

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

May 12-13, 2005

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
3911 Central Avenue
Great Falls, MT

Chairperson Kirk Miller called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2005. Board members present at the meeting included: Kirk Miller, Chairperson; Diane Fladmo, Vice Chairperson; John Fuller, Patty Myers, Cal Gilbert, Erik Engellant, Storrs Bishop, and Gay Ann Masolo. Staff present at the meeting included: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Suzan Hopkins, Administrative Assistant, BPE; and Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC. Ex-officio member Superintendent Linda McCulloch was present. Commissioner Sheila Stearns and Governor Brian Schweitzer were absent from the meeting. Those in attendance at the meeting included: Josh Middleton, Laurel Schools; Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT; Joe Fontana, University of Great Falls; Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Sandra Murie, MACIE; Linda Peterson, OPI; Jan Clinard, OCHE; Rick Chiotti, OPI; Darrell Rud, SAM; Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Kathy Bramer, OPI; Lee Hipsher, AAUW (American Association of University Women); Betty Kijewski, MHRN (Montana Human Rights Network); John S Lewis, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays); Sally Macmillan, Great Falls Task Force on Human Rights; Kathleen Galvin-Halcro, Teacher and State Representative; Joan Anderson, State Representative; Dick Kuntz, Great Falls Public Schools; Beth Brenneman, MT Advocacy Program; Kurt Crowley, Governor's Office; Karen Richem, OPI; and Cathy Warhank, OPI.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gilbert led the Board in the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Hopkins took the roll call and a quorum was noted; Dr. Miller read the Statement of Public Participation, welcomed all visitors, and thanked Mr. Gettel for the use of their facility. Mr. Gettel also welcomed the Board to his facility and discussed some items of note that will be expounded on during his report. Dr. Miller noted that Item #3 will require action (CSPAC Appointments), Item #16 will not require action and the Blue Creek School Board will not appear, Item #12 will require action (Tobacco-Free Schools Policy), Item #13 (SB 198) is scheduled to be heard at 3:00 p.m. and will be allotted two hours of time. Item #13.5 will be added to cover Executive Salary for MSDB Superintendent, going into Executive Session. Mr. Meloy noted that when you see an action item appearing earlier in the agenda, it is due to scheduling conflicts with people presenting.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to adopt the revised agenda. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Feaver announced the Ninth Annual Educator Forum, sponsored by the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation, to be held on September 30, 2005 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena. You may also access information pertaining to this forum at www.mea-mft.org

CONSENT AGENDA

There were revisions to the minutes discussed, Ms. Hopkins noted them and will make the corrections.

Mr. Meloy announced that the Board and CSPAC wish to invest in a sound system in order to alleviate the problems with hearing the Board members and the speakers invited to participate in the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to adopt the consent agenda, with the revisions noted. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dr. Miller provided an overview of his activities as Chairperson of the Board of Public Education, a portion of which are listed below:

- March 13-responded to emails from school administrators concerned about the decision of the Board under Item 9 (March agenda) to revise the administration of the NRT to the spring of 2006 and then in the fall of 2006 with possible sampling of districts to collect statewide data. Crafted follow-up emails to concerned administrators describing the process used over the past 1.5 years to collect input and the timeline necessary for decision-making.
- March 14-approved letter of response to Representative Monica Lindeen regarding the BPE role in developing fiscal notes for proposed rule changes.
- March 20-attended MSEL Platform Presentation and Member Board Meeting in Helena
- March 21-attended the Montana Association of School Superintendent's Spring Conference where he presented a report on the work of the School Renewal Commission.
- March 24-participated, via video conference, in the Ed Forum meeting in Helena, where strategies for legislation on a funding bill were developed
- April 3-reviewed information regarding potential work to be done in the interim to establish educational needs and a new funding formula
- April 6-wrote a response to Curt Nichols request to review Questionnaires to be used in a Successful Schools model study
- April 20-Ed Forum meeting with discussion centering on SB 525 and the end of the Legislative Session.
- April 24-preparation for service on the Quality Schools Interim Committee
- April 27-responded to a call from a district concerned about the interpretation of an Accreditation Standard previously approved but recently not allowed after review by OPI.

