

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

**November 3 & 4, 2005**

***Helena Great Northern Hotel***  
***835 Great Northern Blvd.***  
***Oriental Room A, B, C***  
***Helena, MT 59601***

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. Mr. Fuller led the board in the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Hopkins took the roll call, a quorum was noted and Dr. Miller read the Statement of Public Participation. Dr. Miller welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following board members: Chairperson Kirk Miller, Vice Chairperson Diane Fladmo, Storrs Bishop, John Fuller, Patty Myers, Gay Ann Masolo, Cal Gilbert, and Jack Jessop. Staff present at the meeting included: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Suzan Hopkins, Administrative Assistant, BPE. There were no ex-officio members present at the commencement of the meeting. Those in attendance at the meeting included: Josh Middleton, Laurel Public Schools; Darrell Rud, School Administrators of Montana (SAM); Cathy Warhank, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Linda Peterson, OPI; Erik Burke, MEA-MFT; Judy Snow, OPI; Donna O'Neill, OPI; Roger Barber, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE); Jan Clinard, OCHE; Jan Lombardi, Governor's Office; Rene' Dubay, OCHE; Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Paul Rowland, University of Montana-Missoula; Deborah Schaaf, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); and Bruce Messinger, Helena School District.

Dr. Miller mentioned that the Lieutenant Governor would be giving the Governor's Office Report in the absence of Governor Schweitzer. Other amendments to the agenda were as follows: Item #12, NCATE/Montana Partnership Agreement and Item #17, University of Montana NCATE/Montana Program Approval should be listed under the Licensure Committee. It was noted by Mr. Meloy that Item #10, the Writing Proficiency Update/Board Position would possibly be an action item.

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to adopt the agenda as revised. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fuller and the motion unanimously passed.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**\*\*Items on the agenda appear in the order in which they were addressed at the meeting.**

**Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Dr. Miller passed around some correspondence, of which one was a thank you card from Pat Chlouber, Department of Education, Denver, Co. One of the items of correspondence he discussed was the press release initiated by the Board of Public Education regarding Ms. Fladmo's assumption of the presidency of NASBE.

He then turned to Ms. Fladmo who gave a brief synopsis on the NASBE Conference in Phoenix,

Arizona and shared some of the items she hopes to accomplish in her term as president. She urged the board to place a NASBE item on each of our upcoming meeting agendas.

Dr. Miller related a Quality Schools Interim Committee (QSIC) update which included taking action to craft legislation to put into a bill the funding mechanism that had been worked upon during the culmination of the meetings of this committee, much discussion about the timing of this, by November 18 a draft will be ready, and the committee will meet once again to review the draft. The committee approved a funding mechanism that has about eight different components. Dr. Miller mentioned to the board that the Q line will have some winners and some losers; taxation and revenue is critical to the mechanism, along with the funding formula. It is possible that we would need a new revenue stream in order to generate enough revenue to meet the Q-line, and to meet the needs of Montana's children.

### **Board Member Activities:**

#### **Gay Ann Masolo**

10/2005 Governor's Award for Excellence for Suzan Hopkins & Bob Corwin

#### **Patty Myers**

10/17/05 MSDB Foundation meeting  
10/20/05 Reception at MEA-MFT Educator's Convention  
10/21/05 Presentation at MEA-MFT Convention

#### **Kirk Miller**

09/30/05 Quality Schools Interim Committee (QSIC)  
10/11/05 QSIC  
10/17/05 QSIC  
10/21/05 MCEL Presentation for BPE  
10/24/05 QSIC  
10/24/05 American Indian Constitutional Symposium Public Hearing  
11/01/05-  
11/02/05 QSIC

### **Item 8 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT**

Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger and Jan Lombardi, Education Policy Advisor, presented the report from the Governor's Office. He reported that this administration has a keen interest in education. Their mission is to create jobs and to provide opportunity by providing the best education workforce in the region. This administration has put a \$20 million investment in the colleges of technology. The Energy Summit was briefly discussed; we need to develop resources in an environmentally sensitive way. Mr. Meloy conveyed to Lieutenant Governor Bohlinger the desire of the Board to meet regularly with the Governor's.

