

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

September 15 & 16, 2005

Flathead High School
644 4th Avenue West
Kalispell MT 59901
Room 100

Chairperson Kirk Miller called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2005, thanking Principal Callie Langhor for allowing the Board to utilize her facility. Dr. Miller then formally introduced Callie Langhor, Principal of Flathead High School, who in turn introduced Evan Scott, Student Body President and two of the vice principals, Mike Lincoln and Pete Fesaro.

Board members present at the meeting included: Kirk Miller, Chairperson; Diane Fladmo, Vice Chairperson; John Fuller, Storrs Bishop, Patty Myers, Cal Gilbert, Gay Ann Masolo, 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. Ex-officio members present included Superintendent Linda McCulloch. Commissioner Stearns and Governor Schweitzer were absent from the meeting, but Dr. Jane Karas, President of Flathead Valley Community College presented the Commissioner's Report in Dr. Stearn's absence. Those in attendance at the meeting included Jan Lombardi, Governor's Office; Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT; Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Paul Rowland, University of Montana-Missoula; Kathy Bramer, OPI; Earle Reimer, Valley Christian School; Sally Baier, Valley Christian School; Gary Walter, Valley Christian School; Beth Brenneman, Montana Advocacy Program; Sue Brown, Flathead High School; Linda Peterson, OPI; Cathy Warhank, OPI; Bud Williams, OPI; Patrick Hensleigh, Belgrade School Board, and BK Surrah, Valley Christian School.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Miller welcomed the guests to the meeting, which included Dr. Jane Karas, President of Flathead Valley Community College and Patricia Chlouber, U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Miller announced that Item #6 (Commissioner's report) would be presented by Dr. Jane Karas, and moved to follow Item #2. The MACIE Report (Item #17) would be moved to the last item of the day (Item #15) and would be presented by Joyce Silverthorne, former member of the board.

Ms. Hopkins took the roll call and a quorum was noted; Dr. Miller read the Statement of Public Participation.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dr. Miller asked the Board if they had any input regarding the NASBE bylaws which will be addressed at the NASBE Conference, to be held October 15-17, 2005 and attended by Ms. Fladmo, Mr. Meloy and Chairperson Miller.

He presented Ms. Fladmo a plaque, along with a "resolution", recognizing her appointment as the

current NASBE President, as a show of gratitude from the Board. Dr. Miller presented Ms. Hopkins a "resolution" in recognition of her upcoming Governor's Award of Excellence as an appreciative gesture from the Board.

He gave an update on the work of the Quality Schools Interim Committee (QSIC). The end goal of the committee is to create a funding formula and that formula would distribute money in an equitable way to our schools with an adequate amount of money to run the programs that are needed.

He presented at the Montana Constitutional Symposium which was sponsored by the O'Connor Center of the Rocky Mountain West in Missoula. He presented a brief history of school funding, and then introduced Superintendent McCulloch and other members of the Quality Schools Interim Committee who discussed legislation that is currently occurring with school funding and the vision of the Quality Schools Committee.

Through the American Israel Friendship League, a student ambassador program is being initiated in Montana and it is possible that our student representative would be selected, along with the president of the state student council association, to go to Israel (for 2 weeks) to meet with government officials, education officials, and students, as well as some orientation in New York City before the trip.

Board Member Activities:

Gay Ann Masolo

8/10/05 Accreditation Meeting/Discussion-OPI-Helena

Patty Myers

7/24/05-7/26/05

NASH Conference-Annapolis, MD

8/10/05

Meeting re: Accreditation-OPI-Helena

8/11/05

Professional Judgment Panel-Missoula

8/24/05

Welcome to MSDB staff-Great Falls

8/25/05

Introduced as board member-Great Falls Public Schools Convocation

Diane Fladmo

8/12/05

Center for the Rocky Mountain West "Constitution" Conference

Kirk Miller

8/10/05

Accreditation Committee-Conference Call

8/12/05

Montana Constitution Symposium sponsored by the O'Connor Center of the Rocky Mountain West

8/30/05-9/1/05

Quality Schools Interim Committee

9/8/05

" " "

9/11/05-9/12/05

MQEC Annual Meeting

9/14/05

Quality Schools Interim Committee

Storrs Bishop

7/20/05-7/22/05

Accreditation Conference Call with BPE Office

8/8/05

Accreditation Conference Call with OPI

8/10/05

Accreditation Meeting-Helena-OPI

9/13/05

Accreditation Conference Call with BPE/OPI

Item 6 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT

Dr. Jane Karas, President of Flathead Valley Community College, gave the Commissioner's Report in the absence of Commissioner Stearns. She gave an overview of the programs at her facility and extended an invitation for all of the board members to visit a community college campus.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Meloy gave an update on his activities that have transpired since the July 2005 meeting. He reported that he will be attending the NASBE meeting in Phoenix in October.

