

**JOINT MEETING OF BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND
THE CERTIFICATIONS STANDARDS AND PRACTICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Wednesday July 15, 2020

1:00 PM

ZOOM Meeting

AGENDA

JOINT BPE/CSPAC MEETING

WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Beginning at 1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Welcome Visitors

ADOPT AGENDA

DISCUSSION

- Item 1 **Board of Public Education Update – *Dr. Darlene Schottle***
- Item 2 **CSPAC Annual Report – *Kelly Elder***
- Item 3 **July 15,2020 CSPAC Meeting Summary – *Kelly Elder***
- Item 4 **Discussion of ARM Title 10, Chapter 55 Accreditation Standards – *Pete***
- Item 5 **Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force Update – *Angela McLean***

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN

Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Action may be taken by the Board on any item listed on the agenda. Public comment is welcome on all items but time limits on public comment may be set at the Chair's discretion.

The Board of Public Education will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate in the meeting. Individuals who require such accommodations should make requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible prior to the meeting start date. You may write to: Kris Stockton, PO Box 200601, Helena MT, 59620, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 444-0302.

ITEM 1

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE

Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair

ITEM 2

CSPAC ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Kelly Elder, CSPAC Chair

2019
Annual Report
of the
Montana Certification
Standards and Practices
Advisory Council



To The
Montana Board of
Public Education

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council is to study and to make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on certification issues concerning teachers, administrators and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and policies related to the denial, suspension and revocation of educator certification and the appeals process.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will submit a report to the Board of Public Education with recommendations for the above areas at least once annually.

Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics

Professional educators recognize and accept their responsibility to create learning environments to help all students reach their full potential. They understand the trust and confidence placed in them by students, families, colleagues, and the community. To achieve their professional purpose, educators strive to maintain the highest ethical standards. The Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics sets out these fundamental principles which guide their behavior.

Principle I. Commitment to Students and Families. The ethical educator:

- A. Makes the well-being of students the foundation of all decisions and actions.
- B. Promotes a spirit of inquiry, creativity, and high expectations.
- C. Assures just and equitable treatment of every student.
- D. Protects students when their learning or well-being is threatened by the unsafe, incompetent, unethical or illegal practice of any person.
- E. Keeps information confidential that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling purpose in the best interest of students or is required by law.
- F. Respects the roles, responsibilities and rights, of students, parents and guardians.
- G. Maintains appropriate educator-student relationship boundaries in all respects, including speech, print, and digital communications.

Principle II. Commitment to the Profession. The ethical educator:

- A. Fulfills professional obligations with diligence and integrity.
- B. Demonstrates continued professional growth, collaboration and accountability.
- C. Respects the roles, responsibilities, and rights of colleagues, support personnel, and supervisors.
- D. Contributes to the development of the profession's body of knowledge.
- E. Manages information, including data, with honesty.
- F. Teaches without distortion, bias, or prejudice.
- G. Represents professional qualifications accurately.

Principle III. Commitment to the Community. The ethical educator:

- A. Models the principles of citizenship in a democratic society.
- B. Understands and respects diversity.
- C. Protects the civil and human rights of students and colleagues.
- D. Assumes responsibility for personal actions.
- E. Demonstrates good stewardship of public resources.
- F. Exemplifies a positive, active role in school-community relations.
- G. Adheres to the terms of contracts, district policies and procedures, and relevant statutes and regulations.

Adopted by the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council July 13, 2016

Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council 2019

Members:

Term Expires

6/01/21	Kelly Elder Chair Teacher K-8 kelder@helenaschools.org	620 N Davis Helena, MT 59601	W 324-2799 C 461-1995 F 324-2801
6/01/20	Noreen Burris Vice Chair K-12 Specialist nburris2721@hotmail.com	2721 Terrace Drive Billings, MT 59102	W 281-6802 H 248-5932 C 698-7632
6/01/21	Ann Wake Trustee annieoakley619@gmail.com	12043 Pleasant Meadows Lolo, MT 59847	H 214-1390 C 214-1390
6/01/21	Tom Cabbage Teacher 9-12 tom_cabbage@qfps.k12.mt.us	2814 3 rd Avenue N Great Falls, MT 59401	W 268-6217 H 454-0242 F 268-6109
6/01/20	LeAnne Lorenz Teacher K-8 leanne.lorenz@bsd7.org	3880 Equestrian Lane Bozeman, MT 59718	H 581-2845
06/01/22	Dr. Robert Watson Administrator rwatson@mcps.k12.mt.us	5034 Victor Court Missoula, MT 59803	C 570-4135 W 728-2400 ext 1023
06/01/20	Dr. Trent Atkins Post-Secondary Trent.Atkins@umontana.edu	College of Education 32 Campus Drive Missoula, MT 59871	H 821-2183 W 243-4978

Staff:

Pete Donovan Executive Director pdonovan@mt.gov	Office 444-0300 Fax 444-0847 Cell 459-8813
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CSPAC Goals 2019-2020

- 1)** Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of approved teacher educator programs in Montana.
 - a. Participate in CAEP/Montana accreditation reviews.
 - b. Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards update recommended to BPE by CSPAC on a 5-year review cycle.
 - c. Continue to work with OPI to encourage the implementation of mentor programs across Montana to facilitate the induction of beginning teachers into the profession of teaching.

- 2)** Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the area of licensure renewal requirements and procedures.
 - a. Continued review of Chapter 57.
 - b. As funding permits, attend the following conferences: Western States Certification, National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, and National Commission on Teaching and America's Future.
 - c. Meet annually with the Board of Public Education and with the Council of Deans of Postsecondary Education.

- 3)** Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teachers' licenses and the appeals process.
 - a. Attend NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute.
 - b. Work with OPI Licensure staff on updates of Administrative Rules.

- 4)** Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education regarding establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct.
 - a. Work with OPI to develop a framework for professional development based on best practices.
 - b. As funding permits, attend NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute.
 - c. 5-year review of the Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics (To begin January 2021).
 - d. CSPAC will study the process utilized in Montana for reviewing cases of suspension, revocation and denial of educator licensure.

- 5)** Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of alternative and/or nontraditional teacher preparation opportunities.
 - a. Complete reviews of Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Post-Secondary Faculty License applications at regularly scheduled meetings.
 - b. Gather information about diploma mills and find ways to inform teachers of this and other forms of fraud.

- c. Continue the awareness that issues such as distance learning, dual enrollment, alternative certification models, etc. are multi-faceted and inter-related concepts that cannot be viewed in isolation from one another.
- d. Continued involvement in the implementation of the Montana Content standards.

Other CSPAC Activities:

CSPAC to monitor any teacher licensure issues that may emerge from the implementation of distance learning programs (Montana Digital Academy).

Solicit input from the Board of Public Education and the Council of Deans regarding research priorities for CSPAC for 2019-2020.

**Highlights of the July 10, 2019 CSPAC Meeting
Montana State Capitol Building
Room 102
Helena, MT**

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met at the Montana State Capitol building for their regularly scheduled summer meeting and the annual joint meeting with the Board of Public Education. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Mr. Kelly Elder, Teacher, Helena, Vice Chair Ms. Noreen Burris, Specialist, Billings, Mr. Tom Cabbage, Teacher, 9-12 Teacher, CM Russell High School, Great Falls; Ms. Ann Wake, Trustee, Missoula; Dr. Rob Watson, Missoula Public Schools, Administrator; Ms. Leanne Lorenz, K-8 Teacher, Bozeman. The Council of Deans position is currently vacant.

Meeting attendees included: Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI, BPE Chair Sharon Carroll, Ms. Patty Muir, OPI. Staff present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton.

**CSPAC Meeting
July 10, 2019**

Executive Committee Report

The Council nominated and approved the re-election of Chair Elder and Vice-Chair Burris for another year. The Council reviewed and revised their Goals and reviewed the Annual Report that the Council presents yearly to the Board of Public Education.

Board of Public Education Report/Executive Director's Report

Mr. Donovan discussed the passage of HB 351 Transformational Learning and HB 387 Advanced Opportunity Grant during the 2019 session and the work that the Board of Public Education and the OPI have done to begin implementation of the two pieces of legislation. Mr. Donovan highlighted items the Board of Public Education will be covering at their meeting.