### **Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Meloy presented an update on activities that he has been active with since the last Board of Public Education meeting. He touched on the following items:

- ❖ Continued work with Legislative Services Division on fiscal responsibility processes for SB 152
- ❖ Attended all of the staff and full committee meetings for the Quality Schools Interim Committee
- ❖ Met with Healthy Schools Network to discuss the Board's work with a Bullying policy
- ❖ Continued work of BOE P-20 Committee
- ❖ Worked with OPI and the Commissioner of Higher Education on the Writing Proficiency
- ❖ Attended a college access meeting in Jackson, Wyoming
- ❖ Attended October 3 meeting of the Leadership group
- ❖ Attended the honors banquet of MCEL

### **Item 3 CSPAC REPORT**

Mr. Donovan mentioned that the Certification Standards and Practice Advisory Council met in October and some of the items discussed and brought to the Board were:

- Council endorses NCATE/State partnership and is recommending it to the Board.
- Council supports the Multiple Measures assessment for content knowledge presented by the Council of Deans and offers the proposal for the Board's support.
- Council presents their position on Teacher Testing to the Board:
  - Veteran teachers do not need to be tested. Caveat: as long as the United States Department of Education says veteran teachers meet the definition of "highly qualified."
  - Teachers new to the profession need to be tested.
  - The Council supports the current reciprocity rules as they have been recently revised and sees no reason to add to that at this time.

**MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to appoint Dr. Paul Rowland to the Higher Education position on the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

### **Item 4 PEPPS REVIEW UPDATE**

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Office of Public Instruction, presented on activities pertinent to the work of the Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards. In June, the PEPPS Review Advisory Panel provided direction for subcommittee work to assist in the completion of the draft revision of the Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards. The appointed subcommittees are: Indian Education, educational technology, format, structure, consistency of language and outreach. These subcommittees will report progress to the PEPPS Review Advisory Panel at an early December meeting. Subsequently, the Review Advisory Panel will present the completed draft document to CSPAC and the Board in January.

Dr. Peterson also distributed several documents relative to the work of this committee. The first document was an activities update outlining important dates in this process. The second document distributed was entitled Essential Understandings Regarding Montana's Indians. The third item distributed was the proposed review schedule 2007-2013 for the Montana Educator Preparation Units.

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

Superintendent McCulloch distributed documents outlining activities that have transpired at the Office of Public Instruction since the September Board meeting. Some of these activities are listed below:

- Participated in meetings of the Quality Schools Interim legislative committee on school funding issues
- Welcomed federal education staff who were reviewing the Title III ESEA/NCLB program
- Visited the Division of Educational Research and Service at the University of Montana
- Met with the Technical Advisory Committee on standard setting
- "Montana Kids Care" Campaign launched to aid Katrina victims
- Jim Oberembt honored for Excellence in Performance
- OPI to issue RFPs for Data Warehouse and Student Information System
- School Law Book can be ordered online at

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/LegalDivision/index.html> and will be available after the special session on school funding.

- Honors for National Board Certified Teachers
- 2005-2006 Directory of Montana Schools

Superintendent McCulloch distributed a news release that was initiated by the Office of Public Instruction praising Montana students for ranking high in reading and math.

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

Dr. Roger Barber, Deputy Commissioner, Academic and Student Affairs, Office of the

Commissioner of Higher Education, gave the report from this office, in the absence of Commissioner Stearns. He discussed the document that he had distributed earlier, Item 129-109-R1105 Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education Policy and Procedures Manual, Writing Proficiency Policy. He reported that this policy was one worked on by Dr. Jan Clinard and Commissioner Stearns. The second document that he distributed was a response to the questions which were presented to the Board of Regents in September with regards to the Writing Proficiency Policy.

He also distributed an agenda for the Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting, which was held on November 16, 2005.

#### **Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Jessop reported that he will be leaving for Washington D.C. on Wednesday, November 9, 2005 and then on to Israel for approximately a month. He wished to thank the Board for this extraordinary educational opportunity.

He briefly reported on the MASC (Montana Association of Student Councils) State Conference, held in Glasgow, Montana on October 24-26, 2005. He distributed the 2005 MASC Survey results and discussed the findings.

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

Ms. Snow, Assessment, Office of Public Instruction, distributed the 2005 Iowa Test Results and summarized the results for the Board. Ms. Snow was joined at the table by Ms. Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI. Ms. Fladmo stated that she was pleased with the new format and that she also liked the fact that the report showed five years of data in a condensed format.

Mr. Fuller expressed his distress with the disparity of scores between males and females at the high school level; he senses this will be an emerging problem. He feels, as educators, we should be aware of this issue and advocate for a remedy to the situation. Ms. Fladmo felt that hiring a consultant to take a look at this issue at a national level might be useful.

Ms. Snow requested that the Board of Public Education/Office of Public Instruction Oversight Committee meet by conference call to discuss the issues surrounding the Riverside contract sampling and what will be put forth in terms of requested legislation, as urged by Ms. Fladmo.

