline processes particularly related to suspensions and revocations; and the fielding of an increasing number of calls from the public regarding various and current issues before the Board.
Most of the other issues with which I have dealt have been brought to your attention by way of phone and e-mail correspondence, however I have highlighted the following:

- Continued work with LSD on fiscal responsibility processes for SB 152.
- Worked with Anneliese on web-site continuous modifications to our website.
- Met with Governor’s office to discuss legislation.
- Received word that LAD will conduct performance audit at MSDB.
- Continued work on the state’s broadband system and our policies.
- Worked with the DOA in filling CSPAC position.
- Attended meeting of the K-College Workgroup.
- Continued discussions with Commissioner on office prospects for the future.
- Worked on processing three revocations from OPI.
- Completed draft of strategic plan for coming fiscal year.
- Contacted NASBE regarding Montana’s voting delegate to ‘07 meeting.
- Worked on license denial appeal.
- Submitted press release on the new teacher prep program at SKC.
- Worked on agenda for the National Association of Educational Executives.
- Attended meeting on the pre-release of ACT scores for Montana.
- Hired Anneliese Warhank for vacated CSPAC position.
- Worked with LFD on their request for strategic plans from all agencies.
- Worked with OPI on scheduling a joint CSPAC and BPE meeting.
- Worked on survey to determine best dates for Distance Learning Phase II.
- Attended two meetings of a working group on the SB 2 implementation.
- Worked with creating MEA-MFT panels for the fall conference.
- Worked with MCEL regarding board involvement with their fall conference.

We continue to receive comments from the field on two important issues before the Board. The most recently being at the MTSBA delegate assembly which Storrs and I attended. Those include the future of the NRT and amendments to our distance learning rule. There continues to be apprehension in the districts regarding the impact that our new rule scheduled for effectiveness in July of 2009 will have on school districts. Hopefully these items will be resolved in the near future to enable districts to operationally plan for the coming school year. Strategic planning is of current increased importance given the legislative interest in plans, alignment with OCHE, K-College Workgroup and planning for the BPE commencement of a new five-year plan beginning in July of 2008.
Kindergarten to College Priorities
Steve Meloy

1. Implement a single system for educational data that links all education data systems from pre-kindergarten through higher education.

2. Require essential core course for all high school students. These include:
   - Four credits of English
   - Four credits of mathematics
   - Three credits of lab-based, college-preparatory science courses
   - Three credits in college-preparatory social studies

3. Set reasonable – but ambitious – annual targets toward meeting the 100 percent graduation goal and provide incentives to schools for meeting them.

4. Adopt an overarching dual enrollment policy statewide, establishing methods for developing, implementing and monitoring dual enrollment in Montana’s postsecondary institutions.
DISTANCE LEARNING TASK FORCE PHASE II

The first meeting will address the following: Recap the Phase I work; additional definitions to be considered; expressed concerns; timeline; staff subgroups; what to accomplish; logistics; and review of the “parking lot” issues from Phase I.

The second meeting will be a reporting of staff subgroups; opportunity to expand staff subgroups to Phase II members; discussion of information sharing with constituent groups; and discussion of pertinent issues to address.

The third meeting will identify relevant issues related to the work of the subgroups and recommendations from subgroups to the full task force.

The final meeting will center on consensus building and the task force will vote on specific language to be forwarded to the Board of Public Education for their consideration in March 2008.

While adhering to the guiding principle of delivering distance education to serve student learning needs with flexibility and quality, the subgroups will consider the following issues:

- Consideration of a new Class 8 licensure category
- Dual enrollment/flexibility issues
- ANB/fiscal considerations
President’s Message
Peter Donovan (MT)

The Olympic spirit is alive and well in NASDTEC, as was witnessed at the 79th Annual Conference in Salt Lake City the theme of which was: Who Will Educate Our Children: An Olympic Challenge. The NASDTEC Annual Conference provided a unique opportunity for some of the best and brightest minds from across the nation to assemble and learn from each other in a collaborative environment about ongoing challenges and emerging issues in educator preparation, certification and licensure.

From Utah Governor Huntsman’s remarks at the beginning of the conference to the update on the NASDTEC Mobility Study at the conclusion, attendees experienced a variety of speakers and facilitators who led conversations on the “Olympic” challenges faced in teacher preparation and certification/licensure throughout the country. I hope that your memories from the 79th Annual NASDTEC Conference in Salt Lake City in June are as wonderful as mine.

During the business meeting on Tuesday during the conference, the Executive Board presented, and the NASDTEC membership adopted, the following goals and objectives to guide us in the preparation of our operating budgets for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. The Executive Board is looking forward to working with the NASDTEC membership to achieve these important goals and objectives:

Goal #1: Review the future administrative needs of the organization in light of established goals and objectives.

Objective: To appoint a group of former NASDTEC presidents to review administrative needs and report their findings to the Executive Board by the February 2008 board meeting.
Goal #2: Increase the associate membership by 25% by 2010.

Objective: The Executive Board will develop a plan of action for increasing memberships and participation of associate members.

Goal #3: Use information from the Troops to Teachers Mobility Study to determine how the Interstate Agreement might be modified for the 2010-2015 edition, including the possibility of portability of Highly Qualified status among states.

Objective: To assign this project to the Interstate Committee for completion.

Goal #4: Provide national leadership in the areas of on-line teacher preparation, the credentialing of virtual school teachers, and on-line professional development for educators by consulting other national organizations with areas of particular expertise with the goal to develop guidelines and standards to present back to the membership.

Objective: To assign this project to the Professional Preparation and Continuing Development Committee for completion by the 2008 annual conference.

Goal #5: Make the Clearinghouse and Knowledge Base databases even more efficient and effective for NASDTEC members.

Objective: To assign this project to the Technology Committee and Professional Practices for completion by the 2008 annual conference.

Goal #6: Strengthen NASDTEC’s relationships and partnerships with other stakeholders interested in quality educator preparation and certification.

Objective: For members of NASDTEC’s Executive Board to meet and confer with other organizations such as AACTE, CCSSO and others to establish a relationship to support educator preparation and certification with a report to the 2008 annual conference.