Review of 2019 Legislature

Mr. Donovan briefly reviewed the 2019 Legislature and noted that the Superintendent has a report available of the session that covers all educational legislation passed and encouraged the Council to review that report for a good overview of the session.

Update on the Educator Preparation Providers: Approved EPPS; Initial and Advanced Programs; Seven-Year Site Visit Cycle

Ms. Patty Muir presented this item to the Council noting that some Education Preparation Providers are accredited by both the BPE and CAEP, and that some are only BPE accredited, and that is by choice. Ms. Muir noted that Carroll College is requesting a Two-Year Good Cause Extension on their accreditation due to reorganization at the College which is affecting the Education Program, and that will be before the BPE for approval. Ms. Muir reviewed the Seven-year Site Visit Cycle and answered Council member questions.

Advanced Program Standards Update – BPE and CAEP

Ms. Muir reviewed a request from the Council of Deans to define Advanced Program Standards, which normally covers graduate or post-graduate work, and noted that Montana programs all align perfectly with the definition.

CLASS 8 License Applications

Ms. Kris Thatcher, OPI, presented the Council with two applications for Class 8 licenses. The council reviewed and approved both applications.

Future Agenda Items

MSU Master of Arts in Teaching Report
Report on Class 8 License Applications

Highlights of the October 3, 2019 CSPAC Meeting
OPI Conference Room
1300 11th AVE
Helena, MT

On Thursday, October 3, 2019, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met in the OPI Conference Room in the 1300 Building for their regularly scheduled fall meeting. The annual joint meeting with the Council of Deans of Education was held in the afternoon in the Mike Cooney Conference Room in the State Capitol Building. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Mr. Kelly Elder, Teacher, Helena, Vice Chair Ms. Noreen Burris, Specialist, Billings, Mr. Tom Cabbage, Teacher, 9-12 Teacher, CM Russell High School, Great Falls; Ms. Ann Wake, Trustee, Missoula; Dr. Rob Watson, Missoula Public Schools, Administrator; Ms. Leanne Lorenz, K-8 Teacher, Bozeman; Dr. Trent Atkins, representing the Council of Deans, from the University of Montana.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Dr. Tricia Siefert, MSU; Ms. Jule Walker, OPI; and Ms. Emily Dean, MTSBA. Staff present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton.

CSPAC Meeting
October 3, 2019

Executive Committee Report

Committee Assignments were reviewed for the upcoming year.

Board of Public Education Report/Executive Director's Report

Mr. Donovan reported the re-election of Chair Schottle and Vice-Chair Lacey at the Board of Public Education September meeting. Mr. Donovan highlighted the BPE September meeting which included reports on the PRAXIS, Content Standards, ESSA Revisions, and MACIE. Mr. Donovan noted that the Board has seen an increase in licensure cases and discussed that this is a trend also being seen nationwide.

Update on HB 351 Transformational Learning and HB 387 Advanced Opportunity Act

Mr. Donovan and Ms. Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent, OPI, reviewed the ongoing work the Board and the OPI have done to implement these two new pieces of legislation. Ms. Walker reviewed the application process for the Transformational Learning Grant already underway, and how schools apply, how funds are allocated, and how the Advanced Opportunity Grant will work. Ms. Walker and Mr. Donovan answered Council member questions.

MSU Master of Arts in Teaching Program Update

Dr. Tricia Sieffert, Department Chair, MSU, reported to the Council the progress of this program in the last year since the Council approved this program. Dr. Sieffert discussed the number of students enrolled, subject areas students are studying, the hands-on component, and applications now being reviewed for the next year.

Overview of the Stone Child College Site Visit

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson reported that the site visit for Stone Child has been delayed due to the recent blizzard which prevented the visit from happening. This item will be reported on later.

Update: PRAXIS Content Knowledge Test Data

Dr. Peterson discussed the PRAXIS Content Knowledge Test, reasons the test is used for potential teacher candidates. Dr. Peterson noted that out of state applicants are also required to take the test or provide proof of passing the test prior to licensure. Additionally, Dr. Peterson reviewed content areas available for testing, average scores, and national scores, and answered member questions.