#### **Item 10 WRITING PROFICIENCY UPDATE/BOARD POSITION (Possible Action Item)**

Ms. Fladmo explained to the Board that the updated Writing Proficiency Policy proposes that whether or not a student passes the Writing Proficiency will not preclude them from entering into a four year institution but will place them on provisional status. Mr. Barber further discussed the updated Writing Proficiency policy crafted by the Board of Regents, which was distributed to all Board members.

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to refer to the P-20 Committee the establishment of a joint implementation committee to follow this policy through completion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Masolo and the motion unanimously carried. Mr. Fuller amended the motion to state that this board is in support of the proposed Regent Policy and the timeline also.**

#### **Item 11 ACCREDITATION MANUAL UPDATE**

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, Office of Public Instruction, presented the updated list of Board of Public Education Members for the Accreditation Manual for the Board's consideration. There were no changes made to the list.

#### **Item 12 NCATE/MONTANA PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, Office of Public Instruction, and Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC discussed the NCATE/Montana Partnership Agreement. To give some background into this topic, the Office of Public Instruction provided an overview, which follows.

Montana and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) have held a partnership agreement since 1987; the status of this partnership is reviewed and renewed by the Board of Public Education through the submission of a state application.

The proposed NCATE/Montana Partnership Agreement continues the past practice of conducting

joint onsite reviews of NCATE participating institutions. The team composition consists of educators representing NCATE and Montana. The NCATE/State Team and State Verification Team work together, sharing equal roles and responsibilities in all functions of the review. Under the onsite visit protocol, developed jointly, NCATE standards are accepted by the Board of Public Education as at least equivalent to Sub-Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 6 of its educator preparation program standards (ARM Title 10, Chapter 58), the unit standards. NCATE accepts Montana's state-based program review of subject areas standards, as being at least equivalent to the NCATE folio process, Specialized Professional Associations (SPA).

The Montana State Verification Team reviews the specific program standards articulated in the Board of Public Education approved 2001-2005 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS). The NCATE/State Team examines the NCATE Unit Standards, which are incorporated into the Montana PEPPS as stated above.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erik Burke, MEA-MFT, gave an update on MEA-MFT activities. He reported on the success of the MEA-MFT conference, stating that there were 2530 participants, with a record breaking number of those who submitted renewal credits as a result of attending the conference.

He suggested that it would be beneficial to work with targeted curriculum groups to host a forum on Board standards and how they're implemented in Montana.

At the end of September, MEA-MFT hosted the ninth annual Montana Educator's Forum. For the 2006 Educator Forum he will be presenting a video: A Celebration of Possibility focusing on the positives happening in Montana schools. He is also searching for viable topics for the 2006 Montana Educator Forum. With regards to National Board Certification there are a total of 16 candidates awaiting scores, 9 candidates pursuing for next year, and are looking for additional candidates.

Finally, he wished to thank the Board for their affirmative vote on NCATE partnership. MEA-MFT stands behind their belief that this is a vital relationship that improves the product of the schools of education and the teachers throughout the state of Montana.

Josh Middleton, Superintendent, Laurel Schools presented with regards to the assessment issue. He expressed concerns about the timeframe of testing in the springtime. He suggested that it would be more practical to place the Iowa Basics assessment in the fall. He also touched on Adequate Yearly Progress, hoping that this year's determination will be the same as next year's. He closed by extending an invitation to all of the Board members to come visit Laurel to see what they are doing with regards to assessment.

### **Item 13 NCLB UPDATE**

Ms. Bowles, Accreditation Accountability Specialist, Office of Public Instruction, spoke in regards to the development of School Support Teams, mentioning that team members will be picked by the end of this month (November) and will join team leaders for training. They will be using the Kentucky model tweaked to fit Montana. The first item that this team will be working on is the standards and indicators, the second item is a standards and indicators notebook to take on visits, and the third item is the process and protocol guide. Notification of those selected as team members will be by the end of November; training of the team leaders and their team members will begin in January. The schools that will be on the first site visits will be those in corrective action. The team leaders and members will be trained in Montana standards, school improvement, and understanding and incorporating cultural relevancy. Ms. Bowles is hopeful to return a year from now with data showing that a difference is being made.

Ms. Bowles also presented a reflection on "Surveys of an Active Curriculum", a grant project which entails a 90 minute survey that teachers can take. The survey is related to their instructional practice and what skills and abilities they expect from their students. The data is coded and it comes out looking like a contour map and this map shows the content areas and what you expect the students to be able to know and perform. It gives a "picture" of the teachers' instruction and they can compare it to the content standards, showing them what areas are emphasized in the standards versus what areas they are emphasizing in their instruction. This tool will assist to determine areas that are being taught repetitively, gaps in relationship to standards, and help to identify professional development needs.