Future NASDTEC conferences: Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these great upcoming NASDTEC conferences. Carolyn Angelo, Chair, and the members of the Professional Practices Committee are busy planning the 11th NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute that is set for October 17-19, 2007 at the Doubletree Castle in Orlando, Florida. Likewise, Kathy DeFelice, our new Vice President, is initiating the planning for the NASDTEC 80th Annual Conference on June 1-4, 2008 at the Providence Westin, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Executive Director’s Report
Roy Einreinhofer

Thanks to all of you who supported our conference in Salt Lake City. Special thanks go out to National Evaluation Systems for their always great Sunday evening activity and for the sponsorship of the Doug Bates Luncheon. We also express our appreciation to Educational Testing Service for their sponsorship of the Monday morning regional breakfasts, the General Session, Teacher Retention: A View From the Classroom, and the Monday evening President’s Reception.

Based on a review of the conference evaluations, attendees were extremely pleased with the choice of topics, the quality of the speakers, and the features offered by the meeting site and the city. As always, we had a drawing for free registration for our next two conferences from among those submitting evaluations. We are happy to announce that the winner of the free registration to the Professional Practices Institute in Orlando this October was Craig Baker of Montana State University. The winner of the free registration for the June 2008 conference in Providence was Darcy Pietryka of WESTAT. Details for claiming those prizes have gone out to the winners by mail.
Mark your calendars now for the 11th Annual Professional Practices Institute (PPI). This 2 1/2 day conference offers participants a unique opportunity to share information, receive training, and develop new intervention strategies on issues related to educator misconduct and professional discipline. This year’s PPI will focus on emergent issues that will impact the manner in which we educate, regulate, discipline, and remediate professional educators.

The Institute will include accomplished speakers and thought-provoking presentations on topics related to the “changing landscape” of professional practices, which affects all professional involved in the education, training, investigation, prosecution, and remediation of educators.

**Featured Speaker: Dr. Robert Shoop**

Dr. Shoop is a nationally recognized forensic expert in the area of school law, with a focus on sexual harassment and abuse prevention, standards of care, and risk management. Since 1976, Dr. Shoop has been a professor at Kansas State University and a Senior Scholar in the Leadership Studies Program. He is the author of more than 100 journal articles and 18 books including, *Sexual Exploitation in Schools: How to Spot It and Stop It* (2004), and *An Anatomy of a Lawsuit* (2005). He is also the co-producer of a number of nationally recognized video programs on eliminating sexual harassment and serves as a consultant to school districts, universities, and corporations.

The annual PPI will open with Dr. Shoop’s exploration of the changing landscapes of professional practices with a particular focus on how technology, culture, gender, and educator’s conduct – both on-duty and off-duty, impacts educator misconduct investigative and prosecutorial processes across the country. Later in the conference, Dr. Shoop will build on his opening presentation by facilitating an interactive case study and analysis session involving case types that reflect the changing landscape of professional practices.

In addition to our featured speaker, the PPI will host a number of general and concurrent sessions on issues that have been identified by our members as relevant to their respective roles. A “First-Time Attendee” breakfast is scheduled for early in the conference and is designed to provide an orientation to the professional practices division of NASDTEC and the professional networking opportunities that are a benefit of membership.
**PPI Agenda Highlights:**

- Florida's Online ethics course
- New Electronic frontiers: blogging/MySpace/Facebook
- Boundary violations
- Recovery network program
- Gender bias in misconduct
- Investigations/prosecutions
- Interviewing techniques
- Utopia and a model educational discipline system
- Topical roundtable discussions by focus groups
- Prosecutorial strategies

**Who Should Attend:**

- Investigators
- Attorneys
- State Credentialing Officials
- Educator Preparation Program Officials
- School District Administrators
- Standards and Practices Board Members
- Educator Associations
- Law Enforcement Officers

A preliminary schedule for the Institute appears below for your review. We are still finalizing speakers and session titles but the overall schedule will not change in terms of starting and ending times so you can use it to plan your travel. October in Orlando is a great month with mild temperatures, and our meeting site setup will actually allow you to spend a few minutes outside between sessions. There are numerous restaurants within an easy walk along Orlando’s International Drive.

For the latest information about the conference, please visit our special conference website:

http://www.nasdtec.com

Tuesday, October 16
Registration 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, October 17
Breakfast 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
Sessions from 8:30 AM until 5:15 PM

Thursday, October 18
Breakfast 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Sessions from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Friday, October 19
Breakfast 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Sessions from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon

Please plan to stay through the final session on Friday as only those present will qualify for the drawing for a free registration to next year’s Institute in St. Louis.
August 17, 2007

Patty Myers, Chair
Board of Public Education
PO Box 200601
Helena, MT  59620-0601

RE: Nomination to the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

Dear Chairman Myers:

I have accepted the nomination of Jennifer Flat Lip to serve as the Crow Tribe—the Apsálooke Nation Representative on the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE).

Ms. Flat Lip currently works as the tribal education specialist for the Crow Tribe. She has taught at all levels—Head Start to college. She has also been a grant writer and curriculum specialist. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Montana College and a Masters of Art degree in Education/Curriculum and Instruction from Montana State University, Bozeman.

I'm sure you will find Ms. Flat Lip very well qualified and a valuable addition to MACIE.

Sincerely,

Linda McCulloch
State Superintendent

Cc: Norma Bixby, MACIE
    Steve Meloy, Board of Public Education
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENTATION: Accreditation Response Options for Continuing Deviations

PRESENTER: Linda Vrooman Peterson, Administrator
Office of Public Instruction

OVERVIEW: The state superintendent of public instruction provides annual recommendations to the Board of Public Education for accreditation status determinations for all Montana accredited schools. The continuing concern is: How does the OPI accreditation staff address continuing deviations fairly, consistently and with intention toward continuous education improvement? The state superintendent presents to the Board for discussion the outline of the process the OPI will use to address ongoing accreditation deviations. See the attached, "Accreditation Response Options for Continuing Deviations."

REQUESTED DECISION(S): Discussion

OUTLYING ISSUE(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S): Discussion

BPE PRESENTATION
ACREDITATION RESPONSE OPTIONS
FOR CONTINUING DEVIATIONS

I. All Accredited Schools with Continuing Deviations
   A. For schools with ineffective or missing corrective plans and continuing serious deviations
      from accreditation standards, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) will conduct an on-site
      visit to review and reinforce needed corrective actions.

   B. For schools completing a major building construction project, OPI will follow-up in the fall to
      see if deviations are corrected as a result of the reconfiguration and expansion of the system.

II. Schools with Continued Use of Non-Licensed Teachers
   A. First year using non-licensed teacher – Deficiency Status. A letter will be sent from the state
      superintendent's office emphasizing the serious consequences should the district continue to
      use non-licensed teacher(s).