ITEM 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Meloy presented a brief summary of his activities, which are outlined in his weekly, Week in Review updates, some of which are described below:

- ✓ Testified on behalf of the Board on many bills, which directly or indirectly affected the Board
- ✓ Worked on preparation of amendments to 10.57.310 for an April 27 hearing date.
- ✓ Attended MTSBA sponsored "town meeting" with districts to give input to legislators on pending legislation.
- ✓ Continued work on competency/market based pay plan for BPE staff.
- ✓ Worked with OPI on school tobacco policy proposal.
- ✓ Was invited to Democratic caucus by Representative Villa to pitch preservation of the research appropriation
- ✓ Coordinated with Madalyn Quinlan regarding fiscal note process under SB 152.
- ✓ Attended Healthy Schools Network meeting in Portland.

ITEM 3 CSPAC REPORT

Mr. Donovan reported to the Board the three applicants for the vacancies on the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council. They are: Kim Warrick for the Specialist position, who is a teacher at Chief Joseph Middle School in Bozeman, Dr. George White to serve a second term as the Higher Education representative, and Charla Bunker to serve a second term as the Elementary Education representative.

Mr. Donovan also mentioned that on April 2, 2005, the Montana Indian Education Association

(MIEA) held their Annual Conference and one of the items on their agenda was a special ceremony honoring Class 7 American Indian Language and Culture Licensure.

On June 2-8, 2005 the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Annual Conference will be held in San Antonio. Ms. Masolo and Mr. Donovan will be attending, along with Dr. Peterson, Elizabeth Keller, and Cathy Warhank from OPI.

On July 7, 2005, CSPAC will be holding their summer meeting in Helena. Topics of discussion will include a re-visit of the "Who Will Teach Montana's Children" study.

July 10-12, 2005, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future will hold its annual summit and Mr. Meloy will be attending, along with Mr. Donovan, and Melodee Smith-Burreson.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to appoint Charla Bunker to the Elementary Education position, Kim Warrick to the Specialist position and Dr. George White to the Higher Education position. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 4 PEPPS UPDATE/REPORT

Ms. Myers reported that there was no update to report on regarding the PEPPS.

ITEM 5 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McCulloch distributed a highlight of her activities since the last Board of Public Education meeting, a thumbnail summary of which is included below:

- ❖ Testified on numerous education bills
- ❖ Met with Lewis & Clark County Health Department representatives and Capitol High Link Crew regarding tobacco prevention programs
- ❖ Participated in several work sessions with the AYP Leadership Group
- ❖ New Indian Education Page for Parents at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/parents/IndEdParent.html>
- ❖ Presented MontCAS Test Results Data Verification Schedule for Spring 2005
- ❖ 2004-2005 Montana Enrollment Booklet is now available for download at the following link: http://www.opi.state.mt.us/measurement/Measurement_Data.html
- ❖ New School Finance Division Administrator, Denise Ulberg, was hired
- ❖ Presented Timeline for 2005 Annual Yearly Progress Process
- ❖ New Teacher Assessment Survey will be posted on the OPI website May 2-June 3, 2005
- ❖ New rule for Student Discipline Records was adopted by BPE effective April 15, 2005
- ❖ Final report for the Northwest Regional Advisory Committee was delivered to the U.S. Department of Education on March 31, 2005

ITEM 6 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT

In Commissioner Stearn's absence, Mr. Meloy reported on activities transpiring in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) since the March 2005 Board of Public Education meeting. He discussed the positives and negatives regarding the outcome of the legislative session as it pertains to OCHE. A positive outcome would be the acquisition of significant funds for capital construction, and deferred maintenance for the two-year colleges. Funds for two-year colleges' need for equipment, and programs for work-force development, along with scholarship dollars for both need and merit based were discussed. Shared Leadership also received funds for scholarships, as did Distant Education Development and Workforce Programs. One of the negative outcomes was that about 80% of the budget is for personal services, only 40% of the pay plan was funded by the general fund, so the remaining 60% would have to come from students through tuition. Subsequently, a 4% increase in tuition, is needed for that 60% share of the pay plan. This would result in an average tuition increase for students at about 7.9%, lower at some institutions, higher at others.

As an update on the building situation, a new structure is being discussed, with the Board of Investments involved in the financing, a 30,000 square foot building on some land that the Helena College of Technology owns. This is a tentative plan as of the printing of these minutes.

