

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**July 18 & 19, 2002**  
**Montana Higher Education Complex**  
**2500 Broadway**  
**Helena MT 59624**

Chairperson Dr. Kirk Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2002.

Board members present were: Kirk Miller, Diane Fladmo, Storrs Bishop, Randy Morris, Joyce Silverthorne, Patty Myers, Josh Ewing, Derek Duncan, Student Representative, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Office of Public Instruction, and Dr. Richard Crofts, Commissioner of Higher Education. Staff present were: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Peter Donovan, CSPAC Administrative Officer, and Suzan Hopkins, BPE Administrative Assistant.

The following people were registered on the meeting roster: Linda Peterson, Office of public instruction, Bruce Messinger, Helena Public Schools, Dori Nielson, Missoula Public Schools; Bob Vogel, MSBA; Kris Goss, Governor's Office; Thomas Brown, MWIEA; Denise Juneau, Office of Public Instruction; Chris Provance, Office of Public Instruction; Margaret Bowles, CSPAC; Erik Burke, MEA-MFT; Richard Roehm, Board of Regents; Kirby Maki, Libby Schools; Joanne Erickson, MSU-Bozeman; Frosyne Mensendick, Riverside Publishing; Cheri Jimeno, UM-Western; Sally Munday, UM-Western, Denise Juneau, Office of Public Instruction; Dr. Cindy Dell, MSU-Billings; Nancy Coopersmith, Office of Public Instruction; Dr. George White, MSU-Billings; Ron Lukenbill, Office of Public Instruction; Joe Lamson, Office of Public Instruction; Connie Erickson, Legal Services; Lance Melton, MSBA; Jeff Weldon, Office of Public Instruction; and Rick Chiotti, Office of Public Instruction

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Silverthorne led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Hopkins conducted the Roll Call. Dr. Miller reminded all that there would be a Board of Education meeting at the state capitol at 2:00 on Thursday, July 18. He also noted some changes to the agenda, which included Item 3, CSPAC report, noting that the final document would be received at the meeting and that Dr. Dori Nielson would be presenting her follow up to "Who Will Teach Montana's Children". Dr. Miller stated that Item 14, State Assessment, would be moved to the first item on the agenda on Friday, July 19. He also stated that Lt. Governor Karl Ohs would give the Governor's Office Report.

**MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to adopt the revised agenda for the July 18 & 19, 2002 meeting. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Miller presented the consent agenda, which included financial reports as well as the minutes from the May 2002 meeting.

**MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. Silverthorne seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

### **Item 1 Chairperson's Report**

Dr. Kirk Miller gave a summary of events that had transpired since the last Board meeting. Some of the items highlighted in his report were:

- On behalf of the board, Dr. Miller, emphasizing the importance of accreditation standards in keeping Montana schools strong, and adequate funding, had written a guest editorial, which had only been printed by the Billings Gazette.
- Served on Adequacy Study Panel in Helena.
- Met with Governor, Mr. Swysgood, and Ms. Carlson to discuss 10% budget cut to the Board of Public Education, along with Mr. Bishop and Mr. Meloy.
- Chaired BOE Budget Subcommittee meetings, which was also attended by Mr. Bishop.
- Met with Mr. Bob Brown to discuss strategies for upcoming Special Legislative Session.
- Talked with Mr. Carlos Vega to prepare for the BPE 5-Year Strategic Planning Session.
- Presented Mr. Michael Kolis with plaque of appreciation on behalf of CSPAC and BPE.

### **Item 2 Executive Secretary Report**

Mr. Meloy gave a brief overview of his report. He mentioned that his Week in Review reports should be beneficial in keeping members up to date on his meetings, etc. Mr. Meloy stated that an update on progress on the Board's objectives on the two-year strategic plan had been distributed at the Board of Education retreat, which was held on Wednesday, July 17. Some of the highlights of his report were:

- Fiscal year end report shows that BPE will end up 7-8% under expended in the entire budget. Hoping to carry 30% of this into fiscal year 2003 to help mitigate the cuts that the Governor has imposed.
- Previewed Montana Commission on Teaching Power Point presentation.
- Coordinated an ESEA electronic interactive videoconference.