CLASS 8 License Applications

The Council reviewed one application for a Class 8 licenses and approved the application.

Future Agenda Items

Class 8 Applications

PRAXIS follow up

Stone Child College Site Visit review

Update on Transformational Learning Grant applications

Micro-credentials

Highlights of the February 5, 2020 CSPAC Meeting
Montana State Capitol Building
Room 422
Helena, MT

On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met in room 422 of the Montana State Capitol Building for their regularly scheduled winter meeting. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Mr. Kelly Elder, Teacher, Helena, Vice Chair Ms. Noreen Burris, Specialist, Billings, Mr. Tom Cabbage, Teacher, 9-12 Teacher, CM Russell High School, Great Falls; Ms. Ann Wake, Trustee, Missoula; Dr. Rob Watson, Missoula Public Schools, Administrator; Ms. Leanne Lorenz, K-8 Teacher, Bozeman; Dr. Trent Atkins, representing the Council of Deans, from the University of Montana.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Jule Walker, OPI; Ms. Patty Muir, OPI; Mr. Jason Butcher, OPI. Staff present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton.

CSPAC Meeting
February 5, 2020

Executive Committee Report

No report as the Executive Committee has not met since the October meeting.

Board of Public Education Report/Executive Director's Report

Mr. Donovan's report covered the resignation of the Superintendent at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind and the hiring of Principal Paul Furthmyre as the Interim Superintendent, the recent US Supreme Court oral arguments in the Espinoza vs. Montana Department of Revenue and a summary from Ms. Diane Burke, Executive Director of Montana Quality Education Coalition, who attended the oral arguments.

Update: Virtual Site Visit of the Educator Preparation Program at Stone Child College, November 24-26, 2019

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson reviewed the Virtual Site Visit done in November due to winter storms that prevented the visit from taking place on site at the college. The visit is complete and the accreditation team will present their report to the Board of Public Education at their March meeting.

PRAXIS Update

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson reviewed possible content areas to be added to the list of PRAXIS Subject matter areas, including Computer Science 5-12 and Reading K-12. Dr. Peterson discussed how subject matter areas are added and the process moving forward should those areas be added.

Site Visit Schedule for Montana's 10 Educator Preparation Programs

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson reviewed the schedule and the need for revisions to the timeline due to the fact that two Colleges have requested Good Cause Extensions to their schedule due to program revisions on the campuses.

University of Providence Request for Good Cause Extension

Dr. Peterson discussed the request from the University of Providence for a Good Cause Extension. The University is undergoing a restructuring and the Education Program is being discontinued. Dr. Peterson reviewed the teach out options for current students and that the University will present their request to the Board of Public Education for approval in May.

Teacher Licensure Report

Deputy Superintendent Jule Walker presented the Teacher Licensure Report to the Board, noting this is an annual report to the Board of Public Education and that the report was recently presented to the Board at their January meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Class 8 Applications
Draft Annual Report

Highlights of the April 15, 2020 CSPAC Meeting Virtual Zoom Meeting

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met via Zoom Online meeting format for their regularly scheduled Spring meeting. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Mr. Kelly Elder, Teacher, Helena, Vice Chair Ms. Noreen Burris, Specialist, Billings, Mr. Tom Cabbage, Teacher, 9-12 Teacher, CM Russell High School, Great Falls; Ms. Ann Wake, Trustee, Missoula; Dr. Rob Watson, Missoula Public Schools, Administrator; Ms. Leanne Lorenz, K-8 Teacher, Bozeman; Dr. Trent Atkins, representing the Council of Deans, from the University of Montana.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Mr. Jason Butcher, OPI; Ms. Kris Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Ms. Jess Bryant, Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Ms. Jacque Treaster, OCHE; Mr. Joel Thiel, OCHE; Mr. Marco Ferro, MFPE; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor's Office; Ms. Carli Cockrell. Staff present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton.