Dr. Jan Clinard, OCHE, gave an overview of items to be discussed at the Board of Regents meeting, to be held May 19-20, 2005 in Miles Community College. There was a Math Transfer Committee

developed, with representatives from the four year and two year campuses, tribal colleges, community colleges, colleges of technology. Their recommendation (which will go before the Board of Regents) was essentially that students who have successfully completed, with a C minus or better, a class that would be the equivalent of Intermediate Algebra, would be deemed proficient. This committee also created a grid which contains all of the math courses at all of the two year units, labeled as either remedial, program specific, threshold, or core. Another item to be discussed at the Regents meeting will be the 15% exemption, which states that a campus can exempt 15% of their incoming freshman class if they represent a minority population, students with disabilities, or other groups listed.

The SAT test will now consist of a 2400 point test, not a 1600 point. It will now include three sections; Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. The new SAT will now be a higher level math than previously. For admissions to the four year institutions, students will have to have taken the Regents core, 2.5 GPA, upper half of their class, or a composite score.

ITEM 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Engellant reported that he has been working with the new incoming student representative, Jack Jessop, on his transition into the student representative position with the Board of Public Education. Both Mr. Engellant and Mr. Jessop will be attending the July Board meeting in Great Falls.

He gave a speech at East Middle School (in May) for their National Honor Society, emphasizing the importance of education and their roles as future leaders.

Mr. Engellant will be studying International Business and Public Relations at Pepperdine University in California upon his graduation in June.

ITEM 8 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT

Kurt Crowley, Policy Advisor, presented a report on activities at the Governor's Office, in the absence of Governor Schweitzer. Some of the highlights are listed below:

- Governor Schweitzer will speak at the following K-12 graduation ceremonies: Blue Sky High School, Ennis High School, Pray 8th Grade, Browning High School, East Valley 8th Grade, and Dillon Youth Challenge
- Governor Schweitzer signed 602 bills during and after the session.
- Signed into law SB 152 defining a quality education
- Signed into law HB 63, the only major school funding bill to come out of the Legislature
- Signed into law SB 525 creating the Interim Quality Schools Committee
- Committed a historic amount of funding to Indian Education for All Montanans
- Appointed Budget Director David Ewer to serve on Quality Schools Committee

ITEM 9 ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Ms. Fladmo reported on the previous recommendation of examining the use of sampling for the NRT rather than requiring that all students take this test. Ms. Fladmo also reported that the OPI/BPE Assessment Oversight Committee made recommendations at a previous board meeting which were accepted by the Board. Ms. Snow is making inquiries into the possibilities for conducting the research into various sampling methods for the NRT. The P-20 Assessment taskforce is currently working with the P-20 Committee to refine and/or clarify the charge to the committee.

ITEM 10 MACIE REPORT

Mr. Cal Gilbert introduced Ms. Sandra Murie, Superintendent, Rocky Boy, who gave the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) report in the absence of Ms. Bixby. She reported that MACIE is requesting that information be provided to them by the Indian Education Specialist on progress in carrying out activities for Indian Education for All Montanans. They are also requesting that the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education design and complete a study by December 2006 of all school districts in the state to determine how well they are implementing Indian Education for All Montanans.

ITEM 11 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Fuller turned the discussion over to Mr. Meloy, who distributed the finalized version of SB

152, definition of a quality education, which he discussed. ***Mr. Meloy emphasized the requirement under SB 152 to submit each proposal involving an accreditation standard to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee for review. This review will require the coordination between the Board, the Legislative Fiscal Division and the Office of Budget Program Planning.***

The other bill he discussed was House Joint Resolution 17, which encourages the Board to consider the benefits of increasing health enhancement in schools and encouraging schools to provide students with opportunities for physical activity.

Finally, he discussed Senate Joint Resolution No. 12, which is a joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the state of Montana promoting civic education in Montana's elementary and secondary schools.