- Met with Mr. Copps and Mr. Molloy of the Montana Quality Education Coalition.
- Attended an Ed Forum meeting to hear proposed Office of Public Instruction legislation.
- Presided over a public hearing on the GED rule and bus standards.
- Worked with Mr. Carlos Vega (NASBE) regarding the five-year plan process.
- Invited Ms. Joanne Erickson to speak to the Board regarding SAELP project.
- Attended Legislative Finance Committee and submitted testimony opposing budget cuts.
- Invited Lt. Governor Karl Ohs to the Board of Education retreat.
- Met with Mr. Brown regarding legislative strategies for MSDB Timber Trust Funds.
- Attended MACIE meeting on June 24.
- Mentioned that MASS (Montana Association of School Superintendents) would like someone from the board to present at their Annual Fall Conference on September 23, 2002 in Bozeman.

### **Item 3 CSPAC Report**

Mr. Donovan advised the Board that there has been interest expressed in having a joint meeting with the Board of Public Education and the Council. He also mentioned that he, along with two members of Office of Public Instruction, two CSPAC members, and Ms. Myers, attended the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification annual conference. Dr. Penny Early offered a PowerPoint presentation of the implications of the ESEA legislation. Mr. Donovan distributed email correspondence from Ms. Fladmo regarding future research topics for CSPAC. Some topics of interest mentioned were the issue(s) of assessment and ESEA implementation. Also mentioned was the fact that a skilled facilitator is needed to assist in coordinating meetings, including representatives from Office of Public Instruction /LEAs/Higher Ed, CSPAC, BPE, Measured Progress, Riverside, and NASBE researchers. It was directed by Dr. Miller to have Mr. Donovan and Mr. Meloy collaborate on how to effectively utilize the research fund for the previously mentioned projects

Ms. Margaret Bowles gave an item-by-item overview of the changes that have been made to Chapter 57 and presented the final document to the Board. Ms. Bowles thanked the Board for supporting and staying informed of the efforts of the council. She conveyed to the Board that there is finally a revised draft that does meet the needs of education and maintains the integrity of the teaching profession. Mr. Donovan presented a timeline of proposed teacher certification rules to follow in order to be able to publish and have the rules implemented by the end of the year. She also expressed gratitude to the Board for elimination of the PPST, and for the Temporary Rule that is currently in place. Dr. Miller indicated that Mr. Meloy, Mr. Donovan and Ms. Bowles get together and craft a document that would characterize the effort that was begun two years ago with this process and send it out to educators, legislators, and other pertinent people. It

was also mentioned that Mr. Meloy and Mr. Donovan team up to put into place an automatic review process of Chapter 57 to alleviate this from occurring again.

Mr. Donovan introduced Dr. Dori Nielson, who presented a follow-up report to “Who Will Teach Montana’s Children?” The study addresses the diverse reasons for teacher shortages in Montana as gathered through survey data. Four different surveys were sent out to gather relevant information. They were sent out to school districts, county superintendents, district and cooperative special education programs, and teacher education programs. Some of the conclusions Dr. Nielson gathered from the data include the fact that shortages seem to have flattened out in Montana; the media has taken more interest, job fairs aren’t as dismal, and the support of small schools is critical. She also reiterated that there are some red flags that need to be recognized: increasing accreditation deviations, increasing reliance on provisional certification and emergency authorization, and dropping programs or courses due to lack of qualified personnel. Dr. Miller directed Mr. Donovan and Mr. Meloy to craft a press release with regards to the findings of this report.

#### **Item 6 Governor’s Office Report**

Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs presented a memo from Budget Director Chuck Swysgood from the Office of Budget and Program Planning outlining the administrative recommendations for reductions in spending to the Legislative Fiscal Division. He also mentioned he would be chairing the Board of Education meeting to be held later in the day, in Governor Martz’s absence.

#### **Item 4 State Superintendent Report**

Linda McCulloch gave an overview of her report. The topics that she highlighted to the Board included:

- E-mail will be the preferred method of corresponding with school districts and county superintendents.
- Dr. David Hall named to National FFA Committee
- Mentoring Institute – “From Strong Beginnings”- held at MSU-Billings from July 31-August 2, 2002
- Delivered the graduation address at Bonner School
- Met with an education delegation for the Country of Moldova
- Attended ICC meeting in Helena
- Hosted an education reception for Lt. Governor Karl Ohs
- Conducted an appeals hearing in Billings
- Attended the Board of Education meeting in Helena
- Office of Public Instruction staff is currently approving the ESEA Consolidated applications sent by school districts
- Accreditation Unit was moved from 1227 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 1300 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue to become a part of the School Improvement Division.