CSPAC Meeting April 15, 2020

Executive Committee Report

Chair Elder reported that Ms. Burris will be retiring at the end of this school year and will not be asking for reappointment for her term which is ending. The Chair thanked Ms. Burris for her service on the Council

Board of Public Education Report/Executive Director's Report

Mr. Donovan noted that Ms. Lorenz's term is also expiring, and she will not be asking for reappointment. Mr. Donovan thanked both Ms. Lorenz and Ms. Burris for their service. Mr. Donovan reviewed weekly conference calls with the Superintendent going on since the Stay at Home Order was issued, the upcoming Board meeting in May and items the Board will be approving or hearing presentations on.

Assessment Update

Ms. Ashley McGrath, Assessment Director for OPI, updated the Council on the Assessment Waivers and delayed field testing for the Science Assessment due to Covid-19 and school closures. The Board of Public Education voted in March to waive the Spring 2020 Assessments, including the ACT for high school juniors, which will now be given in the Fall of 2020.

Presentation on Micro Credentials

Ms. Angela McLean, Mr. Joel Thiel, Ms. Jacque Treaster, from OCHE presented the Council with information on micro credentials, what states are using them and how they are being used, for example, in place of renewal units. The Council discussed how micro credentials might work in Montana and asked Ms. McLean for another update at their July meeting.

State Exit Report of the Educator Preparation Program at Stone Child College

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson presented the State Exit Report for Stone Child College to the Council, reviewed the areas of improvement identified during the review process, and discussed how the school is working towards remedying the identified areas and noted that some have already been resolved. The Board of Public Education will approve the Final Report at their May meeting.

Proposed Montana Qualifying Scores for PRAXIS Subject Assessments for Computer Science 5-12 and Teaching Reading K-12

Dr. Peterson reviewed the February meeting that she attended with the Council of Deans in conjunction with ETS to discuss the qualifying scores for Computer Science 5-12 and Teaching Reading K-12 so they can be added to the Montana PRAXIS assessments.

Content Standards Revision Update

Ms. Colet Bartow presented the Council with the revised timeline for the Content Standards Revisions which has been updated due to Covid-19 and school closures. The timeline has been pushed back by two months with final Board of Public Education approval estimated for November 2020 instead of September 2020. Ms. Bartow noted that the implementation date of July 1, 2021 remains the same.

Approve Class 8 License Applications

Ms. Kris Thatcher presented the Council with seven applications for Class 8 licensure. The Council reviewed all seven applications and approved all seven.

Future Agenda Items

Class 8 Applications

Update on Micro credentials

Joint meeting with BPE

ITEM 3

JULY 15, 2020 CSPAC MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Kelly Elder, CSPAC Chair

ITEM 4

REVIEW OF ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55,
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Pete Donovan

10.55.604 VARIANCES TO STANDARDS

(1) A local board of trustees may apply to the Board of Public Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement a variance to a standard or a section of standards, excluding standards stating statutory criteria, standards pertaining to educator licensure or endorsement, and content standards as defined by the Board of Public Education and provided in guidance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(a) In its application, the local board of trustees shall outline how and why its proposed variance would be workable, educationally sound, and designed to meet or exceed results under established standards and, where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM [10.55.1101](#) through [10.55.1901](#).

(b) In its application, the school district shall provide evidence through official minutes of the board of trustees that local school community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance to standards. Stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers, classified school staff, parents, community members, and students as applicable. A district shall provide evidence it adopted its application for variance at an official, properly noticed meeting of its board of trustees.

(c) An application for variance to standards to take effect at the beginning of the academic year is due in writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction no later than the first Monday in March. An application for variance to standards to take effect the second semester of the academic year is due in writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction no later than the first Monday in July.

(d) Upon receipt, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall refer applications for variance to standards to a pre-appointed review board. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall facilitate and provide organizational support for the meetings of the review board.

(i) The review board shall consist of the following, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction from a list of qualifying individuals jointly endorsed by MEA-MFT, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA), Montana Small Schools Alliance (MSSA), School Administrators of Montana (SAM), and Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA): one trustee, one district superintendent, one high school principal, one elementary principal, two high school teachers, and two elementary school teachers.

(ii) As needed, the review board shall seek advice from experts.

(A) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall solicit a pool of experts from curriculum groups and educational associations to serve "on call" in an advisory capacity.

