

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

**September 11, 2003**

**Castle Room at the University of Montana Law School  
University of Montana-Missoula  
Missoula, MT 59812**

**September 12, 2003**

**Polson High School  
Room 104  
111 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Polson, MT 59860**

Chairperson Dr. Kirk Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2003.

Board members present were: Kirk Miller, Chairperson; Diane Fladmo, Vice Chairperson; Storrs Bishop, John Fuller, Randy Morris, Patty Myers, Joyce Silverthorne, and Erik Engellant, Student Representative. Ex-Officio members present were Superintendent of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch and Commissioner Sheila Stearns. Governor Martz was absent for this meeting. Staff present was Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Suzan Hopkins, Administrative Assistant, BPE. Those in attendance included: Spencer Sartorius, OPI; Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Margaret Bowles, OPI; Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT; Marti Garlett, WGU; Cathy Warhank, OPI; Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Norma Bixby, MACIE; Rachel Viellieux, County Superintendent; Jim Clark, Missoula County Public Schools Superintendent; Representative Carol Juneau, MIEA; BJ Granbery, OPI; Joe Lamson, OPI; Jan Lombardi, OPI; Judy Snow, OPI; Roger Barber, OCHE; Robert MacDonald, MSU-Bozeman; Sue McCormick, Polson School District; Judie Woodhouse, Polson School District, and Sherry Dony, Polson School District.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Meloy led the board in the pledge of allegiance and Dr. Miller read the Statement of Public Participation. He welcomed all of the visitors who traveled to Missoula for the meeting. The only recommended revision made to the agenda was made by Ms. Silverthorne to include public participation of the Board with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Education Department's Pupil Instruction Related Day on September 12, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. in Polson. This addition will be noted as Item #19.

**MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silverthorne and unanimously carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Bishop stated that the financial statements are in excellent order, noting that this is the beginning of the fiscal year. He also reported that the NASBE dues have been paid.

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bishop and the motion unanimously carried.**

**Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Dr. Kirk Miller referenced the various items (cited from his list of activities included in the packet of information) that he has been active in since the last board meeting. He briefly discussed involvement with the School Renewal Commission, which has met twice. He included in his presentation a history of the School Renewal Commission that he presented at the first Commission meeting. He also included an overview of a Power Point presentation that was discussed at the Education and Local Government Interim Committee. The topic of the presentation was the Key Education Issues for the Interim.

Dr. Miller then asked the board to think about possible dates and locations for the upcoming 2004 meetings, which will be discussed later in the agenda. Dr. Miller concluded his presentation by welcoming Commissioner Sheila Stearns to the board meeting.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Meloy discussed the numerous projects that the board has been directly or indirectly involved in since the July meeting. He mentioned his work with the Crowley firm in Missoula regarding the setting up of a 5013c and passed around the letter addressing this issue that the lawyer has drafted. This letter states that it is not necessary to establish this type of account, as the board can solicit donations from citizens and businesses as long as the money is designated for an exclusively specific public purpose and it is to a political subdivision of the state.

He has worked extensively with Dr. Garlett, WGU; Cathy Warhank, OPI and Spencer Sartorius, OPI on the clarification of 10.57.201, Distance Learning.

Mr. Meloy reported that he has facilitated various sub-committee meetings of the BPE and the BOE.

Just as an informational item, Mr. Meloy reported that the K-20 Committee will be changed to P-20 subcommittee.

**Item 3 CSPAC REPORT**

Mr. Donovan briefly discussed activities that have transpired with CSPAC since the last meeting. The next CSPAC meeting will occur on October 2nd and 3rd in Missoula. Gloria Curdy has been appointed to the Chair of CSPAC. CSPAC is working in conjunction with the board to organize a joint meeting in March of 2004. The Montana Teacher Forum will meet on September 15, at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena. He also presented a draft of a document that the CSPAC Assessment Study Group has been working on. The document addresses the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS).

