

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

November 4- 5, 2004

**Board of Investments Building
Third Floor Conference Room
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59620**

Chairperson Kirk Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2004. Board members present at the meeting included: Kirk Miller, Chairperson; Diane Fladmo, Vice Chairperson; John Fuller, Gay Ann Masolo, Erik Engellant, Patty Myers, and Cal Gilbert. Staff present at the meeting included: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Suzan Hopkins, Administrative Assistant, BPE. Board member, Storrs Bishop, Superintendent Linda McCulloch and Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns were absent. Those in attendance included: Bud Williams, OPI; Cathy Warhank, OPI; Spencer Sartorius, OPI; Darrell Rud, SAM; Deb Black, Superintendent of Bridger Schools; Jack Copps, MQEC (Montana Quality Education Coalition); Marilyn Daumiller, Legislative Fiscal Division; Loran Frazier, Governor's Office; Erik Burke, MEA-MFT; Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI; Lance Melton, MTSBA; Dave Lloyd, Moore School; Everall Fox, OPI; Richard Trerise, OPI; Carol Gneckow, OPI; Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Duncan MacQuarrie, Harcourt Assessment; and Karen Richem, OPI.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Miller read the Statement of Public Participation. He welcomed all of the attendees to the meeting. He also welcomed our newest board member, Gay Ann Masolo, from Townsend, MT. Mr. Miller pointed out that Eric Engellant was named to the Class AA All-State soccer team, along with three other young men from Great Falls.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Myers seconded this motion and the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Fuller seconded this motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Bishop and Superintendent McCulloch joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

*Items appear in the order in which they were discussed at the meeting.

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Miller highlighted items from his report, which was distributed with the agenda packet to all of the board members. He touched on the School Renewal Commission work, mentioning that Dori Nielson should have the final report complete in December.

Dr. Miller mentioned that he has been in contact with Senator John Tester, who has agreed to submit a bill draft request for two of the recommendations from the School Renewal Commission; flexibility in school schedule and taxation and revenue recommendations.

Patty Myers wished to correct one of the letters in the correspondence; stating that she will not be the chairperson of the MSDB Foundation.

Other items mentioned in Mr. Miller's report include the following:

- ❖ Participated in MQEC Board and Remedy Committee meeting
- ❖ Revised a report from LFD that will be presented to the Legislative Finance Committee
- ❖ Met with Commissioner Stearns to discuss the schedule for upcoming Board of Education meetings
- ❖ Discussed with Dori Nielson a framework for the School Renewal Commission Report.
- ❖ Attended MCEL, representing the Board of Public Education

ITEM 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Meloy reported on highlights from his Executive Secretary report. He has been working with the Office of Budget Program and Planning who has approved the extension of our budget by \$10,000 each fiscal year for travel for Regents meetings and around the state. He introduced Marilyn Daumiller, Legislative Fiscal Division as the board's new Associate Fiscal Analyst.

He also mentioned that the board has sent Jennifer Marsicano, CSPAC Administrative Assistant, to Dream weaver training in order to maintain and update our website.

He touched on the Unified Budget document, which was distributed with the board packets. Mr. Mark Bruno, Office of Budget Programming and Planning will expound on this item later in the meeting**.

Further highlights from Mr. Meloy's report included:

- Worked with LFD fiscal analyst in regard to the BPE budget presentation to the Legislature.
- Attended last meeting of the Renewal Commission as a staffer.
- Facilitated three appeals of license denial heard by a committee of the BPE.
- Set up meeting of Roger Merrill with Jim Stipich regarding communications plan
- Met with Department of Administration on a "merit pay" plan for BPE employees.

ITEM 3 CSPAC REPORT

Mr. Donovan reported that NCATE has moved to a seven-year cycle for reviewing all other institutions and they are requesting that their partner states also change to a seven-year cycle.

He also mentioned to the board that the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future Conference will be held next week. The topics that will be discussed are

teacher compensation, tiered licensure and pay for performance systems. This conference will be attended by Melodee Smith-Burreson (CSPAC), Erik Burke (MEA-MFT), Senator Don Ryan, Margaret Bowles (OPI), Darrell Rud (SAM), Will Rawn (MSU-Northern) and Pete Donovan (CSPAC)

Mr. Donovan also reported that he has been asked to chair the Professional Preparation and Continuing Development Committee for NASDTEC.