He mentioned that the Board would be hosting a reception at the Outlaw Inn (in the Remington

Room from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.) to encourage administrators from the surrounding area to meet the Board members. Other items of importance mentioned during Mr. Meloy's report included the following:

- Worked with Legislative Services Division on fiscal responsibility processes for SB 152.
- Attended all meetings of the staff and full committee meetings for QSIC.
- Met with Healthy Schools Network to discuss the BPE's work with bullying.
- Continued work of the BOE P-20 Committee.
- Worked with OCHE on writing assessment.
- Worked with Corvallis District on breach of contract issue.
- Met with OCHE to coordinate our move downtown.
- Scheduled a meeting with the Governor for November 2, 2005
- Met with the Governor's education policy advisor.

Item 3 CSPAC REPORT

Mr. Donovan presented an update on activities which have occurred with CSPAC since the last board meeting. The next meeting will be held on October 6-7, 2005 at MSU-Bozeman. This will be the annual joint meeting with the Council of Deans of Higher Education.

Mr. Donovan attended the planning meeting for the 2006 Annual Conference of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education & Certification (NASDTEC). He feels we need to do a better job of recruiting state board members and make the conference more relevant for policymakers. Subsequently, there will be an item on the agenda addressing Education Governance.

Dr. George White, who has served as the Higher Education representative on the CSPAC, recently accepted a position as the Interim Associate Provost at MSU-Billings. Consequently, he will be resigning his position and CSPAC will be advertising for a replacement. Recommendations for this position will be brought to the November 2005 Board meeting by Mr. Donovan.

Item 4 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION UNITS ONSITE REVIEWS

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, OPI, provided the Board with the review schedule for the educator preparation units of the University of Great Falls and Rocky Mountain College. These reviews will adhere to the Board requirements pursuant to the 2001-2005 Professional Educator Program Delivery Standards. The onsite review schedule is as follows:

- ❖ University of Great Falls October 23-26, 2005
- ❖ Rocky Mountain College December 4-6, 2005

Item 5 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McCulloch presented to the Board her goals for 2005. They included the following:

- Reading, K-12
- Indian Education
 - American Indian Dropout Prevention
 - Closing the Achievement Gap
- Indian Education for All
 - Implement MCA 20-5-501
- School Funding, K-12
 - School Funding Revision Committee
- President Bush's No Child Left Behind Law
 - "Montanaizing"
- Communications to Schools
 - OPI Webpage-content and design
 - Official Email
 - Vision Net
- Services and Resources to Schools
 - Yellow School Bus Tour
 - Grant to aid schools
- Legislative Agenda

- 2007 Session
- 2005 Special Session
- IDEA Reauthorization
- Upcoming Federal Reauthorization
 - Perkins
 - Workforce Investment Act
 - Adult Education
- Student Achievement
 - Data Warehouse
- High School Reform
- Hurricane Katrina Relief

Superintendent McCulloch also passed out her report of highlights of activities occurring in the summer of 2005 at the Office of Public Instruction. Listed below are some of those highlights:

- ❖ Jan Lombardi accepts position as Governor's Education Policy Advisor
- ❖ School Law Book is available on-line at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/LegalDivision/index.html>.
- ❖ Montana Meth Project
- ❖ Educator License Renewal Procedural Change
- ❖ New Licensure Specialist, Nicole Weissman
- ❖ Farewell and best wishes to Tal Redpath

Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Jessop reported that he wishes to create a Yahoo! Group to ease communication between students and the student representative. Another goal of his is to encourage student councils at the Montana Association of Student Councils to appoint a student who will join the Yahoo Group and share information with their student councils in order to create an informative network. He will also pass ownership of the Yahoo Group to the next student representative so a network will already be in place.

Item 8 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT

Dr. Miller officially welcomed Jan Lombardi, the newly appointed Education Policy Advisor to the Governor. Ms. Lombardi reported that the main focus for education in the Governor's Office currently is School Readiness to Workforce Responsiveness.

Items of particular interest in the Governor's Office in relation to K-12 issues are Indian Education for All (money has been put into the budget), the data system that Superintendent McCulloch talked about briefly, high school reform and graduation rates, and transfer of credits.