**Item 4 TEACHER CERTIFICATION RECIPROCITY FOR WESTERN GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSITY**

Ms. Warhank, Chief Legal Council, OPI, presented a legal opinion in reply to Mr. Meloy's inquiry as to licensure of Western Governor's University students as per Rule 10.57.201. The exact wording of the question is as follows: "Does ARM 10.57.201 compel Montana to license an individual who completes coursework at WGU?" The answer that was given to the board was, "a person applying for initial licensure in Montana who has successfully completed coursework through Western Governor's University will be licensed as stated in A.R.M. 10.57.201". Ms. Warhank stated that by including the phrase "and/or a state board of

education”, the Board relinquishes its control over the quality it expects of a professional educator preparation program, leaving that determination to every other state. The recommendation from OPI is to reconvene the Chapter 57 Committee to consider a rule change. Dr. Miller recommended that the Policy and Evaluation Committee or the P-20 Committee research this issue in order for the Montana University System to be able to compete with virtual institutions.

#### **Item 5 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent McCulloch, OPI, in conjunction with her report, presented her personal goals for OPI for the upcoming year. They included: Reading, Dropout Prevention, Indian Education, President Bush's No Child Left Behind Law, Information Dispersal (OPI web page-content and design), and Services to Schools (Yellow School Bus Tour).

She also highlighted some of her activities that have transpired since her last appearance in front of the board. They include:

- ❖ Addressed delegates attending Girls State at Carroll College
- ❖ Attended a White House Rose Garden event with President Bush and other State Superintendents
- ❖ Worked with NY Times Reporter, Sam Dillon, on a story on rural problems with President Bush's No Child Left Behind Law
- ❖ Participated in the School Renewal Commission meetings
- ❖ Met with representatives from the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory
- ❖ Met with Congressman Rehberg's education liaison

Superintendent McCulloch also reported that eight Montana teachers were recognized for achieving national board certification. They are:

1. Janet Allen-Billings High School
2. Beverly Gustafson Bakker-Billings Elementary
3. Charles Deisher-Terry K-12 Schools
4. Steve Gardiner-Billings High School
5. Margaret Leverton-Corvallis K-12 Schools
6. Vincent Long-Billings High School
7. Lyn McKinney-Billings High School
8. Alyson Mike-East Helena Elementary

The superintendent also wished to welcome their newest employee to OPI. Her name is Diane Fiedler, and she will be the Business and Marketing Education Specialist. She replaces Cheryl Graham.

For those who are not aware of the Office of Public Instruction's website, it is [www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us).

#### **Item 6 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT**

Commissioner Sheila Stearns addressed the board by stating how pleased she is to be serving on the board. She gave a brief biography of her experience with public education. As president of one of three colleges in the Nebraska State College System, she has built effective relationships with the other two colleges in Chadron and Peru, with the System Office, with colleagues in the University of Nebraska, community colleges, and tribal colleges.

As a former middle-school teacher, Commissioner Stearns realized how interdependent the public schools are with the institutions that educate their teachers. Under her leadership at Western, a cooperative elementary education degree was established with Salish-Kootenai Tribal College.

As Commissioner of Higher Education, Commissioner Stearns vowed to serve, lead, and

coordinate the agenda of the Board of Regents, facilitate the leadership of the Presidents and Chancellors, work to secure and balance the needed resources, serve as a strong voice for students, and bring her imagination and vision to the overall mission of the Montana University System.

In conclusion, Commissioner Stearns pledged to do her best with regards to coordination of public policy with Higher Education and the Board of Public Education.

#### **Item 8 E-LEARNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Silverthorne presented to the board an update of the September 5, 2003 meeting of the E-Learning Committee. The meeting addressed the following issues: review of Accreditation Rule 10.55.907 Distance Education, student/teacher ratios for distance learning, other states' guidelines for distance learning, and guidelines for evaluating distance learning. She also presented the draft language that was prepared at this meeting for Rule 10.55.907, along with a proposed timeline for distance learning rules and an instrument to be utilized for the OPI Annual Data Collection 2003-2004 to ascertain distance learning statistics.