He closed his report by presenting the two candidates for membership on the CSPAC. He mentioned that both of the applicants were outstanding and after discussing them with Mr. Meloy, they are recommending Tonia Bloom for this position. Ms. Myers then opened the topic up for discussion among the members of the board. As Mr. Miller wrote a letter of recommendation for one of the applicants, he recused himself from the discussion and voting.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to appoint Tonia Bloom to serve in the vacant position on the CSPAC, replacing Dan Villa. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried. Mr. Miller recused himself from the vote.

ITEM 4 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McCulloch presented highlights of her activities since the last board meeting. She discussed the OPI Parents' Webpage (www.opi.state.mt.us/parents). Other items she included in her report were:

- October 1, 2004 honored Montana teachers who were candidates for and recipients of national board certification
- Directory of Montana Schools is available online at www.opi.state.mt.us/Directory/
- 460 Montana schools will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) between January 24, 2005 and March 4, 2005.
- 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey registration is underway
- Indian Education for All Summit held in October
- Kind Acts Foundation offers Montana teachers a way to honor kids
- OPI received national recognition in the May/June 2004 issue of Teacher's Magazine regarding their online renewal process.

ITEM 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Engellant talked about the MASC (Montana Association of Student Councils) Conference, held in Helena last week. There were close to 800 students at this conference. He distributed surveys to most of those students and was able to explain this to them while they attended this conference. He was also approached by many students inquiring about his position on the board.

He reported that approximately 15 students have expressed an interest in the Student Liaison Representative position.

ITEM 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT

Lieutenant Governor Ohs and Loran Frazier, Governor's Policy Advisor on Education, presented the report from the Governor's Office. Mr. Ohs wished to thank the board for their support during the School Renewal Commission. An Op-Ed will be distributed to the media, outlining the recommendations which were a culmination of work of the School Renewal Commission. He also distributed certificates to participants of the School Renewal Commission that were present at the board meeting. These included Kirk Miller, Linda McCulloch, Madalyn Quinlan, and Darrell Rud.

Mr. Miller presented Lt. Governor's Ohs with a certificate of appreciation for his work with the Renewal Commission on behalf of the Board of Public Education.

Lt. Governor Ohs also briefly touched on the Governor's budget that, by law, has to be presented to the incoming administration. He reported that K-12 received an inflationary adjustment of 17.1 million, Special Education inflationary adjustment was 4.3 million, and Indian Education received \$500,000 for the biennium. Higher Education received an ongoing increase of 13 million, part of which (3.9 million) goes to the Shared Leadership Committee. The three areas that this committee is focusing on are access to education, distance learning, and workforce development. He also mentioned that state employees will be receiving a 3% increase.

ITEM 8 MQEC (MONTANA QUALITY EDUCATION COALITION) UPDATE: COALITION MEMBERSHIP, GOALS, EFFORTS

Mr. Jack Copps, Executive Director, MQEC distributed information on the coalition, which included the list of membership. Those listed as being members included MEA-MFT, MTSBA, MREA, SAM, and IISM (Indian Impact Schools of Montana). There are over 100 school districts included in their membership, representing 70% of Montana students attending a current MQEC member school.

Also distributed was a document outlining the goals of the Montana Quality Education Coalition. They are listed below:

1. Every school district must receive funding adequate to cover the costs of operating and maintaining quality public elementary and secondary schools.
2. Meet the constitutional and educational responsibility to provide sufficient resources to meaningfully implement Indian Education for All.
3. Preserve and protect the local control of school decision making as embodied in the constitutional role of elected school trustees.
4. Identify options for new revenue sources to meet these constitutional requirements of a quality public education for every Montana child.
5. Achieve a system that appropriately and equitably distributes the tax burden for the support of public education.

Mr. Copps also advocated the following legislative proposals: \$300 increase in K-12 ANB per pupil, K-12 Statewide Health Insurance program (K-SHIP), Cost of Education Study conducted by the Quality Schools Task Force, and to incorporate the implementation of Indian Education for All in the Cost of Education Study.

ITEM 9 PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Mr. Meloy outlined the document that he distributed regarding legislative protocol/process for the board members in the upcoming legislative session. He also outlined several legislative issues that are of interest to the board. These were handed out in the form of a document titled "Requested Bill Drafts to Date". Mr. Meloy will review the text of all pertinent bills and decide whether the board should take a position on or not. He will present this position to the members of the Legislative Committee (John Fuller, Diane Fladmo, Gay Ann Masolo, and Erik Engellant) and a decision will be made as to who will attend the hearing.