#### **Item 5 Commissioner of Higher Education Report**

Dr. Crofts explained to the Board that the legal counsel for the Commissioner's Office is preparing legal action on some issues related to the timber sale of revenue. The outcome of this action will be brought to the September meeting. He also shared with the Board that the Regents has approved a 3.5% reduction plan, which included tuition surcharges.

### **Item 7 Student Representative Report**

Student representative, Josh Ewing, presented to the Board the results of the survey he distributed to students throughout Montana schools. He sent out 724 surveys and 323 had been returned to him, approximately 44.6%. He broke down the survey results by grades (9-12). 64.4% of the students surveyed felt there was a problem with the grading scale in Montana, and 70.6% of the students felt a uniform grading scale would be beneficial. The suggestion that Mr. Ewing made to the Board is that students of Montana would profit from a uniform grading scale. This proposal would ensure that students would have the same opportunities.

### **Item 8 Montana Commission on Teaching Report**

Mr. Erik Burke and Ms. Margaret Bowles outlined the PowerPoint presentation on State Level Student Assessment in Montana: Past, Present, and Future. This presentation was an informational one, focusing on the history of testing in Montana, past, present and future. Some of the recommendations made to the Board include:

- 1) **Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction**: Create and implement policies that support effective assessment.
- 2) **Media**: Inform the public on how the proper use of assessment can benefit students and schools. Responsibly report assessment results.
- 3) **Legislators**:
  - A. Support appropriate use of testing.
  - B. Provide adequate support for effective assessment practices.
- 4) **Education Associations and Curriculum Groups**: Work with teachers to implement effective assessment practices.
- 5) **Higher education**:
  - A. Emphasize assessment skills throughout teacher preparation programs.
  - B. Prepare teachers to be knowledgeable about both standardized and authentic assessments.

### **Item 9 Montana Statewide Dropout Report – 2000-2001**

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Office of Public Instruction, presented a seven-page report outlining statistics regarding the dropout rate in Montana. This report can also be accessed at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Measurement/>. Highlights from this report include:

- ✓ Approximately 2,295 students dropped out of Montana schools in 2000-01.

- ✓ The 2000-01 dropout rate for Montana grades 7 and 8 was 0.5 percent.
- ✓ The 2000-01 dropout rate for Montana high schools was 4.2 percent.
- ✓ White students represent 87.2 percent of the total school enrollment and 70.6 percent of the dropouts.
- ✓ Although minorities represent 12.8 percent of the total school enrollment, they account for 29.4 percent of the dropouts.
- ✓ Males represent 52 percent of the total school enrollment and 57 percent of the dropouts.
- ✓ Females represent 48 percent of the total school enrollment and 43 percent of the dropouts.

**\*\* The Board recessed for the Board of Education meeting at the Capitol at 2:00 p.m. and reconvened at 4:20 p.m.**

### **Item 10 Comprehensive Educational Plan**

Dr. Linda Peterson and Ms. Chris Provance presented a PowerPoint demonstration of what the five-year comprehensive education plan will cover: its development, the format, and reporting forms and spreadsheets. Ms. Chris Provance expressed how user-friendly the demographic data and narrative templates are and that they are located on the Office of Public Instruction website. Also, a discussion of the technical assistance and implementation timeline was presented. One significant matter, which needs to be addressed, as the education plan becomes operational, is the issue of multi-year accreditation. Dr. Miller expressed the Board's appreciation for all of the effort put forth on this plan and how easy it will be for school districts to implement this procedure.

### **Item 11 Libby School District-Accreditation Issue**

Dr. Linda Peterson and Mr. Kirby Maki presented the Libby accreditation issue. Dr. Linda Peterson, after presenting the issues, turned the presentation over to Mr. Maki. Superintendent Maki addressed the specific lapses in meeting the accreditation standards. He also expressed his appreciation with the Board's patience in Libby's untimely response to Office of Public Instruction's letter regarding the accreditation deviations. Mr. Maki outlined the goals that were presented to the Board to address the steps that are being taken to alleviate the accreditation issue. He cited budget matters as one of the reasons for their lack of compliance with state regulations. Dr. Miller suggested the plan that Mr. Maki presented be turned over to Office of Public Instruction for further review and then a report to be presented to the Board at a future date.