#### **Item 14 ALTERNATIVE STANDARD REQUEST FORM & PROCEDURE**

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist and Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, Office of Public Instruction, presented to the Board a proposed Alternative Standard Application that has been restructured. Mr. Bishop, Chairperson of the Accreditation Committee, hopes to bring this revised application to the January 2006 Board of Public Education meeting for adoption.

Technical assistance, which will be supplied by the Office of Public Instruction, will be required by the schools with this new application, especially in the rural schools.

#### **Item 15 GED ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Strong, GED Administrator, Career, Technical and Adult Education Division, Office of Public Instruction, presented the 2004 Montana GED Statistical Report. This report also included the status of current fees charged for administration of the GED.

Ms. Fladmo was concerned with the high number of 17 year olds that took the test, and questioned why they didn't choose another route to obtain their diploma. Mr. Strong mentioned that this data can be collected and reported back to the Board. Also, why weren't there a higher number of accommodations to meet the needs of disabled? Mr. Strong said that cost is a major roadblock to the number of accommodations. Also, the process for gaining accommodations is very cumbersome. This process has been recently revised to make it more streamlined and easier to understand.

Mr. Fuller requested data regarding 16, 17, and 18 year olds to determine how many are home schooled or dropouts. Mr. Miller requested longitudinal data for next year's GED report (five years worth).

#### **Item 16 BULLYING, INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY REQUIREMENT**

Ms. Bramer, Office of Public Instruction, Mr. Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) and Mr. Meloy, Board of Public Education, all members of the Montana Healthy Schools Network who worked on this policy requirement presented information regarding a model policy, along with suggested changes to Montana Accreditation Standards.

Mr. Meloy gave a brief background on this issue, including a synopsis of SB 198, which is a bill that requested the legislature speak to bullying, intimidation, and harassment in the school districts.

Ms. Bramer stated that data collection and reporting from school districts is in place and a report will be ready by the legislative session 2007.

Mr. Vogel reminded the Board that they are not adopting **one specific policy**, but only the requirement that schools adopt a policy, local control will dictate which policy they adopt. He feels it is appropriate that the Board address school safety and the environment. MTSBA will continue to review the existing model policy.

Kristine Kaufmann, co-director at the Montana Human Rights Network, and also a state representative from Helena, talked about a 30-minute video that addresses bullying, intimidation and harassment with regards to students; copies are being made and can be distributed to those who are interested. She also distributed a document titled, Get Real, Real Facts, Real Solutions Addressing Harassment, Bullying, Intimidation in Montana Schools.

Deborah Schaaf, staff attorney, American Civil Liberties Union, reiterated what Ms. Kaufmann said with regarding potential liability issues. Requiring a policy without stating what should be in the policy opens schools up for liability issues.

Beth Brenneman, staff attorney, Montana Advocacy Program, represents people with disabilities, supports the committee's recommendation.

Darrell Rud, Executive Director, SAM, supports the committee's recommendation. Mr. Rud was previously a school principal and was actively involved with another group of principals in school districts that took actions to develop a policy with regards to care and respect. The policy is where you start to address the problems, and you need other things to follow up the policy to implement this policy. All the associations that Mr. Rud works for and with vow to support this policy.

Erik Burke, MEA-MFT, appreciates the following through with this policy of the Board; it sends a good signal to the legislature. MEA-MFT supports the policy statement in front of the Board and thinks it should be adopted. They also feel there will have to be actions from MEA-MFT to put this policy in place and offers their assistance and commitment in doing so.

Bruce Messinger, Superintendent Helena Public Schools lent his support as well. One of the motivating factors to adopt a policy in Helena Public Schools was a number of hazing, harassment, and intimidation issues seen.

Mr. Fuller then asked members of the Board for any comments or discussion on this issue. Ms. Fladmo asked if there were any attorneys in place to periodically take a look at the policy to continuously revise it.

Dr. Miller asked for some clarification on the process and procedures following action by the Board. Pending public hearing and adoption of rule changes, what is the general process for getting information to the school districts for their reaction? Mr. Meloy stated that the motion would require "a policy" and then the OPI and MTSBA would house, in their resources, the list of the ten guidelines plus model policies. Dr. Miller asked that Claudette Morton from Small Schools Alliance be brought into the discussion to help incorporate the ten guidelines with regards to the rural schools.