(B) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall notify the review board of the pool participants with rationale and present them for review board approval.

(C) The review board shall notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction when and what type of experts are needed.

(D) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall notify the appropriate pool of experts of this needed input and arrange for the pool member(s) to advise the committee.

(iii) The review board members shall serve five year terms with no limit to the number of terms any one person may serve. Terms shall be staggered where half of all positions shall be filled every three years prior to the first meeting of the review board in the third year.

(e) The review board shall review all applications and use a uniform rubric, made available to districts in advance of applying to implement a variance to a standard or section of standards. The uniform rubric will ensure consistent and high quality applications from school districts across Montana.

(f) The review board shall provide its recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction with a recommendation for approval, modification, or rejection of the review board's recommendation within 60 calendar days of the review board being referred an application.

(g) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide the Board of Public Education with a recommendation for approval, modification, or rejection of the review board's recommendation.

(h) If the Superintendent of Public Instruction or review board finds an application to be preliminarily deficient, the superintendent shall advise the applicant school district why that application is not ready for consideration. The applicant district shall have the opportunity to change its application as suggested or submit it as originally proposed.

(2) The Board of Public Education shall approve or deny proposed variances to standards. If the board denies a proposed variance to standards, it shall remit in writing to the applicant school district why it has done so.

(3) If the Board of Public Education approves a proposed variance to standards, it shall initially do so for no more than two years pending ongoing review of the implementation by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(4) Following the second year of implementation of a variance to standards, the school district shall provide evidence to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the methods selected by the district implement, meet, or exceed results that could have been achieved under established standards.

(5) If the Superintendent of Public Instruction finds the variance is workable and educationally sound, the Superintendent shall report findings and recommend continued approval to the Board of Public Education.

(6) If the Board of Public Education concurs with the Superintendent's recommendation, it may renew the variance for no more than three years.

(7) The Board of Public Education may subsequently renew the variance provided the district continues to show how the variance meets or exceeds established standards.

(8) If the Superintendent of Public Instruction finds the variance to standards is not working as intended or does not meet or exceed results that could be achieved under established standards, the superintendent shall recommend to the Board of Public Education that the variance be revoked.

(9) If the Board of Public Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation to revoke a variance, the board's decision is final.

(10) A school district may discontinue an approved variance at any time. If it does so, it shall promptly notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction in writing.

(11) A school district may apply to the Board of Public Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a charter school.

(a) A charter school must provide an education that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Montana Constitution, state law, and school accreditation standards.

(b) The Board of Public Education may only grant charters to publicly funded schools or programs under the supervision and control of a locally elected board of trustees in an existing school district.

(c) The procedure by which a school district may apply to create a charter school and by which the Board of Public Education may approve, deny, evaluate, and renew a charter school shall be identical to that outlined in ARM [10.55.604](#).

(d) To be proposed by a school district and approved by the Board of Public Education, a charter school shall, at a minimum, guarantee the following:

(i) school district governance and control;

(ii) unrestricted, open student access;

(iii) compliance with all health and safety laws;

(iv) teacher licensure and endorsement to the same extent as required or provided by state law or accreditation standards;

(v) employee collective bargaining to the same extent as required or provided by state law; and

(vi) a plan for consideration of input by community members and staff as to formation and implementation issues. Consideration of input may be identified by formation of advisory committees involving staff and/or community members, conduct of a properly noticed public meeting for purposes of comment on the formation or operation of the charter school, or any other reasonable means that result in an opportunity for input by staff and community members prior to a decision of significant interest to the public regarding the formation or operation of the charter school.

(e) A school district may discontinue an approved charter school at any time. If it does so, it shall promptly notify the Board of Public Education in writing.

History: [20-2-114](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [20-2-121](#), [20-3-106](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; [AMD](#), 1995 MAR p. 623, Eff. 4/28/95; [AMD](#), 1998 MAR p. 2707, Eff. 10/9/98; [AMD](#), 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; [AMD](#), 2002 MAR p. 3309, Eff. 11/28/02; [AMD](#), 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13.

ITEM 5

EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE
UPDATE

Angela McLean