   B. Consecutive years of using non-licensed teacher. The school administrator and the
      chairperson of the board will be required to appear before the Board of Public Education.

III. On-site Reviews to Validate Self Reporting of Annual Data Collection
   A. Random selection of schools
      1. Any school
      2. Schools that have shown continued improvement
      3. Schools that have maintained Regular Accreditation Status for five years
   B. On-site visits to schools
      1. Schools that have reported data which contains inaccurate or inconsistent information
      2. School districts that have continuing deviations

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication,
collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

August 2007
The timeline below represents a tentative schedule for the accreditation process. Any changes in a given year will be communicated to the schools and districts as part of the Annual Data Collection (ADC) packet.

September  
- Schools receive ADC packet from the OPI.

October  
- ADC is electronically submitted to the OPI. Immediately upon submission, a Preliminary Accreditation Report is transmitted electronically to the school and/or district. This report provides preliminary determinations of deviations from the accreditation standards.
- Class Schedules are sent by mail to the OPI by schools and districts.

December 1  
- Schools and districts need to have submitted any corrections or clarifications concerning deviations identified on the Preliminary Accreditation Report.
- Schools that (1) do not submit a completed ADC by this date or (2) continue to employ non-certified staff by this date will be recommended for no higher than a deficiency accreditation status for the current school year.

December/January  
- The OPI staff runs quality checks on data submitted; reviews any other pertinent information; and prepares accreditation recommendations for the Superintendent.

February  
- The OPI accreditation staff meets with the Superintendent to finalize accreditation recommendations.
- Report is prepared for the Board of Public Education.

March  
- State Superintendent makes final recommendations to the Board of Public Education at the March meeting.
- The Board of Public Education assigns final status to schools.

April  
- The OPI notifies schools of status and requires Deficiency and Advice schools to submit a plan of improvement by August 1.
Purpose

The following criteria will be used when determining the accreditation status to be recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Board of Public Education. A school meeting the regular accreditation standards with minor deviations will be recommended for regular status.

10.55.605.1 Regular Accreditation
(a) Regular accreditation means the school has:
   (i) its program aligned to the content and performance standards and program area standards;
   (ii) licensed staff that are appropriately assigned, and fully utilized;
   (iii) school programs and resources that are adequate;
   (iv) facilities that meet appropriate standards; and
   (v) school trustees, staff, parents, and community that work together to provide a quality education.
(b) When the school meets the regular accreditation standards with minor deviations, these deviations are noted on the annual accreditation status letter as minor citations when considering the school program in its entirety.
The following criteria will be used when determining the accreditation status to be recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Board of Public Education. A school receiving any one citation from the following criteria may be recommended for an advice status.

**Licensure**

1. A school where more than 5 percent of its total instructional assignments are taught by misassigned staff. All teachers, counselors, librarians and school psychologists are given equal weight in considering misassignments—first occurrence.
2. Teachers are not assigned at the levels and/or in the subjects for which their licenses are endorsed. Annual progress and documentation of plan of intent must be provided—same teacher—third occurrence.
3. Teacher holding a secondary-level license only is assigned to a self-contained elementary-level classroom—first occurrence.
4. Superintendents, principals, administrative assistants or administrative interns do not have proper endorsement and program of study for completion of administrative endorsement—first occurrence.

**School Leadership**

5. School does not employ, as required by state law, a District Superintendent—first occurrence.
6. School does not have the required minimum number administrative FTE—second occurrence.

**School Program**

7. Library services/school counseling services/required programs are not provided—first occurrence.
8. School does not provide minimum FTE in library/school counseling programs—second occurrence.
   School does not provide minimum educational programs or subjects are not available or offered to students—first occurrence.
10. Schools with 7-8 funding do not meet time requirements; school counselors and librarians are not endorsed and no —second occurrence.
   Although annual application for 7-8 program approval is not required, districts receiving an advice status with note of this deviation may be required to reapply for program approval to maintain 7-8 funding.
11. Programs assigned to any teacher without appropriate endorsement—third occurrence.

**School Facilities**

12. Facilities create safety and health hazards and inadequate learning conditions—first occurrence.
13. Facilities have been cited for violation of uniform fire code by the state fire marshall or local fire department—third occurrence.

**General**

14. School has submitted incomplete or inaccurate reports—first occurrence.
15. Any continuing deviations have occurred for three consecutive years.
16. Approved variance(s) has not been followed—first occurrence.

**Action Required**

Should a school receive advice status, the local school board must adopt and submit a school improvement plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by August 1 of the ensuing school year. This plan must show a systematic procedure for the correction of deviations noted.

S: “On 20-9-344, MCA, gives the Board of Public Education the authority to withhold distribution of state equalization aid when the school district fails to submit required reports or maintain accredited status. Rules 10.67.102 and 10.67.103, ARM, establish the procedures and hearing schedules as adopted by the Board of Public Education.”
Purpose

The following criteria will be used when determining the accreditation status to be recommended by the Superintendent of Public Education to the Board of Public Education. A school receiving any one citation from the following criteria may be recommended for deficiency with assistance status.

Licensure

1. Non-licensed teachers/administrators are employed—first occurrence.
2. A school where more than 5 percent of its total instructional assignments are taught by misassigned staff. All teachers, counselors, librarians and school psychologists are given equal weight in considering misassignments—second occurrence.
3. Teachers are not assigned at the levels and/or in the subjects for which their licenses are endorsed.—same teacher—fourth occurrence.
4. Teacher holding a secondary-level license only is assigned to a self-contained elementary-level classroom—second occurrence.
5. Superintendents, principals, administrative assistants or administrative interns do not have proper endorsement and program of study for completion of administrative endorsement. Documentation of plan of intent must be provided—second occurrence.

School Leadership

6. School does not employ, as required by law, a District Superintendent—second occurrence.
7. School does not have the required minimum administrative FTE—third occurrence.

School Program

8. Library services/school counseling services/required programs are not provided—second occurrence.
9. School does not provide minimum educational programs or subjects are not available or offered to students—second occurrence.
10. Schools with 7-8 funding do not meet time requirements; school counselors and librarians are not endorsed and no program of study for completion of endorsement has been provided—third occurrence. Districts receiving a deficiency with assistance accreditation status with note of this deviation may be recommended to the Board of Public Education to rescind 7-8 funding.
11. Programs assigned to any teacher without appropriate endorsement—fourth occurrence.