2:00 P.M. EXPRESSIONS OF SILENCE PERFORMANCE

ITEM 13.5 MSDB SUPERINTENDENT SALARY (EXECUTIVE SESSION)

The meeting went into executive session at 1:16 P.M. and returned to open session at 1:25 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the compensation package for the MSDB Superintendent to include a salary of \$73, 480. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 12 TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS POLICY (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Chiotti, Administrator, Health Enhancement and Safety Division, OPI, provided an update on recent Montana legislative action that changed state law regarding tobacco use in public schools and on public school property, an explanation of federal law regarding tobacco use in school buildings, and a Board of Public Education position statement on tobacco-free school policies that is consistent with current federal and state law. He is asking for the Board to approve the position statement, which states, **"The Board of Public Education encourages all Montana school districts to adopt and implement a comprehensive tobacco-free school policy by September 2006."**

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to adopt the position statement on tobacco-free school policies with the understanding that the rationale and policy content will also go out with the statement. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Miller presented Mr. Chiotti with a letter of appreciation for his work for the children of Montana as he is retiring from the Office of Public Instruction.

ITEM 13 SENATE BILL 198

Mr. Fuller deferred this item back to the Chairman, Dr. Kirk Miller. Dr. Miller stated that the Board will address SB 198 and the reasons they did not back this bill. He stated that this bill intended to impose legislative will on local districts by bypassing constitutional authority and responsibility of the Board. Article 10, Section 9 clearly states that the Board of Public Education is the entity to exercise general supervision over our public school systems. He invited the legislators to open the discussion and then encouraged the public to comment on the issue.

Representative Kathleen Galvin-Halcro (House District 26) and Representative Joan Anderson (House District 59) began the discussion by outlining the issue. Representative Galvin Halcro presented statistics on what policies other states had in place. "Students do not know who to go to or what to say regarding their experiences with intimidation, bullying or harassment." She wasn't comfortable with the bill because there was language in the bill that was targeted at a specific population. She read a statement from Representative Jeanne Windham, who feels there is a need for a statewide anti-harassment policy.

Representative Anderson opposed SB 198 because she is resistant to setting a minimum policy for districts (due to the diversity in the number and population of school districts) to be included in safety policies that they adopt for their schools. She feels that schools should have a policy that provides for the safety and well being of the students. Included in the policy should be a way of informing staff, parents,

guardians, students, and other adults, that all staff and students would be expected to respect the rights of all students. She feels that the local school boards need to address the following items: 1. need to define the need and the extent of the policies they will adopt, and 2. need to decide on a definition for prohibited actions. She conducted research on what other states are doing and found out that the largest problem they had was defining what acts would be considered bullying, intimidation or harassment. School boards need to decide what will be the requirements of the staff and school personnel in handling the policy and what will be the punishment if a student or another adult violates the policy. As far as the responsibility of the Board of Public Education, Representative Anderson feels the Board should determine how the policy will be reported back to the people who report a violation. This needs to be addressed at the local level, not in state statute.

Representative Bob Lake, (House District 88) feels a model plan for a harassment policy given to the schools so they can create and design their own would be beneficial. He feels we don't want a boxed in policy; don't want it so strict that you have a policy that becomes restrictive on the entire process of growing up.

Lee Hipsher, a teacher in Great Falls, and a local member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), read a letter from Corlann Gee Bush, president of the association. Ms. Bush stated in her letter that AAUW has established "safe schools" as one of their three public policy priorities for the 2004-2006 biennium. She went on to report that in 1993, the AAUW published a major research report, "Hostile Hallways: The AAUW Survey on Sexual Harassment in America's Schools." Ms. Bush feels that a policy is not enough; policies alone do little to reduce the actual incidents of harassment. There must be consistent, on-going, and age appropriate training for students combined with relevant and meaningful training for teachers and staff.

Carroll Smith, Billings, Montana Help Our Moral Environment, in favor of SB 198, related his experiences as a youth relative to bullying. He feels it is a local issue with the local school boards setting policy.

Dr. Starshine, retired teacher, Helena Public School system, feels teachers need help with bullies. Teachers are training to handle discipline but handling a bully requires more than ordinary control. She feels it is imperative to implement training for teachers on how to handle these situations. "You can't educate children unless they feel safe."