Ms. Lombardi related to the board that the Governor will not call a special session regarding the funding formula issue until the Quality Schools Interim Committee has a solution. He feels it is not reasonable to call a special session at the expense of the taxpayers unless there is an equitable solution.

In closing, she asked the board for any suggestions of items they wished her to report on from the Governor's Office.

Item 9 BPE GOAL REVIEW

Mr. Meloy reviewed the document outlining the BPE Goals, Strategies, and Performance Measures for 2005-2006. He mentioned that our projected meetings with the Governor have been lined up. In November, there will be a meeting with the Education and Local Government Interim Committee. Mr. Meloy will provide the board with further information regarding this meeting at a later date.

Item 10 NCLB UPDATES FROM FEDERAL PERSPECTIVE

Ms. Chlouber, Department of Education, gave an update on the NCLB Law from the federal perspective. She distributed several documents prior to her report; 10 Facts about K-12 Education Funding, a flyer entitled No Child Left Behind Is Working! and a document outlining history of the NCLB Act of 2001, along with some financial statistics.

Item 11 BOARD DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING BULLYING, HARASSMENT AND

INTIMIDATION ISSUE

Mr. Meloy, Mr. Vogel, MTSBA, and Ms. Bramer, OPI, presented a brief overview of the July report to the Board of Public Education on national and state data on bullying and violence-related behaviors among youth, a definition of bullying, information on school climate, legal considerations regarding student-on-student bullying, the fundamental importance of school policy, a model policy, suggested changes to Montana Accreditation Standards, and several recommendations. The floor was then opened up for public comment.

Beth Brenneman, Montana Advocacy Program, distributed a document that conveyed comments regarding the issue paper issued by the Office of Public Instruction in June 2005. The document points out several deficiencies, according to the Montana Advocacy Program. They are listed below:

1. As it does not contain a clear definition of bullying, intimidation and harassment in that it totally ignores the significance of minority targeting when bullying occurs. The policy does not address the realities of the manner in which victims are chosen nor does it address the often-discriminatory nature of bullying, intimidation and harassment. A bullying, harassment and intimidation policy that fails to address the reality of bullying, it does not provide clear and explicit notice to students of the kind of behavior that the policy intends to address and therefore will not be as effective as a deterrent;
2. Because it does not define intimidation, harassment and bullying, it requires two steps before the policy is effective-the school board's adoption of the policy, and the superintendent's issuance of rules to define those terms. This builds in a time delay for the policy to be effective. This is of particular concern as the policy includes no deadline for the superintendent to develop the rules to implement the policy;
3. It leaves the definition of intimidation, harassment and bullying to local officials. In light of the testimony of Dr. Marlene Snyder during the May 13, 2005 meeting, regarding teachers' and local officials' lack of understanding of what bullying is and is not, the policy's deference to local definitions of bullying, intimidation and harassment is curious. The Board of Public Education, which took extensive testimony from members of the public including Dr. Snyder and has continued access to those professionals who can assist in drafting those definitions, is in a far better position to adopt a definition of these activities than local officials;
4. The policy does not prohibit retaliation for reporting bullying, intimidation, or harassment; and
5. It does not require teachers and other staff to report or act on bullying, intimidation or harassment that is reported to them or that they witness.

Item 12 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA NCATE/MONTANA JOINT REVIEW

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, OPI, Dean Paul Rowland, UMT-Missoula, and Pete Donovan, BPE, presented an overview of the Joint NCATE/State Review of the School of Education at the University of Montana in Missoula. The purpose of the review was to validate the School of Education's Institutional Report. The State Verification Team review consisted of two parts: an off-site review of the specific program areas and an on-site review to verify the off-site team's report. This item will again be presented to the Board at the November 2005 meeting.

Item 13 SCIENCE STANDARDS REVIEW UPDATE

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, OPI, provided the Board with an update on the review process of the K-12 Science Content and Performance Standards and the Science Program Delivery Standards. The schedule for the review process is as follows:

Educator Focus Group-August 9, 2005
Writing Team Work Session 1-August 15-17, 2005
Scientist Focus Group-September 22, 2005
Writing Team Work Session 2-September 23-25, 2005

Item 14 CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, MISSOULA

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, presented the final consideration of the request for reinstatement of accreditation status for Valley Christian High School. As a brief background, Mr. Warhank provided the following overview:

“According to Montana Code Annotated (School Laws of Montana) 20-7-102 (1) “The conditions under which each high school operates must be reviewed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to determine compliance with the standards of accreditation. The accreditation of very school must then be established by the Board of Public Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction...” Having carefully reviewed Valley Christian High School’s policies and accompanying documents, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is satisfied that Valley Christian High School meets the Board’s standards of accreditation. Therefore, the Superintendent recommends that Valley Christian High School be granted Regular Accreditation by the Board of Public Education.”

At the July BPE meeting, the Board had asked for clarification on three items from the Office of Public Instruction. These items are summarized below:\

1. The Board was concerned about language on page 60 of the Valley Christian Board Policy Handbook “Standards for hiring academic and support staff”. The language has been corrected and will now read:
 - Standards for Hiring
 - A. Teacher Certification Requirements:
 - In grades 9-12 all teachers must hold a valid, current, state of Montana teaching certificate and must be endorsed to teach in the content areas to which they are assigned.
2. The Board was concerned about language on page 5 of the Valley Christian High Schools Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan regarding Federal and State regulation of their private school. The language has been corrected and will now read:

Section A: Data Profiles.....

Valley Christian is in the process of pursuing State Accreditation once again and is committed to following and complying with all of the state standards provided by the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education necessary to gain and hold that accreditation. We eagerly look forward to working with those two state agencies and believe, in the long run, our positive relationship and strong cooperation with them will prove to benefit us in the matter of enrollment. Even if our numbers do not necessarily improve, we believe this relationship with the state and maintaining state accreditation will prove beneficial to our students and be in the best interest of our clientele.

3. The Board was concerned whether the curriculum at Valley Christian High School was aligned with the Montana State Content and Performance Standards.

After careful consideration by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, along with the OPI executive accreditation team, it has been determined that Valley Christian High School’s curriculum meets the Board’s content and performance standards.

This item will be presented again later in the agenda for final action.

Item 17 MACIE UPDATE

Ms. Silverthorne, MACIE, presented an update on MACIE activities in the absence of Chairperson Norma Bixby. Ms. Silverthorne presented a summary of the August 18, 2005 MACIE meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Vogel, MTSBA, wished to thank Dr. Miller and Superintendent McCulloch for their work with

the Quality Schools Interim Committee.

Mrs. Sue Brown, English teacher, Flathead High School, spoke regarding the Writing Assessment, which will be on the agenda at a later date. She urged the board to look at some issues when contemplating the Writing Assessment. The first issue she raised was the fact that the Writing Assessment, along with the Measured Progress Criterion Referenced Test, has come along way in getting students to do a better job of writing in the schools. She stated that if you look at the constructive responses on the CRT they feed right into the kind of writing that the Montana University System Writing Assessment addresses. She senses that teachers have not done a good job with regards to writing in Montana and she feels that we are not alone in the nation. She feels that writing has improved in the five years that Montana has been implementing these tests. The testing situation provides vital in-service for teachers, as they are brought together with university professors to score the assessment, which provides excellent training.

Item 15 NCLB UPDATE

Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI, presented information about the Montana All Schools Accountability Process conducted in July and August 2005. In addition, information concerning the highly qualified teacher issue was presented. Unfortunately, Ms. Coopersmith had no new information to present on the latter issue. She briefly discussed the document that she distributed, 2005 School Support Team Application. The purpose of this effort is to supply all schools that are visited with a roadmap for the next steps in their continuous school improvement process. This effort will also provide on-site support teams to bring Montana schools, districts, and the Office of Public Instruction together in a collaborative conversation about what works best for our students.

Item 16 ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Ms. Snow, Assessment Coordinator, OPI, and Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, along with Dr. Peterson, presented an update on the assessment issue.

The first topic discussed was the contract with Riverside Publishing Company, which has been extended for two more years for the administration of the Iowa Tests. The contract extension covers testing in Spring 2006 and Fall 2006. The contract amount for FY2006 is \$277,716. The contract for FY2007 is \$70,555 for the sampling study and \$6.61 per student for each student tested in the open administration for grades 4, 8, and 11.

The next topic discussed was the position paper prepared by the Office of Public Instruction for the Board addressing the writing proficiency assessment. This document is a working draft and the position statement is as follows: **The K-12 Education Community opposes the immediate implementation of writing proficiency options as a requirement for admission to Montana's four-year units of higher education.** There was much discussion regarding the wording of this statement. It was suggested by board member Fuller to change the wording of the statement and to revisit this item at a later time in the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 18 SET ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDAR

Dr. Miller presented the annual agenda calendar from the current year and opened the floor for discussion of what will be kept on the calendar for the upcoming year. The discussion also included the Board of Education meetings. Mr. Meloy was charged with getting together with the Board of Regents to discuss the dates of these meetings. He will work with the Leadership Group and the Governor's Office to coordinate the dates of the Board of Education meetings; usually scheduled for January and July.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to adopt the Sept. 2005-Nov. 2007 agenda calendar. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried. The first year of the calendar addressed item specific issues; the second year addressed future dates of 2007, but not the specific issues.