#### **Item 9 ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Snow, State Assessment Director, OPI presented the 2003 Statewide ITBS/ITED reports. To summarize Ms. Snow's report, in 2003, Montana students demonstrated high achievement, scoring above the national norm group in all grades and subjects, as in 2001 and 2002. The report presented to the board contained details according to grade, subject, disaggregation, and district size category. In addition, the results were relatively stable for over the three years across the state and within disaggregations. The number and range of increases or decreases in the National Percentile Rank are small, as are the increases and decreases in differences between groups within disaggregations. This report was intended to give a preview of the results, a broad view of the student groups in Montana, and a comparison of the test results for 2001, 2002, and 2003.

#### **Item 7 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT**

Mr. Kris Goss, representing the Governor's Office, gave an update on activities which have transpired in the Governor's Office since the last board meeting, in place of Lieutenant Governor, Karl Ohs. He began by giving an overview of the School Renewal Commission's work thus far, which included minutes from the July 11, August 4, and August 21 meetings. He also referenced a press release, which was distributed on July 11, 2003 outlining the entities that have been selected for representation on the Public School Renewal Commission. In addition, a second press release was distributed on August 4, 2003 finalizing the School Renewal Commission membership.

Mr. Goss also presented a third press release that was sent out on July 31, 2003 addressing the \$2.9 million Reading First Grant which Montana received.

#### **Item 10 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND UPDATE**

Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI, presented a summary of the data concerning the status of districts and schools with regard to Adequate Yearly Progress. Also, Montana's definition of "highly qualified teachers" was presented. In addition, information about the required school, district and state report cards was discussed.

Mr. McMillin, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, presented a chronological update report on NCLB.

B.J. Granbery, Title 1 Director, presented a document providing to schools and districts an overview of their annual progress toward meeting accountability goals in areas required by President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.

### **Item 11 MACIE ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Norma Bixby, Chairperson, MACIE, and Representative Carol Juneau, presented key areas addressed at the January 18, and September 10, 2003 meetings. These areas included:

- Communication and collaboration between MACIE, OPI, and BPE.
- Drop out issues
- NCLB and Adequate Yearly Progress Reports
- CSPAC
- 20-1-501 Indian Education For All
- Math and Writing Assessment
- MACIE-MIEA Collaboration
- Tribal and Montana State Relations in Education
- Upcoming Goals for 2004

## **Public Comment**

**\*\*2:00- Board of Education Meeting-same room\*\***

### ***DAY TWO OF THE BOARD MEETING WAS HELD AT POLSON HIGH SCHOOL***

### **Item 12 STATUS REPORT ON TROOPS TO TEACHERS & NORTHERN PLAINS TRANSITION TO TEACHING**

Dr. Robert H. MacDonald, Director, Northern Plains Transition to Teaching Program, MSU-Bozeman, presented a status report on the activities of this program and the Troops to Teachers project. The Transition to Teaching project was started in January 2003. The mission for the first year was:

- a. to market the project to various audiences locally, regionally, and nationally,
- b. to recruit teacher candidates seeking to make a transition from a current career or profession and become secondary teachers in high need schools in Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming,
- c. to train the selected candidates via a web based alternative certification training program designed around Licensure standards of our three state regions
- d. to place 60 to 80 NPTT candidates in high need schools in our service area
- e. to select and train mentors to assist NPTT candidates toward success and full certification during their first year of teaching

Dr. MacDonald also submitted a Performance Report from year one of the Northern Plains Transition to Teaching Project. This report was based on the five goals of the project which include:

- Recruit highly qualified professional adults with an interest in teaching
- Develop an alternative route for transitioning into teaching
- Place NPTT candidates in high need schools in Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Support and retain new NPTT teachers
- Develop a model sustainable program

The Montana and High Plains Region Troops-to-Teachers Program, is a regional consortium servicing Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. It is designed

to assist qualified military personnel make the transition from the armed services to service in the classrooms of schools. This program was established in 1994 to address force restructuring in the military by assisting retiring and separating active duty military personnel transition to new careers in public education.