School Facilities

12. Facilities create safety and health hazards and inadequate learning conditions—second occurrence.
13. Facilities have been cited for violation of uniform fire code by the state fire marshall or local fire department—fourth occurrence.

General

14. School has not submitted required reports—first occurrence.
15. School has submitted incomplete or inaccurate reports—second occurrence.
16. Any continuing deviations have occurred for four consecutive years.
17. Approved variance(s) has not been followed—second occurrence.

Action Required

Should a school receive deficiency with assistance status, the local school board must adopt and submit a school improvement plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by August 1 of the ensuing school year. This plan must show a systematic procedure for the correction of deviations noted. The school administrators and the chairperson of the board may be required to appear before the Board of Public Education.

Section 20-9-344, MCA, gives the Board of Public Education the authority to withhold distribution of state equalization aid when the district fails to submit required reports or maintain accredited status. Rules 10.67.102 and 10.67.103, ARM, establish the procedures and hearing schedules as adopted by the Board of Public Education.
Purpose

The following criteria will be used when determining the accreditation status to be recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Board of Public Education. A school receiving any one citation from the following criteria may be recommended for nonaccredited status.

10.55.605.5 Nonaccredited
1. Nonaccredited status means that a school on deficiency status fails to document that it has met its improvement plan.
2. Non-licensed staff have been employed—third occurrence.
3. Facilities have been cited for violation of uniform fire code by the state fire marshall or local fire department—fifth occurrence.
4. Facilities create safety and health hazards and inadequate learning conditions—third occurrence.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENTATION: Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) Request for New Program – Information Item

PRESENTER: Linda Vrooman Peterson, Administrator Office of Public Instruction

OVERVIEW: This presentation informs the Board of Public Education of an initial proposal to develop a Master of Educational Leadership program in the Professional Education Unit at Rocky Mountain College in Billings. Attached is a letter from the Rocky Mountain College Board Executive Committee describing its plan to develop, subject to faculty approval, the Master in Educational Leadership program. Pursuant to Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.58.801 and 10.58.802, Rocky Mountain College will provide further details of the Master of Educational Leadership program at a future Board meeting.

Materials attached:
- Rocky Mountain College Board Executive Committee letter
- ARM 10.58.801 and 10.58.802.

REQUESTED DECISION(S): Information

OUTLYING ISSUE(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S): Information
Montana Board of Public Education
Helena, MT

August 02, 2007

The Board Executive Committee of Rocky Mountain College supports, subject to faculty approval, the addition of a Masters of Educational Leadership program to the curriculum. The target date for enrolling the first student cohort is August 2008.

Executive Committee Members:

Wallace A. Stratford
Carl attman
Randall L. Herrmann
Denny C. cup
David Bunt

Barbara G. Skelton

Charles F. Tracy
Nancy Larson
Gail Walker
Ron Jaden
Rodney Swae

Mark R. President
To: Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson  
Re: Master of Educational Leadership Program  
From: Rocky Mountain College Board Executive Committee  
Date: August 2, 2007

The Board Executive Committee of Rocky Mountain College would like to take this opportunity to inform the Montana Board of Public Education of a plan, subject to faculty approval, for creating a Master of Educational Leadership program.

Montana is experiencing a substantial shortage of elementary, middle, and high school principals and superintendents due to a veteran population in these positions, and the difficulty educators have in attending universities often a great distance from home. Montana universities do currently provide distance programs in educational leadership; however, these programs require a residence component, which educators in the far reaching areas of Montana find prohibitive. Rocky Mountain College, with its rich educational and distance traditions, is in a unique position to address these needs by proposing to offer a two-year, minimal residency, masters program in educational leadership. An initial marketing survey of teachers in Montana revealed substantial interest in enrolling in such a program.

Once the program is established, RMC hopes to award twenty masters degrees a year to students who have been carefully selected from the pool of teachers currently looking for such professional development. With twenty years of teaching at a distance and over a century of producing qualified educators, RMC has the expertise to provide Eastern Montana with a low residency program in this discipline. Distance education infrastructure can effectively be used to link graduate students and their mentors across Montana to the course work, faculty and staff at RMC.

This program would use a cohort-based, best practices curriculum model and include a distinctive experiential component requiring an extended internship of all candidates. The principal preparation will prepare future administrators specifically in the areas of school improvement as related to student achievement. Students in this program will be paired with practicing building administrators across the state who will serve as mentors. Additionally, these mentors and RMC principal interns will be supervised in an outcomes-based internship by a veteran administrator. This administrator will be responsible for monitoring internship outcomes based on both the state PEPPS and national ISLLC standards.
RMC envisions a twelve-month start up period, with the initial phase providing RMC faculty and administrators the opportunity to write curriculum modules, market the program, and hire course instructors. Start up funding has been raised and will be used to employ staff and faculty, buy office equipment, and augment library resources. At the end of the twelve month period, a first rate curriculum will have been finalized and a marketing plan implemented; the first class will have been recruited and enrolled. The target date for the first summer seminar is scheduled for August, 2008. Continued enrollment in the program will provide the necessary income for the program to be self-sustaining.

Rocky Mountain College wishes to thank the Board of Public Education for taking the time to hear this proposal.
CERTIFICATION

Subchapter 8

Innovative and Experimental Programs

10.58.801 TYPES OF PROGRAMS (1) New, innovative, and experimental programs include but are not necessarily limited to the following:
   (a) programs designed to develop new approaches, new arrangements, and/or new contexts for the preparation of school personnel;
   (b) programs designed to prepare school personnel for new types of positions that are emerging in modern education;
   (c) programs designed to meet the special needs of particular segments of society; and
   (d) programs designed for specific curricular areas for which recognized standards have not yet been developed. (History: 20-2-114 MCA; IMP, 20-2-121 MCA; NEW, 1979 MAR p. 492, Eff. 5/25/79; AMD, 1984 MAR p. 831, Eff. 5/18/84; AMD, 2007 MAR p. 190, Eff. 2/9/07.)