ITEM 10 NCLB UPDATE

Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI presented an update on NCLB. This included the latest information concerning negotiations with the U.S. Department of Education concerning requested amendments to the Montana Accountability Workbook, submitted to the department in May 2003.

The next topic was the process and expected timelines for the Adequate Yearly Progress process.

The final topic was information concerning the on-site review of the ESEA/NCLB Title II, Part A program by the U.S. Department of Education, December 14-16, 2004.

Ms. Coopersmith also distributed the most recent JUMP (Join Us in Measuring Progress) newsletter. This newsletter consisted of Adequate Yearly Progress information and updates.

She also distributed a document outlining the small school process for AYP determination 2004-2005.

ITEM 11 NASBE STUDY GROUPS

Mr. Miller deferred this item to Ms. Fladmo, the President-Elect of NASBE, who explained that NASBE has used Study Groups to provide professional development to members of State Boards of Education and to inform the state education policymaking process. Reports from these study groups have been the basis for major policy changes on several critical education issues. Each Study Group costs approximately \$25,000 to conduct and NASBE typically does two per year. Based on a decision of the NASBE Finance Committee, Study Groups for 2005 will not be included in the core budget. Consequently, NASBE is asking for members to express interest in Study Groups, but to be aware that the start time of the groups will be determined when an outside funding source for the activity has been determined.

She also distributed documents titled, "2005 NASBE Study Group on Secondary Literacy", and "2005 Study Group on Value Added Assessments". These are the upcoming topics which the study groups will research.

Commissioner Stearns joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

ITEM 12 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FEATURED ISSUE: Educator Conference Issues

Mr. Meloy presented three topics for discussion under this new agenda item, which will be an item on every agenda. The three issues were Paraprofessionals, Distance Learning, and the Statewide Health Insurance Program.

Mr. Darrell Rud, SAM, spoke to the board regarding the MCEL (Montana) Conference in Billings which was in collaboration with the MTSBA (Montana School Boards Association) and MASBO (Montana Association of School Business Officials). There was a political influence at the conference in the presence of Secretary of State Bob Brown and Lieutenant Governor Candidate John Bohlinger. Other issues discussed included Breaking Ranks II, which looks at Montana's high schools; training will be held on January 10-11, 2005.

He briefly discussed the issue of the shortages of Superintendents in Montana schools. Lance Melton, Bob Vogel, Dave Puyear and Mr. Rud have joined forces to look at the issue of superintendent recruitment and retention. Mr. Rud, on behalf of SAM, is advocating strong leadership through a 2-3 year training commitment for those interested in the role of leadership and improving student achievement; how to help our current and future practitioners become stronger instructional leaders.

He also touched on the mentoring program for superintendents, principals, and teachers, which he feels has good potential.

Mr. Lance Melton, MTSBA, presented a map of the two districts comprising the Board of Public Education, and the referenced statute of the breakdown of these districts (2-15-1508) for information purposes. He also handed out a list of legislators with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Mr Melton's final hand out consisted of a document outlining the election

outcome, citing a PDF document which can be viewed and printed at <http://www.mtsba.org/currenttemp/20...atureprelim.pdf>.

Mr. Melton distributed a synopsis of the plans for the 1st Consortium Board of Directors Meeting, to be held on December 3, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wingate Inn. A few of the tentative agenda items are: 1. Identification of Priorities for Development Phase, 2. Election of Officers, 3. Review/Approval of Operational Budget, 4. Approval of Independent Contracts for Services, and 5. Recommendations on additional Directors Seats.

Mr. Erik Burke, MEA-MFT, Director of Public Policy, spoke with regards to Montana Paraprofessionals and No Child Left Behind. He distributed a Power Point presentation which contained facts about MEA-MFT and Paraprofessionals and how No Child Left Behind affects this group. Some facts taken from this document consist of:

- All paraprofessionals working in a program supported by Title I funds must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Newly hired paraprofessionals must:
 - Complete two years of study at an institution of higher education;
 - Obtain an associate's degree or higher; or
 - Pass a state or local assessment designed to demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to assist with instruction in reading, writing, and math.
- Currently employed paraprofessionals have until January 2006 to meet the new qualification standards.
- Districts must use Title I 5% funds for professional development activities to help teachers AND paraprofessionals meet the requirements of the law.