### **Item 14 State Assessment**

Ms. Judy Snow introduced Dr. Stephen Dunbar from the University of Iowa. Dr. Dunbar presented a report on the item analysis of Montana Native American students on the 2001 Iowa Tests. He also presented information from prior studies with regards to Native American achievement. Conclusions from 2001 results:

- ✓ Performance of boys (especially at elementary level) is more variable than that of girls.
- ✓ Achievement gap widens between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ✓ Achievement gap is narrower in schools with mixed populations.
- ✓ Dropout effect narrows the gap.
- ✓ Evidence shows that achievement gap is greater in math than in reading or language skills.

Ms. Judy Snow presented preliminary aggregated state scores for the 2002 Iowa Tests. She also presented a comparison of Preliminary Montana NPRs for 2001 and 2002 Iowa Tests. The data showed no substantial difference in scores between grade 4, grade 8 or grade 11 in any of the subjects.

### **Item 12 Five-Year Strategic Plan/Update**

Mr. Steve Meloy presented an update of issues that were discussed at the Board of Education Retreat, held on Wednesday, July 17, 2002 at the Mountain Meadow Inn, Helena. He plans to work with Commissioner Crofts to resolve the matter of a replacement for the PPST. He also stressed the fact that the Board needs to align their strategic plan with that of the Office of Public Instruction. Mr. Meloy feels that the general public needs a better understanding of exactly what the board does. Mr. Meloy reiterated the comment that Representative Mark Noennig felt that a concrete cause and effect relationship between funding and the effect on our standards should be established. A final draft of the discussion at the retreat will be compiled and distributed as soon as it is formulated. Assistant Dean Larry Baker presented to the Board an organization that has been formed called the Northern Plains Network for Career Transition. The purpose of this organization is to recruit, develop and retain qualified professionals in the transition mode. It will be a five-year initiative, starting with eighty students throughout the states of Wyoming, Montana, and South Dakota. Dr. Baker came to the Board to seek a letter of support for this program.

**Motion: Ms. Fladmo moved that the Board of Public Education provide a letter of support for the creation of the Northern Plains Network for Career Transition, subject to review and contingent upon the approval of the Board Chair with the assistance of the Executive Secretary. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silverthorne and unanimously carried.**

### **Item 13 NASBE Study Group on E-Learning**

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne reported on the progress of the E-Learning Study Group. She reported that she had a conference call with CSPAC during their meeting on July 11 & 12, 2002. She discussed ways the Board of Public Education is examining the definition, what kind of practices would be acceptable, and how to credit courses that have already been developed. She also shared with the Board that there are a number of schools hoping to incorporate e-learning as a way to expand their curriculum. Ms. Silverthorne requests CSPAC to obtain nationwide information, as a way to better understand how to implement e-learning into Montana's curriculum. She has requested of

CSPAC that a proposal be written addressing this issue. Ms. Silverthorne, and Dr. George White both concurred that there are some unresolved issues as far as K-12 is concerned. These include administration, enrollment and credit, and quality assurance.

**Item 15 Proposed Board Action on Office of Public Instruction Recommendation Regarding Case #2-2002** (Postponed until September Board meeting)

**Item 16 SAELP Update**

Dr. Joanne Erickson presented an update on the SAELP project. She wished to express the fact that the Board has been well represented by both Mr. Meloy and Mr. Donovan on the state consortium. She explained that the SAELP project came about through a \$300,000 grant from Wallace Reader's Digest and she is the state program manager for the project. The problems identified, through this grouping, with education leadership in the state of Montana, were recruitment and retention, professional development and preparation, and the perception of some legislators that leadership is unimportant. Next, an action plan was developed to address these issues. This action plan is currently in place. Dr. Erickson stated that a strategy for building influence would be the major topic at the forum on September 24, 2002, in Bozeman. Dr. Joe Murphy, who was instrumental in designing the ISLIC standards, has agreed to be a key speaker at this forum. She hopes to target an audience that includes policy makers, such as the Office of Public Instruction, MEA-MFT, and legislators at this forum, in order to gain support for strategies that would improve conditions and practice for education leaders in this state. She urges members of the Board to be present at the forum and to facilitate discussion.

**Item 17 Board Member Appearances**

Ms. Patty Myers stressed the fact that communication needs to be increased, enhanced, and all Board members should request to be introduced at any appearances they make. In order to assist in this suggestion, she presented a form that Board members should fill out after any appearances they make. This form will now be included in all Board member packets. Some appearances that members have made recently include:

- Mr. Morris participated in NCLB videoconference in Helena, attended a reception for Karl Ohs in Helena, and hosted the Deputy Ambassador to Ireland as an education liaison.
- Ms. Fladmo attended the Board of Regents meeting in Glendive.
- Ms. Myers attended Montana Commission on Teaching meeting, a retirement tea held at MSDB, graduation ceremonies at MSDB, NASDTEC Conference in St. Louis, was introduced at MBI luncheon with Dr. Greg Weisenstein, Dr. Larry Baker, and Mr. Carson, was present at CSPAC for Chapter 57 report, and participated in MSDB Committee conference call.
- Ms. Silverthorne attended the State/Tribal Legislative Committee visit to Flathead, Diversity Conference at MSU, and Native Language Conference in Spokane.

Ms. Myers passed on to the Board that MSU-Bozeman has agreed to host a reception for the Board at the September meeting. She also brought to the Board's attention that a "Meet the Board" gathering should be planned for the November meeting in Helena, in order to meet with the local legislators and school officials from the surrounding area.

### **Item 22 Montana State University-Billings Accreditation Review Report**

Dr. Linda Peterson, Dr. Cindy Dell, Assistant Dean and Director of Certification and Field Experience at MSU-Billings, and Dr. George White, Dean of College of Education and Human Services at MSU-Billings, presented a review of the State Teacher Education program at MSU-Billings. A joint review by NCATE and the Office of Public Instruction of the Teacher Education Program at MSU-Billings was completed on March 27, 2002. The NCATE team was responsible for the institutional program standards-unit standards. This review followed an off-site review of the materials that the institution provided to the Office of Public Instruction and then several people evaluated those documents and completed a report. An on-site team went to Billings on March 23-27, 2002 in order to verify various parts of the documents that were prepared off-site. The state review team found that MSU-Billings met all but one of the program standards for which the Office of Public Instruction is responsible. The Computer Science-Minor program did not meet the program standard. It is recommended that the Board of Public Education accredit the Teacher Education Program at MSU-Billings. Dr. Miller instructed Mr. Meloy to draft a letter of appreciation from the Board to Havre Public School with regards to their support in preparing this report.

**Motion: Ms. Myers moved to approve the Accreditation Review Report for MSU-Billings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fladmo and unanimously carried.**

### **Item 23 University of Montana-Western Montana College Accreditation Review Report**

Dr. Linda Peterson, Dr. Cheri Jimeno, Dean of Education, Business and Technology at the University of Montana-Western, and Dr. Sally Munday, Accreditation Coordinator, presented a review of the State Teacher Education Program at MSU-Western\*\*. The joint review by NCATE and the Office of Public Instruction was completed on April 10, 2002. The NCATE Team was responsible for the institutional program standards-unit standards. A state team conducted an off-site paper review of the documentation provided by UM-Western. A nine member on-site OPI State Team visited the Western campus. The findings were conclusive that Western met all of the program standards for which the Office of Public Instruction is responsible. The State Superintendent recommends to the Board accreditation of the Teacher Education Program at UM-Western.

\*\*Scheduled Teacher Education Reviews are: NCATE review of MSU-Northern in October, State Review of Carroll College in fall 2002, and a third follow-up review of Rocky Mountain College in fall 2002.

**Motion: Mr. Morris moved to approve the Accreditation Review Report for the University of Montana-Western. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silverthorne and unanimously carried.**

### **Item 18 Proposed Legislation**

Mr. Meloy proposed the bill to create additional flexibility for schools in meeting its accreditation on professional development. He presented this proposal to CSPAC and they were less than captivated with this concept because they didn't want the legislature to see any language that talks about reduction of school dates. This bill allows the school districts extra flexibility to reduce the number of teacher days, as long as the aggregate hours are not reduced, and as long as the school districts use the extra days to provide professional development possibilities for their staff. The next bill he urged the Board to keep an open mind to was the bill that allowed A and B entitlements for those who learn through distance learning. The third bill that Mr. Meloy was contemplating was to remove the three agencies that are under the umbrella of the Board of Public Education. He subsequently withdrew this proposal when the subcommittee decided that they preferred to keep this arrangement.

### **Item 19 Election of Officers**

Dr. Kirk Miller was nominated for Chairman of the Board of Public Education, nominations were closed and Dr. Miller was unanimously elected. Nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Public Education consisted of Ms. Diane Fladmo, nominations were closed and Ms. Fladmo was unanimously elected. Dr. Miller emphasized that committee assignments will be on the agenda for the September meeting, so he urged members to contact him with regards to which committees they would like to serve on. He also stated that there are now four state board of education committees; K-16 Committee will become the K-20 Committee, Indian Education for All, Unified Budget Committee, and Policy Evaluation Committee.

### **Item 20 Coordinated School Health**

Mr. Chiotti presented an overview of coordinated school health, data on youth involvement in health risk behaviors, information on teacher preparation requirements, and time requirements for health-related classroom instruction. He also presented results of the 2002 Montana School Health Issues Survey. Some of the results of this survey are as follows:

- 99% of adult Montanans agree or strongly agree that physical education is important to our children.
- 72% of Montana adults agree or strongly agree that Montana public schools should have nutritious breaks during the day.
- 68% of adult Montanans agree or strongly agree that all funding received in Montana from the national tobacco lawsuit should be spent on tobacco use prevention education. (Currently none of these funds are used for this purpose.)

- 79% of Montana adults believe that their local schools are safe places.
- Nine of ten adult Montanans agree or strongly agree that human sexuality education that is age-appropriate should be taught at the high school level in Montana public schools.

**Motion: Ms. Fladmo moved to consider the following actions: a statement of support for coordinated school health; support, in whatever manner the BPE deems appropriate for a. revising the teacher preparation standards to increase health-related coursework requirements for elementary teachers, and b. clarifying that health enhancement should be a daily occurrence at the elementary level; encourage the OPI and the DPHHS to a. provide ongoing professional development as described in the report's recommendations, and b. continue efforts to enroll eligible children and families in subsidized health insurance programs; and encourage OPI to establish a coordinated school health pilot project as described in the report's recommendations. This motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried.**

### **Item 21 Alternative Standards Request Report**

Dr. Linda Peterson introduced Mr. Al McMillan, who has accepted the position of Accreditation Specialist with OPI. This presentation provided to the board for consideration the Alternative Standards Request recommended for approval by Superintendent Linda McCulloch. The request includes a total of twenty-three schools and twelve districts, which are being recommended for two-year approvals. There is also a proposal for five-year renewal requests, which represents four schools and three districts. In September, there is the probability of another set of requests, which should close out the Alternative Standards Requests. The request for the two-year approvals looks at the number of full-time and part-time librarians that are required in a particular school. The five-year renewal request has two parts to the first request. First part looks at a full or part-time superintendent and a full or half time school administrator being employed for a combined elementary-high school district with few than thirty FTE certified staff. The second part looks at school districts employing appropriately endorsed school administrators as follows: .5 FTE for schools with 9-17 FTE certified staff. The second five-year renewal request is in regards to a junior high or 7-8 school for middle grades offering an educational program, aligned to the program area standards that enable all students to meet the content and performance standards. All students must be allowed to elect from the following program area offerings: visual arts-1/2 unit; career-technical education-1/2 unit; and world language-1/2 unit.

**Motion: Ms. Patty Myers moved to approve the two-year requests for Alternative Standards for the total of 23 schools and 12 districts. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fladmo and unanimously carried.**

**Motion: Ms. Diane Fladmo moved to approve the five-year Alternative Standards Renewal Requests. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silverthorne and unanimously carried.**

### **Item 25 GED Rule Adoption**

Mr. Meloy presented the information regarding the public hearing that was held on June 25, 2002 for action. This rule allows the Office of Public Instruction to adjust the fees commensurate with the actual cost related to the GED test. The only addition to this rule was the concept that the Superintendent shall report annually to the Board of Public Education the status of all the fees associated with this test. He presided over this hearing, which was a public hearing, held in the main conference room in the Higher Education Complex. There were no witnesses and no comments prior to or following the hearing.