10.58.802 STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL (1) The unit shall provide a clear statement justifying the request for the approval of a new, innovative, or experimental program. That statement shall include the program's assumptions, rationale, and objectives.
   (2) Each program shall:
      (a) be based on a statement of the purpose and objectives of teaching in this area and upon a well-formulated statement of the nature of the public school program that is needed to accomplish these objectives. These statements shall:
         (i) be prepared cooperatively by the agencies concerned with teacher education;
         (ii) be based on analyses of current practices and trends in this field of the public school curriculum; and
         (iii) be available in writing;
      (b) include articulation of the competencies teachers need in this area. This statement of competencies shall:
         (i) include attitudes, knowledge, understanding, skills, and the degrees of expertise teachers need;
         (ii) be based on the program's statement of objectives outlined in (2)(a); and
         (iii) be available in writing;
         (c) include a description of the process used to prepare personnel;
         (d) develop provisions for keeping records of the students' progress in the program;
         (e) make arrangements for systematic and scheduled program evaluation by both the unit and the Office of Public Instruction;
(f) be supported by identifiable human and physical resources that will be available throughout the duration of the program. Any resources not under the control of the institution shall be outlined and confirmed by the Board of Public education;

(g) include a timetable setting forth:

(i) the program's beginning and ending dates;

(ii) the sequence of activities that will occur;

(iii) selection and schedules of intervals for competency and program evaluations; and

(iv) the approximate dates for submitting periodic program reports to the appropriate institutional officials and to the superintendent of public instruction; and

(h) ensure that program evaluations have definite provisions for performance criteria and follow-up at specified intervals. The evaluations shall:

(i) be guided by a plan that defines and specifies the kinds of evidence that will be gathered and reported;

(ii) give information that identifies areas in the program that need strengthening; and

(iii) be used to suggest new directions for program development.

(3) The preparing institution shall be responsible for the administration of the program. Within this responsibility it shall establish and designate the appropriate division, school, college, or department within the institution to act on all matters relating to such program, according to general institutional policies. (History: 20-2-114 MCA; IMP, 20-2-121 MCA; NEW, 1979 MAR p. 492, Eff. 5/25/79; AMD, 1984 MAR p. 831, Eff. 5/18/84; AMD, 2007 MAR p. 190, Eff. 2/9/07.)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENTATION: No Child Left Behind Update

PRESENTER:  
Nancy Coopersmith  
Assistant Superintendent  
Office of Public Instruction

OVERVIEW:  
This presentation will include information concerning the approval by the U.S. Department of Education of amendments to the Montana Accountability Workbook; correspondence from the U.S. Secretary of Education that includes highly qualified teacher data reported by states; plans concerning monitoring of Montana federal programs by the U.S. Department of Education; and Adequate Yearly Progress status of Montana schools and districts.

REQUESTED DECISION(S): None

OUTLYING ISSUE(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S): None
The Honorable Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
1227 11th Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-2501  

Dear Superintendent McCulloch:

I am writing in response to Montana’s request to amend its State accountability plan under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Following our discussions with your staff, the approved changes are now included in an amended State accountability plan that Montana submitted to the Department on July 30, 2007, which we will post on the Department’s website. A summary of the amendments submitted for the 2006-07 school year is enclosed with this letter. As you know, any further requests to amend the Montana accountability plan must be submitted to the Department for review and approval as required by section 1111(f)(2) of Title I.

Please also be aware that approval of Montana’s accountability plan for Title I, including the amendments approved above, does not indicate that the plan complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I am confident that Montana will continue to advance its efforts to hold schools and school districts accountable for the achievement of all students. If you need any additional assistance to implement the standards, assessment, and accountability provisions of NCLB, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Rooney (Patrick.Rooney@ed.gov) or Collette Roney (Collette.Roney@ed.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

Enclosure

cc: Governor Brian Schweitzer  
Nancy Coopersmith
Amendments to the Montana Accountability Plan

The following is a summary of the State’s amendment requests. Please refer to the Department’s website (www.ed.gov/regions/lead/account/stateplans03/index.html) for the complete Montana accountability plan.

Acceptable amendments
The following amendments are aligned with the statute and regulations.

- **Starting points, annual measurable objectives (AMOs), and intermediate goals (Elements 1.2, 3.1, 3.2a-c)**

  Revision: Montana clarified that with the implementation of new assessments in 2005–06, Montana will use the following starting points, AMOs, and intermediate goals for the reading and mathematics assessments in grades 3–8 and high school:

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- **Exception of the 1.0 percent limit for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities taking an assessment with alternate achievement standards (Element 5.3)**

  Revision: As approved by the Department in a separate letter, Montana, for the 2005–06 and 2006–07 school years, will continue to allow every small district in the State (districts with fewer than 200 students in tested grades) to count up to two proficient scores based on alternate achievement standards when calculating adequate yearly progress (AYP). For additional details, refer to the letter sent on August 7, 2006, by former Assistant Secretary Henry Johnson and Assistant Secretary John Hager.

- **Including students with disabilities in AYP (Element 5.3)**

  Revision: Montana will use the “proxy method” (option 1 in our guidance dated December 2005) to take advantage of the interim flexibility regarding calculating adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the students with disabilities subgroup (refer to: http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/070207.html). Montana will calculate a proxy to determine the percentage of students with disabilities that is equivalent to 2.0 percent of all students assessed. For this year only, this proxy will then be added to the percentage of students with disabilities who are proficient. For any school or district that did not make AYP solely due to its students with disabilities subgroup, Montana will use this adjusted percentage proficient to re-examine if the school or district made AYP for the 2006–07 school year.
Unacceptable amendment
The following amendment is not aligned with the statute and regulations and therefore not approved.

- **Apply small school process for AYP determination to all schools (Element 3.2)**

  The Department cannot approve Montana’s request to extend its “small school review” (SSR) process for those schools with more than the minimum group size (30 students). This request is inconsistent with section 1111(b)(2) of the ESEA, which requires States to measure AYP according to statutory guidelines that require setting a starting point, intermediate goals, and annual measurable objectives, against which all students and subgroups are measured. Montana’s SSR, on the other hand, bases AYP determinations on a subjective scoring rubric and does not emphasize the performance of subgroups. In addition, the vast majority of students in the State (75 percent) are enrolled in 8 school districts, with the largest, Billings, enrolling 15,000 students. It is not necessary for large districts to use the SSR to ensure valid and reliable results.

- **Minimum subgroup size (Element 5.5)**

  Montana requested that the group size for accountability purposes for the “all students” group be increased from 30 to 40 students to match the minimum group size for student groups in the State. After reviewing impact data provided by the State, the Department is not able to approve this request. This increase in the group size would result in 50 percent of all schools in the State would be excluded from the statutorily defined accountability system and would be evaluated using the State’s Small School Review process. In addition, it is not clear that the accountability system would need a minimum of 40 students in order for the percentage of students proficient or above in reading and mathematics to produce valid and reliable results.
July 23, 2007

Dear Chief State School Officers:

As you know, *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) recognizes that teacher quality is one of the most important factors in improving student achievement and eliminating achievement gaps between our neediest students and their more advantaged peers. I am pleased to report that States are making progress when it comes to ensuring that all students have access to highly qualified teachers. There is still more work to be done, however.