Mr. Burke discussed possible alternatives to the above mentioned laws regarding paraprofessionals. Standardized tests, portfolios, and coursework leading to highly qualified distinction were among the alternative routes talked about. He also presented a course which MEA-MFT is advocating, called MEA-MFT PASS (Paraprofessionals Achieving Standards Successfully). The course is offered by Montana paraprofessionals and educators who have been specifically trained to provide this course, 12 statewide. The trainers are sent to an intensive 4 weeks of training over a one year period. The course runs for four full days and the anticipated cost for members will be \$80-\$125. For more information on this course, contact Erik Burke at eburke@mea-mft.org or 1-800-398-0826.

ITEM 5 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT

Commissioner Sheila Stearns reported that the Board of Regents had its annual planning session approximately 2 weeks ago; issues identified-Shared Leadership, P-20 Committee, taking a closer look at their allocation model, which outlines the way funds are distributed to them from the legislature and how to allocate more equitably, and academic program management.

Access, Distance Learning and Workforce Development are the three Steering Committees that Ms. Stearns touched on during her presentation.

The last topic of discussion was the Board of Education meetings. She proposed to keep the schedule of having one meeting in January and the next one in July. This topic was further expounded on later in the meeting.

ITEM 13 PROPOSAL TO AMEND JANUARY 2005 MEETING DATE AND JULY 2005 MEETING LOCATION

Mr. Miller referred this item to Mr. Meloy, who proposed amending the January 2005

meeting to remain January 13-14, 2005 and add a half-day on the 19th of January to meet as the Board of Education. Since the Board of Regents' July 2005 meeting dates coincide with the Board of Public Education's dates, it will be discussed at a later date where they will meet jointly as the Board of Education in July.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to establish the Board of Education meeting in January 2005 as January 19. The motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried.

ITEM 14 MACIE REPORT

Mr. Cal Gilbert reported to the board that Norma Bixby was unable to present the MACIE report. In her absence, Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, OPI and Everall Fox, Indian Education Specialist, OPI gave an update on activities which have transpired and that are forthcoming with this organization. The first topic of discussion was the October 15-16, 2004 Summit on Indian Education. He highlighted the key "next steps" derived from this meeting. They included:

- Typing up the comment sheets and parking lot materials to include in a final product that will be shared with attendees and the public.
- Create a website to post Summit outcomes and add updates. The website can be accessed from both the Superintendent's page, as well as the Indian Education page on the OPI website.
- Developing a list serve for attendees to disseminate Summit information and updates. The list serve will allow people to subscribe and unsubscribe on the Summit webpage.
- The final product of the Summit will be presented by the State Superintendent, and posted on the Summit website.
- The OPI, led by the State Superintendent, will plan next steps after the final product is completed and presented to attendees and the public.

Mr. Fox also reported that the next MACIE meeting would be held on November 12, 2004 in Whitefish in conjunction with the MACIE retreat on November 13, 2004.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ITEM 15 ASSESSMENT REPORT

Ms. Diane Fladmo reported to the board on the future of the Norm-Referenced Test (NRT). An Assessment Oversight Group was formed to discuss assessment policy issues. This group consisted of Diane Fladmo, Cal Gilbert, and John Fuller from the Board of Public Education and Judy Snow, Bud Williams, and Madalyn Quinlan from the Office of Public Instruction. The group met on October 14, 2004 to discuss a recommendation for the future of the NRT. The proposal that came out of this oversight group's discussion for the 2005-2008 period is:

- Conduct the NRT in the spring of 2005
- Do not conduct the NRT in the 2005-2006 school year.
- Beginning in the fall of 2006, conduct the NRT in the fall of the school year.
- Governor Martz's budget for the 2007 biennium will include state funding for the administration of the NRT in the 2005-2006 school year. The oversight group

proposes that the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education request that this funding (approximately \$300,000) be allocated instead for a K-12 Education Data Warehouse.

- The Board of Public Education should revisit the need for the NRT after the 2007-2008 school year.

Ms. Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, and Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI reported to the board on Stage 2 of the Disaggregated 2004 Iowa Test Results by District Size Category. This report also included the 2003 SAT Updates.