Ms. Fladmo asked how the Office of Public Instruction would address accountability issues. Superintendent McCulloch stated that a report would be prepared and brought to the Board of Public Education.

Mr. Jessop stated that any model policy should also include verbal harassment, which he feels is not being addressed in the schools as well as the physical harassment, intimidation and bullying issues are.

**MOTION: Ms. Myers moved that the Board of Public Education notice for hearing revisions to 10.55.701, 10.55.801 and 10.55.1003 and that the Board of Public Education require all Montana school districts to adopt and implement bullying, intimidation, and harassment prevention policies by May 2006 and to proactively address bullying prevention. A list of suggested district policy features that are consistent with this position statement will be attached to this motion and offered as a guide for districts. Mr. Fuller added a statement to the original motion that included an accountability mechanism to be provided to the Board of Public Education by January 2007 through the Office of Public Instruction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fuller and unanimously carried.**

#### **Item 17 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA NCATE/MONTANA PROGRAM APPROVAL**

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, Office of Public Instruction, Dean Rowland, and Mr. Donovan, Administrative Office, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council, presented information regarding the Montana NCATE/Montana Program approval. They are recommending approval and provisional approval.

The Superintendent of the Office of Public Instruction recommends approval and provisional approval of the education programs of the School of Education programs as reviewed during the April 2005 onsite visit, which was conducted by the Office of Public Instruction. The School of Education at the University of Montana hosted the Joint NCATE/State Review. The Board reviewed the report at its September meeting.

The Montana State Verification Team reviewed the specific program standards articulated in the Board of Public Education approved 2001-2005 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS). The NCATE State Team examined the NCATE Unit Standards, which are incorporated into the Montana PEPPS.

**MOTION: Ms. Myers recommended approval and provisional approval of the professional education unit at the University of Montana along with the recommended timeline for the provisional review. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

Dean Rowland wished to invite all to a celebration on Tuesday, November 8, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. in the North Ballroom on the campus to celebrate the accreditation granting.

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

Mr. Gettel, Superintendent, and Mr. Sykes, Financial Officer, MSDB reported on activities that have taken place at the school since the last Board of Public Education meeting in September. They are

listed below but are not limited to this list:

1. **Student Enrollment/Evaluation:** On campus total-71, off campus total-277, evaluations to date-18
2. **Human Resources:** New hires-2 in Education, Resignations-1, and a schedule of activities for recruitment and hiring of new Principal for MSDB through January 2, 2006 was distributed.
3. **School Improvement (Action Item):**  
**MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to accept the revision of policies 1000, 1100, 1310, 1401, 1420, 1441, 1521, 1610, 1640, and 3110. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**
4. **Professional Development Activities:** September 23<sup>rd</sup>-Implementing Fairview Reading and Read Naturally, October 19<sup>th</sup>-Group work to review curriculum and accreditation reports, November 22<sup>nd</sup>-Group work to review progress on reading and math goals, and accreditation reports.
5. **MSDB Foundation Activities:** looking for three board members for the MSDB foundation due to Kim Falcon and John Kinna resigning their positions.
6. **Conferences, Meetings and Contacts:**
  - October 6-NCA Meeting, Great Falls
  - October 19-OPI/MHC/MSDB Joint Program Meeting at MSDB
  - October 20-21-Northern Rockies AER Conference, Bozeman
  - November 8-UNHS Task Force Consensus Council, Helena
  - December 14-UNHS Task Force Consensus Council, Great Falls
  - January 3-BPE Committee Meeting at MSDB
  - January 5-NW Administrators
7. **Finance and Facilities:** Update on Budget and Long Range Building Projects
8. **School Calendar of Events:**
  - November 21-First day of practice in Basketball
  - November 22-28-Thanksgiving Vacation
  - December 3-Basketball Valier @ Home
  - December 9-Gallaudet Day
  - December 20-Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program
  - December 21-Christmas Program-Reception to follow
  - January 2-School in Session-Classes Resume
9. **Student News and School Events:** from the Visually Impaired Department-teachers met on the Read Naturally program again; Cane Club and VIP have been meeting and planning events; more staff has been trained on the use of the Embossers. From the Hearing Impaired Department-Debi Knuth's class went on a buffalo hunt and then made their own; Schulte's Student of the Week for September was Christina Cortez; Deaf Awareness week was celebrated by a poster activity and was also recognized on the local news; interpreter lessons began on October 13; Employee of the Week award received by Mr. Sangwin.
10. **Public Comment on any non-agenda items**-there was no public comment at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.