On October 21, 2005, I sent a letter to Chief State School Officers in which I noted that despite making progress in addressing the qualifications of teachers in our nation’s schools, most States were unlikely to reach NCLB’s goal of having all core academic subject classes taught by highly qualified teachers (HQT) by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. My letter also assured the Chiefs that States that did not reach the 100 percent goal by the end of the 2005-2006 school year would not lose Federal funds if they were implementing the law and making a good-faith effort to reach the HQT goal as quickly as possible.

The Department then asked States to submit revised plans, outlining actions the State and local educational agencies would take to reach the HQT goal in the 2006-2007 school year and beyond. States submitted their plans, which were reviewed by a panel of experts, and all but one State now has an approved plan. However, despite the advances that have been made, the Consolidated State Performance Reports (CSPR) data States submitted for the 2005-2006 school year indicate no State reached the 100 percent HQT goal. The CSPR data are enclosed for your information.

The Department continues to expect States to fully implement their approved HQT plans. In the fall, we will also begin a new round of monitoring in all States; this monitoring will focus intensively on State implementation of the HQT plans, including their efforts to ensure that poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other students by unqualified, inexperienced, or out-of-field teachers. We will examine how State educational agencies monitor school districts to ensure that districts work with teachers who are not yet highly qualified to become so as quickly as possible. In addition, we will examine the processes by which States provide technical assistance to districts and schools. The Department will continue to assist States in addressing those circumstances in which finding a highly qualified teacher for every classroom is an unusually difficult challenge (for example, small rural schools, special education classes taught by teachers who must become highly qualified in multiple subjects, and hard-to-fill advanced secondary courses).

During monitoring, the Department will pay particular attention to the processes States use to collect and verify the accuracy of HQT data. We know that data collection and

*Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation.*
verification processes differ widely from State to State and, as a result, we are concerned that the HQT data we receive from States are not always as accurate as they should be. The Department expects States to improve their data collection processes so that accurate HQT data can be reported both to the Department and to parents, as required by law.

I recognize the hard work that has been done by States in ensuring that all students have access to teachers who are highly qualified, and I intend to maintain the policy of not penalizing States financially solely because they have not reached 100 percent HQT. In the course of monitoring, however, if the Department finds that any particular State is not making an adequate effort to reach the goal of having all core academic classes taught by highly qualified teachers, the Department may take appropriate actions. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, imposition of grant conditions or high-risk status, compliance agreements, or withholding of funds. All decisions about sanctions will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking the circumstances of and conditions in individual States into account.

As always, the Department expects States, local educational agencies, and schools to make the best possible educational decisions for students and to make their best effort to reach the 100 percent HQT goal. Schools should hire the most qualified teachers available; accurately report to the Federal government when classes are taught by teachers who are not highly qualified; inform parents, as required, if their children are taught by teachers who are not highly qualified; and have plans in place to assist teachers without proper qualifications to obtain them as quickly as possible.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that all students have access to highly qualified teachers. If you have any additional questions about the issues discussed in this letter, please contact Deputy Assistant Secretary Amanda Farris in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at (202) 401-0113. Thank you for your continued commitment to providing a quality education for our nation’s students.

Sincerely,

Margaret Spellings

Enclosures
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Data not provided.

Notes: Alaska's 2003-04 percentage is the percentage of highly qualified teachers, not the percentage of core academic classes taught by highly qualified teachers. Arkansas' 2004-05 data are for 2005-06. Vermont's data do not include special education; these data were reported separately. Nebraska and Puerto Rico did not submit complete data for 2005-06 and
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENTATION: Quality Educator Loan Assistance

PRESENTER: Nancy Coopersmith
Assistant Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 2, approved during the Special Session of the 60th Montana Legislature, contains provisions for a quality educator loan assistance program. This presentation will include information about the responsibilities of the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction in the implementation of this program. In addition, information will be presented about the process to develop data for the program and about the expected schedule for completion of a recommendation to Superintendent Linda McCulloch and the Board.

REQUESTED DECISION(s): None at this time

OUTLYING ISSUE(s): None

RECOMMENDATION(s): None

BPE Presentation
SENATE BILL NO. 2

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, GLASER, RYAN, RASER


BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Quality educator loan assistance program. There is a quality educator loan assistance program administered by the board of regents through the office of the commissioner of higher education. The program must provide for the direct repayment of educational loans of eligible quality educators.
in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the board of regents in accordance with [sections 1 through 6].

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Definitions. For purposes of [sections 1 through 6], unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

1) "Education cooperative" means a cooperative of Montana public schools as described in 20-7-451.

2) "Educational loans" means all loans made pursuant to a federal loan program, except federal parent loans for undergraduate students (PLUS) loans, as provided in 20 U.S.C. 1078-2.


4) (a) "Quality educator" means a full-time equivalent educator, as reported to the superintendent of public instruction for accreditation purposes in the previous school year, who:
   (i) holds a valid certificate under the provisions of 20-4-106 and is employed by an entity listed in subsection (4)(b) in a position that requires an educator license in accordance with administrative rules adopted by the board of public education; or
   (ii) is a licensed professional under 37-8-405, 37-8-415, 37-11-301, 37-15-301, 37-17-302, 37-22-301, 37-23-201, 37-24-301, or 37-25-302 and is employed by an entity listed in subsection (4)(b) of this section to provide services to students.

(b) For purposes of subsection (4)(a), an entity means:
   (i) a school district;
   (ii) an education cooperative;
   (iii) the Montana school for the deaf and blind, as described in 20-8-101;
   (iv) the Montana youth challenge program; and
   (v) a state youth correctional facility, as defined in 41-5-103.

5) "School district" means a public school district, as provided in 20-6-101 and 20-6-701.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Critical quality educator shortages. (1) The board of public education, in consultation with the office of public instruction, shall identify:

(a) specific schools that are impacted by critical quality educator shortages; and

(b) within the schools identified in subsection (1)(a), the specific quality educator licensure or
preference in the award of loan repayment assistance to quality educators working in the specific schools that
are most impacted by quality educator shortages identified as provided in [section 3].