ITEM 16 MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM WRITING ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Ms. Jan Clinard, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), reviewed the Montana University System Writing Assessment Plans for 2004-2005. She stated that more schools are participating (approximately 1200 tests). Highlights from her update include the following:

- “Invitations to Participate” were distributed and were to be returned by October 31, 2004.
- Title II Improving Teacher Quality Proposals submitted from University of Montana-Missoula, and MSU-Billings, Bozeman and Great Falls to host training/scoring sessions.
- Training of trainers planned for February 2005.
- Sessions held at MEA-MFT and MCEL on the Writing Assessment.
- University of Montana has secured a Title II Improving Teacher Quality Grant entitled *Preparing American Indian Students to Write Persuasively*
- Board of Regents may set a Writing Proficiency Admissions Standard (for the four-year programs)
- SAT and ACT will add writing samples to their tests in the spring of 2005
- ACT prompts are similar to MUSWA (Montana University System Writing Assessment) prompts
- SAT prompts generally ask students to respond to a quote.
- The Writing Proficiency Steering Committee met with representatives from MACIE in August.

Ms. Clinard also distributed a document outlining answers to questions brought to the Writing Proficiency Steering Committee in August 2004.

**Mr. Mark Bruno, Office of Budget and Program Planning, briefly discussed the Governor’s Budget Office Compilation of Budget Requests 2007 Biennium.

ITEM 17 SUPERVISION ENHANCEMENT GRANT/RENEWAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI, and Mr. Richard Trerise, OPI discussed the information on the new OPI general supervision enhancement grant titled “Making Connections Grant”. This grant proposes to develop critical components of an infrastructure that will support a coordinated and comprehensive system of professional development, technical assistance, and information dissemination delivery. It is a one year grant and the award amount is \$412,000.

ITEM 18 RENEWAL UNITS ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent and Ms. Carol Gneckow, Program Specialist, OPI, discussed the renewal units’ annual report. A new development is the fact that

all of the forms for renewal units are available online and are form-filled, which makes the forms more user friendly. This report included the following data:

1. Definition of Renewal activities
2. Time equivalents
3. Restrictions and conditions
4. Definition of providers
5. Responsibilities
6. Annual reporting requirements
7. List of approved providers for 2003-2004
8. Statistical information about renewal unit activities during the 2003-2004 school year.

ITEM 19 ACCREDITATION REPORT

Ms. Linda Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, OPI, presented to the board discussion of three items: Special Purpose Schools Process Update, Standards Review Schedule, and replacement pages to the Montana School Accreditation Standards and Procedures Manual and Appendices.

The first item discussed by Ms. Peterson was the Special Purpose Schools Process Update. Tasks that the OPI Information Gathering Team compiled information on were: 1) related statutes and rules governing alternative schools and programs-accreditation, school funding, legal; 2) definitions and practices used in Montana and other states; and 3) relevant decisions related to special purpose schools, alternative schools and programs, and attendance centers-accreditation, school funding, legal.

Next, Ms. Peterson discussed the Standards Review Schedule. In 1998, the Board of Public Education approved as Administrative Rules of Montana, the K-12 Content and Performance Standards for Reading and Mathematics. These two content areas were the beginning of a four-year cycle to review, revise, and adopt as ARM the content and performance standards for: Arts, Communication Arts, Career and Technology Education, Health Enhancement, Library Media, Social Studies, Science, Technology, World Language, and Workplace Competencies. As part of this process, the Board adopted into ARM 10.54.2503 Standards Review Schedule, a rule describing the review and revision of the standards in five-year cycles.

Ms. Karen Richem, Program Officer Accreditation Division, OPI, joined Ms. Peterson to discuss the replacement pages to the Montana School Accreditation Standards and Procedures Manual and Appendices.

ITEM 20 ACCREDITATION REPORT: INITIAL AND FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL OF ALTERNATIVE STANDARD REQUESTS

Ms. Linda Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, and Ms. Karen Richem, Program Officer Accreditation Division, OPI, presented for consideration Alternative Standard Initial and Five-Year Renewal Requests recommended for approval by state Superintendent Linda McCulloch.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the Alternative Standard Request of the five schools, representing two districts as presented. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the five-year Renewal Requests for five schools, representing three districts as presented. Ms. Fladmo seconded the

motion and the motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was closed to the public at 11:34 a.m.
The meeting was opened to the public at 11:41 a.m.