Marlene Snyder, Whitefish, MT, staff member for the University of Clemson, SC, with the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, feels that many people do not understand what bullying is. The program that is utilized at the University is the Ovaious Bullying Prevention Program. This program is the "gold standard" for bullying prevention; it has the mental health community working with them. Bullying must have the following three components: 1. has to be harmful to a child's psychic or physic, 2. has to be intentional, 3. has to be done repeatedly over time. Ms. Snyder encourages the board to set some policy requirements for the schools but training must coincide with these policies. She stated that bullying has been elevated to our number one health issue by the Surgeon General.

Dr. Joe Fontana, University of Great Falls, representing the hundreds of children victimized daily. He administered a questionnaire to 251 students, which measured physical as well as psychological bullying; found that the rate of victims was in excess of 35% of children who were bullied on a daily basis. The greatest amount of bullying occurred in the smallest schools, and decreased with the size of the school. Dr. Fontana feels we must have informed policies addressing what bullying is, and the teachers must be trained to recognize bullying. Findings from his questionnaire determined that the number one place for bullying to occur was on the playground and the number two place was in the classroom. He feels the reason for this is because the teachers have not been trained in what to look for.

Betty Kijewski, runs the Safe Schools Project of the Montana Human Rights Network, read testimonials from students who had experiences with bullying, harassment, and intimidation. She sees that the policies need to be written very clearly so that anybody can understand them. Many schools feel Title IV policies apply to this issue, but all intimidation, bullying or harassment incidents are not covered under Title IV. She also reported that students don't know where to go for help, or what to do when teachers are involved. OPI should put questions in their Youth Risk Survey regarding this topic. She distributed a 28-minute video regarding harassment in Montana schools from students' perspectives from all over the state.

Beth Brennehan, attorney for the Montana Advocacy Program, feels this problem needs to be addressed yesterday. She has witnessed bullying which was provoked by a disability; "kids will be kids" is

often heard from school personnel as a reason for the action. Schools don't know how to handle the issues, need to be educated. Ms. Brenneman urges the board to take action before the next legislative session in order to take advantage of the momentum.

John S. Lewis, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, parent of a gay son, also a clergyman, feels violence increases as it is passed on. He feels we are living in a world of escalating violence. He related his own personal experiences with bullying. His closing statement urged the Board to "do something more than listen".

Bob Vogel, MTSBA, has tried in the past to encourage school districts to adopt bullying policies. We need to encourage local school boards to adopt a policy (if they don't have one already in place) and if they do have one in place, to re-evaluate it, and educate them on how to enforce those policies.

Darrell Rud, Executive Director, SAM, wanted to clarify that he is a current hallway greeter in the district that he lives. He feels the issues we are dealing with are an entire community's issues. Bullying, harassment, and intimidation does not always occur in the school environment. Parents and families need to be included in addressing these issues. Students should be involved in the development of any policies and practices. He was hesitant to say that a law will fix the problem. He does advocate good policies, broad based safety plans, and involvement of the entire community in addressing this issue.

Dick Kuntz, Great Falls Public Schools, has watched his community change and grow over the past 25 years. Much of the bullying, harassment, and intimidation in Great Falls is geared racially toward the Native American population. He feels we need clear definitions of what bullying, harassment and intimidation is; uniform definitions are needed. This issue goes beyond students, affects adults also in the schools. The intent of the Great Falls School Board is not only to provide a safe environment for students, but also a safe environment for the employees. Mr. Kuntz distributed policies from the Great Falls School Board clearly defining bullying, harassment, hazing, menacing, and intimidation.

Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT, stated that this issue isn't just about students; it is also about staff as well. He feels we can address these issues in policy and MEA-MFT is willing to assist the Board in any way.

Superintendent McCulloch, OPI, proposed that the first step would be to start with something on paper. She stated that Rick Chiotti will work with members of her staff and others to draft a "issue paper" to include a model policy or policies. The second step would be to take the issue paper to the Joint Committee for Healthy Kids to review, make comments, or take issue with. It would then be distributed to people in the field, on or about May 27, 2005. Then the paper should go to the Montana Healthy Schools Network to take into account all the comments from all pertinent partners, to be completed around June 10, 2005. Finally, it should follow the Board of Public Education's protocol, Information, Discussion and Action Items (July, September and November Board meetings). The final policy should be in place by May 2006. She also suggested that data collection through November could be done to present to the next legislative session during January 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Board member, Cal Gilbert and Superintendent McCulloch were absent from the meeting on Friday, May 13, 2005.