Item 19 ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Dr. Miller turned the chairmanship over to Mr. Meloy who opened the discussion up to the Board members to nominate officers.

MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to re-appoint Dr. Miller as the Chairperson to the Board of Public Education. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Miller opened the floor up for nominations for Vice Chairperson to the Board of Public Education.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to re-appoint Ms. Fladmo as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Public Education. Ms. Masolo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 20 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Miller thanked each of the Board of Public Education's committee chairpersons and he reiterated that, for stability purposes, we continue with the committee members as previously designated. Mr. Jessop will be added to the Accreditation Committee, the Licensure Committee of the Board of Public Education, and the P-20 Committee of the Board of Education.

MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to accept the Committee Assignments for 2005-2006 as outlined by Dr. Miller. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried. Ms. Myers name was added as a liaison for the MSDB Foundation.

Item 21 LICENSURE REPORT (MAY REQUIRE CLOSED SESSION)

Closed session at 12:40 p.m., 1:00 p.m. back in open session.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved that Board of Public Education accept the Office of Public Instruction's recommendation of revocation of the license in case 2005-01. Ms. Masolo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried

Mr. Fuller and Ms. Fladmo were not present for the above vote.

Item 22 BOARD RECONSIDERATION OF JULY DENIAL OF A REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE STANDARDS

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, introduced members of the Geyser Public School/Surprise Creek Colony. Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, OPI, then joined him at the table. He then proceeded through the requests for alternatives to the standards, as recommended by the Office of Public Instruction.

MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to reconsider the action taken by the Board on variances to standards at the July 2005 meeting. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for variance to standard of 10.55.710 School Counseling Services (Malmborg Elementary). Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo amended the above motion to include language which states "approval on the condition that it will be reviewed once again upon completion of the

study". Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the request of East Glacier Park Elementary and the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of 10.57.709 variance (Library Media Services). Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion failed on a vote of 2 to 5.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the request for variance of 10.57.709 (Library Media Services). Ms. Myers seconded the motion, the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 5 to 2.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request of 10.55.710 School Counseling Services (East Glacier Park Elementary). The motion dies for lack of a second.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the variance to standard 10.55.710 School Counseling Services at East Glacier Park Elementary. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion was then voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 6 to 1 abstention.

Several members of the Geyser High School Surprise Creek Colony spoke to the Board regarding the Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Learning 10.55.907 standard, which was recommended for approval by the Office of Public Instruction.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the request of the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the alternative standard to 10.55.907 Distance, Online and Technology Delivered Learning at the Surprise Creek Colony. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 6 to 1 abstention.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the request of the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the alternative standard to 10.55.709 Library Media Services at Fishtail Elementary. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 5 approvals, 1 disapproval and 1 abstention.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the request of the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the alternative standard to 10.55.710 School Counseling Services at Fishtail Elementary. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 4 approvals, 2 disapprovals and 1 abstention.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the request of the Superintendent's recommendation

for approval of the alternative standard to 10.55.709 Library Media Services at Nye Elementary. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 5 approvals, and 2 disapprovals.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the request of the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the alternative standard to 10.55.710 School Counseling Services at Nye Elementary. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 4 approvals, and 3 disapprovals.

Discussion was conducted regarding the policy dialogue related to Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.604 Variances to Standards (1) Alternative to Standard(s). The issue is that the Board, in its exercise of general supervision over the general public school system, and recognizing the contemporary attention its standards are receiving, as well as the changing landscape regarding quality, should clarify its expectations in regard to 10.55.604 and work with the Office of Public Instruction to assist school districts in understanding the criteria for alternatives that meet or exceed the accreditation standards. Subsequently, the Board must clarify the requirements and the process. It was decided to move forward with Option 1 outlined in the proposal presented by Mr. Bishop.