**Motion: Ms. Fladmo moved to adopt the GED Rule as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried.**

### **Item 26 Amendments to School Bus Requirements Rule**

Mr. Meloy presented the information regarding the public hearing that was held on June 25, 2002. There were no witnesses attending or no comments prior to the hearing, but following the hearing, a comment was received from the Secretary of the State's Office. The comment stated that additional language should include clarification of what the standards document consists of. Mr. Meloy suggested that the rule be amended to make a clarification in that regards or simply note that the comment has been received, without amending the rule.

**Motion: Ms. Myers moved to approve the amendments to the school bus requirements with a note attached consisting of language from Mr. Meloy, replying to the Secretary of the State's Office. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fladmo and unanimously carried.**

### **Item 27 MSDB Committee Meeting/Report**

Mr. Steve Gettel presented his update to the Board. Some of the items he highlighted were:

- Spotlight on Programs-School Technology-presented by Ms. Kim Schwabe
- Student Enrollment/Evaluation-total of 80 students on campus, 43 residential students (these consist of 53 deaf and 27 visually impaired), and 259 off campus (consisting of 90 deaf and 169 visually impaired). They also graduated 12 students.
- Personnel Actions-there has been one resignation (Ms. Lori Desson), eight vacancies created, and one new part-time employee hired. There have also been several pay grade reclassifications, and a promotion to Mr. Ernie Bateman from counselor to supervising counselor.
- Collective Bargaining Issues-consists of a response to grievance filed by UFCW Local #8 with regards to issues of annual leave pay.
- Policies/Procedures-hold until September meeting

- Strategic Plan Review of Revisions-of 102 total strategies connected to 24 objectives, 21 have been completed, 30 are in progress, 46 have yet to be started, and 5 are being reorganized.
- 2003 Legislative Session-Steve gave an update on several proposals
- Program Accreditation-six working committees have been formed and have met to review assignments, gather information and draft reports for the school profile. Committees consist of: School and Community, Curriculum and Assessment, School Programs and Staff, Policies and Procedures, Residential Program and Facilities, and Organizational Review.
- Professional Development Activities-June 10-13 Intermountain Special Study Institute, June 14-15 Western Regional Early Intervention Conference, May-July Curriculum committee work underwritten by a grant through MSDB Foundation.
- School Calendar-Steve reviewed various activities, which took place in May, June, July, and upcoming events planned for August, which included Deaf Summer Camp, Blind Summer Camp, Family Learning Weekends for the Blind and Deaf, MSDB Foundation quarterly meeting, and MSDB Staff Orientation.
- Conferences, Meetings and Contacts-review of various conferences, etc. which have taken place and those upcoming.
- Budget and Finance-Personal Services FY 2002 Contingency Allocation approved for \$59,855 on May 17, 2002.
- Plant and Facilities-list of projects submitted to 2003 Legislature, update on Long-Range Building Legislative Committee
- Student News and School Events-games for visually impaired on May 17-18, graduation of 12 students with over \$1,000 in scholarships awarded on June 1, and an awards assembly with more than 41 awards presented on June 7.

**Motion: Mr. Morris moved to allow MSDB to enter into an athletic cooperative sponsorship agreement with Great Falls Central Catholic School for boys' and girls' basketball and boys' and girls' track. This motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried.**

#### **Preliminary Agenda Items**

- Update on Alternative Standards
- Uniform state-wide grading scale

A presentation was made to Mr. Josh Ewing, the exiting student representative, in appreciation for his services to the Board of Public Education. Mr. Ewing thanked the Board for a rewarding and educational experience.

**Item 28 Legal Affairs**

Mr. Jeff Weldon, Chief Legal Counsel, OPI, stated that the report contained confidential information and advised the meeting to be closed. Dr. Miller agreed and the meeting was closed.

The meeting was opened at 4:35 p.m.

The Board of Public Education recognizes the acceptance by the Superintendent of the Office of Public Instruction of the June 19, 2002 surrender of an educator's license pursuant to 10.57,605 (6).

**Motion: Ms. Silverthorne moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fladmo and unanimously carried.**