ITEM 14 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING/REPORT (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Gettel and Mr. Sykes gave a brief update on activities that have transpired at the School for the Deaf and Blind since March. They include the list of items below:

1. Student Enrollment/Evaluations-On campus total-69; student evaluations to date-27; off campus total-277
2. Personnel Actions-1 resignation, 1 retirement, 7 ½ vacancies, 4 over-assigned positions
3. Human Resources-Contract negotiations (**Action Item**)

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to accept the 2005-2007 Labor Agreement between the UFCW Local #8 and the MSDB. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

4. Program Accreditation/School Improvement-Policy adoption (**Action Item**)

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve the Personnel Policy 5142 Telework Definition and Guidelines. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

5. 2005 Legislative Session-Final status report on bills: The increases from HB 2, HB 438, and HB 447 add approximately \$831,240 in new funds for FY 2006 and approximately \$1,252,080 for FY 2007 over the FY 2005 base budget of \$883,944. Total funds for FY 2006 are approximately \$5,071,093 and approximately \$5,123,797 for FY 2007. Funds are lower the second year of the biennium because audit expenses and start up cost for the additional outreach staff and Braille equipment are budgeted in FY 2006 only.
6. Professional Development Activities-Update on in-service training
- March 19-EIPA Testing with 3 interpreters participating, Helena
 - April 16-Goalball/Enrichment Weekend at MSDB with 6 staff facilitating and participating, Great Falls
 - April 20-Dibbles classroom based assessment workshop with Pam Boespflug attending, Great Falls
 - April 21-Golden Triangle Cooperative Spring Advisory Council and Principal's with Bill Davis attending, Great Falls
 - May 19-20-Braille Literacy: A Functional Approach Workshop at the AFB National Literacy Center with Pam Boespflug attending, Atlanta, Georgia
7. MSDB Foundation Activities-The Foundation held its quarterly meeting on April 8, 2005. Several committees were combined to create better coordination of activities and more efficiency. A preliminary budget for FY 06 was reviewed. A project presentation on early intervention will be made at the July 18, 2005 meeting for consideration of Foundation support.
8. Conferences, Meetings, and Contacts-
- March 16-Meeting with Architect and Engineering Division, Helena
 - March 31-Contract Negotiation Meeting with UFCW, Great Falls
 - April 2-Hearing on HB 2 Senate Finance and Claims, Helena
 - April 7-NW Administrator Meeting, Conrad
 - April 19-Meeting with Leah Tietz, Montana State Fund, Great Falls
 - April 27-28-State Leaders Summit on Collaborative Service Delivery Models for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Atlanta, Georgia
 - May 10-UNHS Task Force, Helena
 - May 13-14-MAB Convention, Helena
 - May 24-Contract Negotiation Meeting with MEA-MFT, Great Falls
9. Budget and Finance-Update on 2005 FY Budget
10. Plant and Facilities-Update on current long range building projects
11. School Calendar of Events-
- May 7-Track Meet-GFHS
 - May 13-14-Games for the Visually Impaired
 - May 21-Graduation
 - May 27-Last Day of School/End of Semester
 - June 3-5-Deaf Learning Weekend
 - June 13-16-Intermountain Special Studies Institute, Idaho State University
 - July 13-14-BPE Meeting, Great Falls
 - August 10-13-MRID Conference, Great Falls
12. Student News and School Events-The Cane Club and VIP have been active preparing for enrichment/goalball welcoming event and Arbor Day Program. Kiira DeVries is applying to

Summer Music Braille Institute in Bridgeport, CT. Twelve students earned “Binder awards” for keeping an organized and completed homework binder for the 3rd quarter. The new treadmill, stationary bikes, elliptical machine, and stair climber have increased the students’ use of the weight room.

ITEM 15 ALTERNATIVE STANDARD REQUEST

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI and Mr. Josh Middleton, Laurel Superintendent, presented to the Board Laurel Public School’s request in seeking a variance on accreditation standard 10.55.704. This standard states that a district with 100 or more FTE shall employ a full-time curriculum coordinator. Those with less than 100 shall either employ a part-time curriculum coordinator or join a regional curriculum consortium. The Laurel School District employs 119 FTE for 1725 students. The Laurel School District has contacted the ACE Curriculum Consortium to become a member. The rationale behind joining this consortium and getting a variance on 10.55.704 would allow over \$50,000 to be put back into the classrooms for direct services.

ITEM 16 BLUE CREEK SCHOOL BOARD

This item was resolved prior to the printing of this agenda; therefore it was deleted from the agenda.

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI reported that he (along with Mr. McMilin) visited the Blue Creek School at the end of March to visit with Dan Nelson, Superintendent; Eileen Solberg, Chairperson of the board; and Suzanne McKiernan to explain the importance of meeting the standard (10.55.709.1(a)). They agreed to comply with this standard and will commit to staffing the library with a .5 FTE person who meets certification standards.

ITEM 17 NCLB UPDATE

Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI, presented to the Board an update on requests to amend the process used in Montana to determine adequate yearly progress (AYP) of Montana schools and districts.

In addition, information was presented concerning the monitoring of NCLB Title II, Part A by the U.S. Department of Education. Findings and recommendations concerning the NCLB requirements for highly qualified teachers were presented.

Finally, Ms. Coopersmith presented new guidance from the U.S. Department of Education concerning counting of special education children for Adequate Yearly Progress.

ITEM 18 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FEATURED ISSUE: SCHOOL POLICIES

Dr. Miller opened a discussion with the public regarding safety and wellness issues. He discussed a document from NASBE sent to the State Superintendent, outlining Montana’s curriculum instruction as well as several other sections of state level school health policies. In this document, areas that were highlighted were areas that have been met according to rule and other places that haven’t been met, according to rule. One area that wasn’t being met was the statewide bullying policy.

ITEM 19 ROLE OF EX-OFFICIO MEMBER IN PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

Mr. Meloy distributed a document clarifying the role of ex-officio members (specifically Superintendent McCulloch) during performance evaluations. The document states that there is nothing in the constitution or statutes that limit the participation of the ex-officio members, other than the limitation that they are non-voting members.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 20 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE STANDARD REQUESTS

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, along with Karen Richem, Accreditation Program Officer, OPI presented to the Board for consideration Alternative Standard Initial and Five-Year Renewal Requests recommended either for approval or disapproval by the state Superintendent Linda McCulloch.

MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to separate Laurel Schools from the other recommendations being considered. The motion was seconded by Ms. Masolo and the motion was unanimously approved

MOTION: Ms. Masolo moved to adopt the OPI recommendations for four approvals and three disapprovals of initial alternative standard applications. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to approve the Initial Request for Alternative Standard for Laurel Public Schools. Ms. Masolo seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and the motion failed by a vote of 2-4.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to accept OPI's recommendation for disapproval of an Initial Request for an Alternative Standard for Laurel Public Schools. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion carried (but not by a unanimous vote).

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moves to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for Five-Year Renewal Alternative Standard Requests. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 21 REVISION TO STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR STANDARDS REVIEW CYCLE FOR 2005

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, OPI presented minor changes to the Board of Public Education's Statement of Purpose to guide the standards revision process with regards to Science.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the recommended changes to the Statement of Purpose for the Standards Review Process (ARM 10.54.2503). Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 22 APPROVAL OF '06 STATE DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI, presented for approval the distribution of K-12 BASE aid for public education, as required by 20-9-344, MCA.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the schedule of K-12 school payments for FY 2005-2006. Ms. Masolo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 23 ELECTION OF 2006 NASBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Miller turned this item over to Ms. Fladmo to give a brief background on the candidates.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to cast Montana's ballot for President-Elect William Bradley Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Lazard, and Western Area Director Randy DeHoff. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 24 PROPOSED REFERRAL TO THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE RE: AMENDMENTS TO ARM 10.57.102, 10.57.104, & 10.57.201 RELATING TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE AND THEIR FISCAL IMPACT

Dr. Miller stated that, upon further review of SB 152, item #24 will be deleted from the agenda for action, and the board would adopt ARM 10.57.102, 10.57.104, and 10.57.201 relating to educator licensure in a board conference call scheduled for June 1, 2005.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – July 14-15, 2005

- Executive Secretary Compensation Package
- PEPPS Review report
- Board Self Evaluation instrument (to be discussed at retreat)

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

APPROVED