(2) [Sections 1 through 6] may not be construed to require the provision of loan repayment assistance
without an express appropriation for that purpose. [Sections 1 through 6] may not be construed to require loan
repayment assistance for school years prior to [the effective date of this section].

Section 7. Section 17-6-340, MCA, is amended to read:

"17-6-340. Purchase of permanent fund mineral estate. The department of natural resources and
conservation may purchase the mineral production rights held by the public school fund established in Article X,
section 2, of the Montana constitution for fair market value. If the department of natural resources and
conservation purchases mineral production rights, any royalty payments received by the board that are not used
to reimburse the coal severance tax trust fund for the loan used for purchasing the mineral production rights must
be deposited in the guarantee account provided for in 20-9-622 and transferred to the school facility improvement
account provided for in [section 8]."

NEW SECTION. Section 8. School facility improvement account. There is a school facility
improvement account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102. The purpose of the account is
to provide money to schools to implement the recommendations of the school facility condition and needs
assessment and energy audit conducted pursuant to section 1, Chapter 1, Special Laws of December 2005, for:

(1) major deferred maintenance;

(2) improving energy efficiency in school facilities; and OR

(3) critical infrastructure in school districts with changing student populations.

Section 9. Section 20-1-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-1-301. School fiscal year. (1) The school fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. At least
the minimum aggregate hours defined in subsection (2) must be conducted during each school fiscal year, except
that 1,050 aggregate hours of pupil instruction for graduating seniors may be sufficient or a minimum of 360
aggregate hours of pupil instruction must be conducted for a kindergarten program, as provided in 20-7-117.

(2) The minimum aggregate hours required by grade are:

(a) 360 hours for a half-time kindergarten program or 720 hours for a full-time kindergarten program, as
endorsement areas that are impacted by critical quality educator shortages.

(2) The board of public education shall publish an annual report listing the schools and the licensure or endorsement areas identified as impacted by critical quality educator shortages, explaining the reasons that specific schools and licensure or endorsement areas have been identified and providing information regarding any success in retention.

(3) Quality educators working at schools identified in subsection (1) are eligible for repayment of all or part of the quality educator’s outstanding educational loans existing at the time of application in accordance with the eligibility and award criteria established under [sections 1 through 6].

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Loan repayment assistance. Loan repayment assistance may be provided on behalf of a quality educator who:

(1) is employed in an identified school described in [section 3(1)]; and

(2) has an educational loan that is not in default and that has a minimum unpaid current balance of at least $1,000 at the time of application.

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Loan repayment assistance documentation. (1) A quality educator shall submit an application for loan repayment assistance to the board of regents in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the board of regents. The application must include official verification or proof of the applicant’s total unpaid accumulated educational loan debt and other documentation required by the board of regents that is necessary for verification of the applicant’s eligibility.

(2) A quality educator is eligible for loan repayment assistance for up to a maximum of 4 years. The total annual loan repayment assistance for an eligible quality educator may not exceed $3,000. The board of regents may require an eligible quality educator to provide documentation that the quality educator has exhausted repayment assistance from other federal, state, or local loan forgiveness, discharge, or repayment incentive programs.

(3) The board of regents may remit payment of the loan on behalf of the quality educator in accordance with the requirements of [sections 1 through 6] and policies and procedures adopted by the board of regents.

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Funding -- prioritries. (1) If the funding for [sections 1 through 6] in any year is less than the total amount for which Montana quality educators qualify, the board of regents shall provide
Board of Public Education
Committee Assignments
2007 - 2008

STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee
Patty Myers, Chair
Angela McLean, Vice Chair
Steve Meloy, Secretary (ex-officio)

Accreditation Committee
Storrs Bishop, Chair
Jenny Tiskus, Member

Licensure Committee
Angela McLean, Chair

MSDB Committee
Patty Myers, Chair
Cal Gilbert, Member
John Fuller, Member

Government Affairs Committee
(NASBE Delegate)
Kirk Miller, Chair

Legislative Committee
John Fuller, Chair
Jenny Tiskus, Member

ADVISORY GROUP LIAISONS

Angela McLean, CSPAC
Cal Gilbert, MACIE
Patty Myers, MSDB Foundation

TASK FORCE

Quality Schools/ Quality Educators
Kirk Miller, Chair

Indian Education for All
Cal Gilbert, Chair

Distance Learning
Kirk Miller, Chair

Pathways for Learners
Patty Myers, Co-Chair
Angela McLean, Co-Chair

Assessment
Sharon Carroll, Chair

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kindergarten to College Workgroup
Steve Meloy

Revised 5/16/2007
BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDAR  September 2007 – November 2008
(Proposed Items from OPI are in italics)

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### September 2008 – November 2009

#### Proposed Items from OPI are in italics

#### September 11-12, 2008, Pablo
- BOE Determined by Board of Public Education’s Schedule
  - Set Annual Agenda Calendar
  - Election of Board Officers
  - Committee Appointments
  - Superintendent Goals
  - BPE Goal Review
  - Assessment Update
  - NCLB Update
  - MACIE Update

#### November 6-7, 2008, Helena
- Assessment Update
- NCLB Update
- Alternative Standards Request
- MACIE Annual Report
- Joint MACIE/BPE/OPI Meeting

#### January 8-9, 2009, Helena
- 5 YCEP Process Update
- Exiting Board Member-Last Meeting
- Transportation Report
- Assessment Update
- NCLB Update
- MACIE Update
- Report on Teacher Education Program

#### March 5-6, 2009, Helena
- Executive Secretary Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion
- MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion
- Establish Executive Staff Salaries
- CSPAC/BPE Joint meeting
- Annual CSPAC Report
- Annual School Food Services Report
- Assessment Update
- Accreditation Recommendations
- NCLB Update
- Alternative Standards Requests & Renewals
- MACIE Update
- Special Education Report

#### May 7-8, 2009, Great Falls
- Distribute Survey Instruments (May 2009)
- Student Representative Survey Report
- CSPAC Appointments
- BASE Aid Payment Schedule
- Assessment Update
- Alternative Standards Request & Renewals
- MACIE Update
- NCLB Update

#### July 8-10, 2009, Helena
- Strategic Mtg.–Review Bylaws & Operational Rules
- Student Representative Last Meeting
- Assessment Update
- NCLB Update
- MACIE Update
- Annual GED Report

#### September 10-11, 2009, TBD
- BOE Determined by Board of Public Education’s Schedule
  - Set Annual Agenda Calendar
  - Election of Board Officers
  - Committee Appointments
  - Superintendent Goals
  - BPE Goal Review
  - Assessment Update
  - NCLB Update
  - MACIE Update

#### November 5-6, 2009, Helena
- Assessment Update
- NCLB Update
- Alternative Standards Request
- MACIE Annual Report
- Joint MACIE/BPE/OPI Meeting
STATE OF MONTANA
BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

BYLAWS

Article I. Name

The legal name of the Board is the Board of Public Education.