Dr. Miller asked Dr. MacDonald to expound on the licensure route involved with these projects.

### **Item 13 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Engellant gave an update on his activities since becoming the new student representative. He attended both the August 18 and September 8 School Renewal Commission meetings. He also presented the first draft of his student survey and requested suggestions or comments from Board members.

### **Item 14 SET ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDAR**

Dr. Miller presented a draft of the annual agenda calendar and asked for input on dates and locations for the upcoming 2004 school year. After discussion with regards to the Board of Education meeting, it was decided to meet jointly on January 15, 2004. It was decided to meet jointly with CSPAC on March 11, 2004. There will be a joint MACIE/BPE/OPI meeting in November 2003 and add it on a regular basis to our calendar. After much discussion, it was settled on to contact MACIE through the OPI liaison in order to invite them to present at every board meeting (if they have information to present).

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the Annual Agenda Calendar as revised. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

Ms. Silverthorne was not present for this motion.

### **Item 15 ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

Dr. Miller turned this item over to the Executive Secretary to request nominations for board officers.

**MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to appoint Dr. Miller for Chairperson of the Board of Public Education. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

**MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to appoint Ms. Fladmo for Vice Chairperson of the Board of Public Education. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

Ms. Silverthorne was not present for these motions.

### **Item 16 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Dr. Miller presented the Committee Descriptions and suggested revision to the Executive Committee to include a sentence that reads as follows: "Evaluation process of the Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education and the Superintendent of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind." It was also suggested to eliminate the Communications Committee and the Board Procedure Committee. The E-Learning Committee is an AdHoc committee (which was deleted from the description).

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to accept the Committee Descriptions as revised. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to accept the Committee Assignments as written. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

Mr. Fuller and Ms. Silverthorne were not present for this motion.

#### **Item 17 BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES**

Ms. Myers presented the article that was printed in the Great Falls Tribune regarding the appointment of Erik Engellant as the new student representative to the Board of Public Education. Appearances of board members include:

##### **Patty Myers**

7/30/03 meeting with Wendy Adams-Denver office of USDE

##### **Diane Fladmo**

9/10/03 Southeastern MT Association of School Superintendents  
CSPAC Assessment Study Group

##### **Kirk Miller**

8/4/03 Attended second core group meeting of School Renewal Commission  
8/18/03 Attended first meeting of entire School Renewal Commission  
8/21/03 Presented Educational Issues (Power Point) for the Interim to the Education and Local Gov't. Interim Committee

#### **Item 18 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING/REPORT**

Mr. Morris gave an update on activities that have transpired with the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, in the absence of Superintendent Steve Gettel. Mr. Morris reported that last Thursday, September 4, 2003, the committee met by conference call. The conference call entailed discussion of items on the agenda included in the board member's packet.

**MOTION: Mr. Morris moved to nominate Debbie Gilbraith as surrogate parent for MSDB Student ID #98 in accordance with STUDENT 4.27, 20-7-461, MCA, and 10.16.3504, ARM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried.**

**MOTION: Mr. Morris moved to approve the Outreach Grant for the 2003-2004 school year. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

### **PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – November 13-14, 2003**

- ✓ MACIE/OPI/BPE Joint Meeting
- ✓ OPI timeline for releasing assessment data
- ✓ Idaho's Gold
- ✓ Report of the Special Purpose Task Force
- ✓ E-Learning Committee recommendation

- ✓ **State Report Card on line review with the board**

## **Public Comment**

The second half of the meeting took place in the auditorium of the Polson High School where the Board met with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Education Department during their Pupil Instruction Related Day. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an informational session for teachers to acquaint themselves with the Board members and the goals and mission of our organization.

During this assembly, members of the board responded to various questions from members of the audience.

This meeting lasted from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

APPROVED