Item 23 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE STANDARD REQUESTS

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, and Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, OPI, presented for consideration Alternative Standard Initial Requests recommended either for approval or for disapproval by State Superintendent Linda McCulloch.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to table the request of the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of Wyola Elementary, Three Forks Elementary and Melville Elementary's initial alternative standard requests, School Counseling Services, and Library Media Services, respectively. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 5 approvals, 1 abstention and 1 absent.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to disapprove Belgrade Public School's request for an alternative to standard 10.55.709 Library Media Services. The motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion fails on a vote of 5 to 2.

MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to table the recommendation of the Superintendent to disapprove the Belgrade Public School's request for an alternative to standard 10.55.709 Library Media Services. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon and the following resulted:

Motion passes on a vote of 5 to 2.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to disapprove the request for Liberty Elementary K-8's request for an alternative to standard 10.55.709 Library Media Services. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion was voted upon with a unanimous vote.

Item 24 BOARD CONSIDERATION OF PENDING REQUESTS FOR ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, and Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation

Division, OPI, discussed the document distributed titled, "Policy Discussion Related to Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.604 Variances to Standards (1) Alternative to Standard(s). The issue before the board is as follows:

"The Board, in its exercise of general supervision over the general public school system, and recognizing the contemporary attention its standards are receiving, as well as the changing landscape regarding quality, should clarify its expectations in regard to 10.55.604 and work with the Office of Public Instruction to assist school districts in understanding the criteria for alternatives that meet or exceed the accreditation standards."

The Board must clarify the requirements and the process: 1) what is expected by the ARM requirements, and 2) what criteria are needed to ensure an alternative standard request meets or exceeds the ARM requirements.

Item 25 CONSIDERATION OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, and Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, OPI, discussed the consideration for reinstatement of accreditation to Valley Christian High School.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to accept Valley Christian's request for reinstatement of accreditation. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to authorize to include in their regular visitation schedule to visit Valley Christian School within a year. Ms. Masolo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 26 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Mr. Gettel, Superintendent, MSDB and Mr. Sykes, Business Manager, MSDB, discussed activities occurring at the School for the Deaf and Blind.

1. **Student Enrollment/Evaluation**-On campus total-72; off campus total-277; Student evaluations to date-8
2. **Human Resources**-New hires-10 to Education Department; 3 to Student Services; 2 Terminations; Negotiations with MEA-MFT-two year agreement was reached between the MSDB Federation of Teachers on September 8, covering the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years.
3. **School Improvement-Action Item-**

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board of Public Education begin the process of reviewing and revising all Administrative Rules of Montana, under Chapter 61, beginning with sub-chapter 2, followed by sub-chapter 1. Ms. Fladmo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

4. **Professional Development Activities**-During orientation week, renewal units were awarded.
5. **MSDB Foundation Activities**-Due to a lack of a quorum the July meeting of the Foundation was cancelled. In July, Mrs. Sheryl Devine was hired to replace Mr. Rich Wilson who retired as Foundation Secretary on August 12, 2005.
6. **Conferences, Meetings, and Contacts-(not limited to the following):**
 - July 20-MSDB Foundation Executive Committee Meeting
 - August 4-Negotiation session with MEA-MFT
 - September 8-MSDB Committee of the BOPE meeting
 - September 22-23-MASS Conference, Billings

October 6-NCA meeting, Great Falls

7. **Finance and Facilities**-Transportation for travel weekends: 8 students-Billings; 3 students-Kalispell; 5 students-Helena, Butte, and Bozeman; 2 students-Shelby; 4 students-Havre, Malta; 5 students-Missoula

8. **School Calendar of Events-(not limited to the following):**
 - August 28-Residential students return
 - September 3-Great Falls White Sox game
 - September 22-Volleyball Belt @ Home
 - October 6-Volleyball Dutton/Brady@ Home
 - October 19-24-Travel Weekend, Educators Conference
 - October 30-Halloween Party

9. **Student News and School Events-** A Read Naturally workshop was given to VI teachers by Carol Clayton-Bye. The Cane Club has started up and is planning fun and varied educational, service activities on and off campus. Jeff Campbell was hired as Rehab Teacher. Stephanie Annis was hired as new Occupational Therapist.

Item 16 was revisited. Superintendent McCulloch opposed the wording change to the Writing Proficiency Position Paper compiled by the Office of Public Instruction ("The K-12 Education Community opposes the immediate implementation of writing proficiency options as a requirement for admission to Montana's four-year units of higher education").

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to assign the Assessment Task Force Chairperson to craft a position to be presented to the Board of Regents at their September meeting. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – November 3-4, 2005

- Joint NCATE/State Review of School of Education (action)
- Item 24 Presentation on Alternative Standards
- PEPPS Update

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.