Article II. Objective

The objective of the Board is to carry out its constitutional and statutory responsibility to exercise general supervision, in cooperation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, over the public school system and other such public educational institutions as may be assigned by law.

Article III. Membership

The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Not more than two may be from each of the four regions, two commission districts per MCA 5-1-102 (2) (a) (b), and not more than four may be affiliated with the same political party. The Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Commissioner of Higher Education are ex officio, non-voting members of the Board. There is also a non-voting student member. The terms of members appointed to the Board shall be seven years. When a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall appoint a member for the remainder of the term of the incumbent. Members appointed to the Board, before discharging their duties, shall take and subscribe to the constitutional oath of office.

Article IV. Officers

The officers of the Board shall consist of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected among the appointed membership for the period of one year; annual reelection is permissible. Election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be conducted by voice vote. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson elect shall assume their respective office at the beginning of the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the office of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson is vacated prior to the expiration of the term, the Board will hold an election to fill the vacated office; the newly elected officer will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and assume the gavel immediately. The duties of the Chairperson shall include presiding at meetings, participation in the construction of meeting agendas and appointing all committees. The Chairperson shall vote on all matters. In the absence of the
Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside and shall perform such duties as are prescribed for the Chairperson.

Article V. Executive Secretary

The Board shall appoint, and prescribe the term and duties, and establish the salary of the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall serve as secretary/administrator to the Board and also as liaison between the Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Legislature and the Governor’s office.

Article VI. Meetings

According to law, the Board shall meet at least quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the Governor, the chairperson of the Board, the executive secretary, or a request in writing of four regular appointed members. When necessary, the Board may hold meetings for resolution of specific agenda items either by a meeting in person, by conference call or by a combination of both. In the case of a special meeting, the executive secretary shall notify each regular and ex officio member either by mail or by telephone sufficiently in advance of the meeting to allow all Board members to travel to the meeting site from their principal Montana residence.

In case of a conference call, twenty-four hours prior to the meeting shall be deemed sufficient adequate notice.

The Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents shall meet at least twice yearly as the State Board of Education.

Article VII. Quorum

A majority of the appointed members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article VIII. Committees

Standing committees shall be as follows:

1. An Executive Committee: composed of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Executive Secretary;

2. An Accreditation Committee;

3. A Certification Licensure Committee;

4. A School for the Deaf and Blind Committee;
5. An Internal Affairs A Government Affairs Committee;

6. A Legislative Committee.

One Board of Public Education member will be appointed for two years by the Chairperson and approved by the entire Board to serve on the School for the Deaf and Blind Foundation. Other members of the Foundation Board are selected by the Foundation and confirmed by the Board of Public Education, all this being in compliance with a contract between the Board of Public Education and the Foundation.

Special committees may be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board as the Board shall deem necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Board.

Duties of the committees shall be to review, report on and make recommendations concerning any item referred to them and to alert the Board Chairperson and Executive Secretary on any matters which should be placed on the agenda for Board discussion action. The Chairperson and the Executive Secretary shall serve as ex officio, non-voting members of all committees.

The School for the Deaf and Blind Committee shall consist of four members of the Board. The Board shall establish a School for the Deaf and Blind Committee. The committee is responsible for the general supervision and control over the school, subject to the powers of the Board set forth by this by-law. The committee shall meet at the school on a regular basis, not less than eight times annually. The Chairperson of the committee shall report on the activities of the committee to the full Board of Public Education at each regular Board meeting. The Board retains the power to overrule or amend any decision of the committee by majority vote of the Board at a duly convened Board meeting. Any member of the Board may by motion bring before the Board any matter on which the committee has acted.

One Board of Public Education member will be appointed for two years by the Chairperson and approved by the entire Board to serve on the School for the Deaf and Blind Foundation. Other members of the Foundation Board are selected by the Foundation and confirmed by the Board of Public Education, all this being in compliance with a contract between the Board of Public Education and the Foundation.

Article IX. Sessions

All committee meetings, telephone conference calls, and regular sessions of the Board shall be open to the public. The Chairperson may close the meeting to the public if he or she determines:
a. That the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure, or
b. That an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or the litigating position of the Board.

This action will be taken by a decision of the Chairperson or a vote of the Board. The Chairperson shall read for the minutes the reason for the closing, or the minutes will show that the person in question requested a closed session. A record will be made of business conducted during a closed session and will be kept in a sealed file subject to opening only by a court order.

Telephone conference action, providing a quorum is participating in the call, shall be legitimate for transaction of business necessary in between meetings. The minutes of all telephone conference meetings shall be approved at the next regular meeting of the Board.

**Article X. Order of Business**

The regular order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Statement of Public Participation
4. Approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting*Consent Agenda*
5. Agenda Adoption
6. Agenda
7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda
8. Date and Place of Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

**Article XI. Communications**

All official communications should come to the attention of the Board through the Executive Secretary of the Board.

**Article XII. Parliamentary Procedure**


**Article XIII. Amendments**

These bylaws may be added to or amended by a majority vote at any meeting of the Board of Public Education provided that a quorum is present and provided that the proposed amendment is sent in writing to members of the Board of Public Education at least seven days in advance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Student Enrollment/Evaluation</td>
<td>Gettel</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Gettel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Personnel actions</td>
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<td>- Update on negotiations with MEA-MFT and UFCW</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>School Improvement</td>
<td>Gettel</td>
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<td>- Update on SIP activities</td>
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<td>- Framework for strategic planning Process</td>
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<td>- Strategies for increasing educational opportunities for students served in the LEAs</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Professional Development Activities</td>
<td>Informational</td>
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<td>- Update on in-service training</td>
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<td>- Fall conferences</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>MSDB Foundation Activities</td>
<td>Informational</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Update on activities</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Conferences, meetings and contacts</td>
<td>Informational</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Finance and Facilities</td>
<td>Sykes</td>
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<td>- Update on budget and maintenance projects</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>School Calendar of Events</td>
<td>Informational</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Student News and School Events</td>
<td>Informational</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Public Comment for Non Agenda Items</td>
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