ITEM 21 REPORT OF LICENSE SURRENDERS/REVOCATIONS/LICENSE UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS Ms. Elizabeth Keller, Licensure Program Manager, and Cathy Warhank, Legal Counsel, OPI, reported that the Superintendent has issued two licenses under ARM 10.57.109 to Ted Burnham, journalism teacher at Flathead County High School and Julie Birk, art educator.

ITEM 22 APPEAL TO BOARD OF LICENSE DENIALS

Mr. Lewis Smith, Hearings Officer and Mr. Kevin Phillips, Attorney General's Office, was joined by Cathy Warhank, Legal Counsel, OPI, to discuss the appeals of license denials presented to the board. The appellants were not present for the appeals, even though they were noticed, so their right to privacy was denied.

Mr. Smith gave background on each of the cases. After each background discussion, Ms. Warhank reiterated the Office of Public Instruction's reasons for denial of licensure.

It was recommended that the Hearings Officer craft a Final Order, taking into consideration all of the arguments heard at this meeting and bring this forth at another meeting for a decision (accept, reject or modify) to be made.

Mr. Phillips advised the board to solve the problem of "essentially equivalent" and clarify the words, "shall" or "may".

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to take under advisement and to direct the Executive Secretary to construct a plan leading to a final order in the matter of all three cases. Ms. Masolo seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Fuller abstained.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to request the OPI to convene a process to direct CSPAC and our education partners to modify the rules to clarify criteria to determine the language "essentially equivalent". Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 23 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING/REPORT

Mr. Steve Gettel, and Bill Sykes, MSDB, provided an update on activities occurring with MSDB since the last board meeting. These include:

- ❖ Student Enrollment/Evaluations-75 (on campus total), 301 (off campus total), 13 evaluations to date
- ❖ Personnel Actions-1 new hire, and one action of half time employee moved to full time, 5 resignations, several (12 ½) vacancies yet to be filled, 4 over-assigned positions
- ❖ Human Resources-"Core Competencies" have been finalized
- ❖ Program Accreditation/School Improvement- **Action Items**

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve new policies 5130 (Staff Health) and 5132 (Employee Illness and Food Services). Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried. Mr. Fuller was absent for this vote.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the Interagency Agreement between the BPE and OPI as written, with the insertion of “and subsequent reauthorization” inserted behind (IDEA) in line 1 under the title “Purpose of Agreement”. The motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried. Mr. Fuller was absent for this vote.

- ❖ 2005 Legislative Session-September 15, the Education and Local Government Committee voted to approve MSDB’s bill draft request to amend 20-8-104, MCA, “Eligibility of children for admittance”. Also, the administration is investigating the potential for an additional bill draft request that would allow carryover of out-of-state tuition money received by the school.
- ❖ Professional Development Activities-Update on in-service training
- ❖ MSDB Foundation Activities-Transition Committee met on September 29th to identify strategies that will move the work of the school’s transition program forward with the cooperative assistance of the Foundation. The board met on October 18th for its quarterly meeting. Total operating budget for FY 05 is \$155,660. Annual audit report of August 13, 2004 of Foundation accounts was accepted at the October 18th quarterly meeting.
- ❖ Conferences, Meetings, and Contacts-
 - September 13-Exit meeting with LFD auditors, Helena
 - September 21-Ed Forum, Helena
 - October 7-Meeting with DPHHS and Gold Systems, Helena
 - October 19-Telephone Conference with Office of Budget and Program Planning
 - October 25-BPE, MSDB Committee Meeting, Great Falls
 - November 3-Five Year CEP meeting with parent group, Great Falls
 - November 16-Legislative Audit Committee meeting, Helena
 - December 2-NW Administrators meeting, Conrad
 - January 13-BPE meeting, Helena
- ❖ Budget and Finance-Discussion of final budget targets for the 2007 biennium as outlined by the Office of Budget and Program Planning
- ❖ Plant and Facilities-Update on current projects
- ❖ School Calendar of Events-
 - October 15-White Cane Day
 - October 27-End of First Quarter
 - November 10-Helicopter fly-in by MANG followed by an anti-drug presentation
 - December 10-Gallaudet Day
 - December 16-Christmas Program
 - January 17-End of Second Quarter
- ❖ Student News and School Events-
- ❖ Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items-

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – January 13-14, 2005

- Legislative K-12SHIP as Agenda Item #12 (Hot topic item)

- Replace pages of MT School Accreditation Standards and Procedures Manual

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED