

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

**JULY 12-13, 2007**

**FRONT STREET LEARNING CENTER  
815 FRONT STREET  
HELENA, MT**

**July 12, 2007 - Thursday**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 12, 2007. Ms. Jenny Tiskus led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted. Ms. Patty Myers introduced the new Board of Public Education's Student Representative, Ms. Katie Wood. Ms. Patty Myers acknowledged that due to Dr. Kirk Miller's absence she would preside over the Government Affairs Committee and an Item 16a will be added to the agenda to address the recently created K-12 Interim Subcommittee presided by Mr. Casey Barrs.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chairperson Ms. Patty Myers, Vice Chairperson Ms. Angela McLean, Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Cal Gilbert, Ms. Sharon Carroll, Ms. Jenny Tiskus, and Ms. Katie Wood. Staff present at the meeting included Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education; Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council; and Ms. Carol Will, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Mr. Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, represented ex-officio Board Member Ms. Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent. Ms. Jan Lombardi, Governor's Education Policy Advisor, represented ex-officio Board Member Governor Brian Schweitzer. Visitors in attendance at the meeting included: Ms. Beck McLaughlin, Montana Arts Council; Ms. Karen Richem, OPI; Mr. Larry Baker, MSU; Ms. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kris Wilkinson, LFD; Ms. Cathy Warhank, OPI; Ms. Debbie Casey, OPI; David Strong, OPI; Ms. Anna Green, Governor's Office; Mr. Bob Runkel, OPI; Mr. Dick Clark, CIO; Mr. Al McMilin, OPI; Mr. Casey Barrs, LSD; Ms. Cindy O'Dell, Salish Kootenai College; Mr. Doug Ruhman, Salish Kootenai College; Ms. Joanne Sherwood, consultant; and Ms. Angela Helvey, teacher.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the consent agenda. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

*Items are presented in the order in which they appeared.*

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT-Patty Myers**

- 5-14-07 MSDB Spring Program
- 5-26-07 MSDB Graduation
- 6-13-07 (SAM) Dinner for state award winners
- 6-21-07 Conference call with Commissioner Sheila Stearns, Ms. Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, and Mr. Steve Meloy
- 6-26-07 MSDB Committee
- 6-28-07 Meeting with Mr. Steve Gettel and Ms. Diane Moog

- 7-1-07 Interview with Billings Gazette
- 7-8-07 Meeting with Ms. Cheryl Crawley (New Superintendent in Great Falls)
- 7-11-07 Breakfast with Regents hosted by MSU-COT

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT-Steve Meloy**

- Conference call with Commissioner Sheila Stearns, Ms. Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, and Ms. Patty Myers to examine areas of interest and alignment between the Board of Regents and the Board of Public Education
- CSPAC began the total review of Chapter 57
- Continued work with LSD on fiscal responsibility process for SB 152
- Contacted NASBE regarding NASBE's operational concerns by the Board of Public Education
- K to College Workgroup meeting – July 25, 2007
- NCLB implications and future reauthorization of ESEA
- Legislative debriefing session
- SB2-Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

**Item 3 CSPAC REPORT-Peter Donovan**

Mr. Peter Donovan shared his message to the Board of Public Education as the President of NASDTEC. In July 2007 the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual NASDTEC Conference was held in Salt Lake City, UT titled: *Who Will Educate Our Children: An Olympic Challenge*. During the business meeting at the conference, the NASDTEC membership adopted the following goals:

- Goal #1: Review the future administrative needs of the organization in light of established goals and objectives.
- Goal #2: Increase the associate membership by 25% by 2010.
- Goal #3: Use information from the Troops to Teachers Mobility Study to determine how the Interstate Agreement might be modified for the 2010-2015 edition, including the possibility of portability of Highly Qualified status among states.
- Goal #4: Provide national leadership in the areas of on-line teacher preparation, the credentialing of virtual school teachers, and on-line professional development for educators by consulting other national organizations with areas of particular expertise with the goal to develop guidelines and standards to present back to the membership.
- Goal #5: Make the Clearinghouse and Knowledge Base databases even more efficient and effective for NASDTEC members.
- Goal #6: Strengthen NASDTEC's relationships and partnerships with other stakeholders interested in quality educator preparation and certification.

**Item 4 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-State Superintendent Linda McCulloch**

Mr. Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, presented the following information on behalf of State Superintendent Linda McCulloch:

- Electronic Grants Management System (E-Grants) – OPI released the following E-Grants tools: ESEA/NCLB consolidated application, planning tool, and Carl Perkins-secondary. Video on-demand training for the ESEA/NCLB consolidated application can be accessed at [http://opi.mt.gov/ITProjects/E-Grants\\_VOD.html](http://opi.mt.gov/ITProjects/E-Grants_VOD.html).
- Achievement in Montana (AIM) – OPI completed student identifiers and assessment pre-label collection phases of AIM. Student enrollment information for registering students for the MontCAS Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). This collection replaced the requirement that districts submit student enrollment files to Measured Progress. Note that districts need to submit counts of the number of students that are expected to take the CRT-Alternate to Measured Progress.
- 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) – School specific data from the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey is available on the YRBS Web site at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/yrbs>.
- NAEP News – The National Assessment of Educational Progress takes place every two years. Spring 2007 testing was one of these main NAEP years for reading, math, and for some schools, writing. The results of this cycle are due to be released in late summer 2007. NAEP is slated to

release the results of the 2006 12<sup>th</sup> grade testing in economics and a long awaited study comparing NAEP and state performance categories.

- Full-Time Kindergarten Funding Information – SB 2, which was passed in the 2007 Special Legislative Session, provides state ANB funding for students enrolled in full-time kindergarten programs. MCA 20-1-301 requires 360 minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction for a half-time program and 720 minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction for a full-time program as defined in MCA 20-7-117. MCA 20-7-117 states, “A kindergarten program that is designated as a full-time program must allow a parent, guardian, or other person who is responsible for the enrollment of a child in school, as provided in 20-5-102, to enroll the child half time.” Elementary school districts that intend to offer and enroll students in a full-time kindergarten program in FY2007-08 may apply for additional ANB funding.

**INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL REPORT** – Topics included were: Indian Education for All Ready to Go Grants; Indian Education for All Museum Educator Best Practices Program: Museum and Schools and Co-Educators; curriculum development; professional development; and public education campaign.

**10:20 a.m. Jan Lombardi arrived**

**Item 5 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT-Commissioner Sheila Stearns**

No report presented because Commissioner Sheila Stearns and the Board of Regents were meeting in Great Falls at the same time as this Board of Public Education Meeting.

**Item 6 GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT-Jan Lombardi**

- Governor’s office is delighted with the legislative session on behalf of education.
- Governor won a National Cable Leaders and Learning Award and Policy Makers Excellence Award.
- Key focus since the 2007 Legislative Session is the Math and Science Initiative. Anna Green has been brought on staff to catapult the Math And Science Initiative.
- Attended a GEAR UP Camp in Dawson Community College.
- Attended Helena National Youth Forest Monitoring Project.
- Attended Clark Fork Watershed Science Partnership Academy at Montana Tech.
- Partnered with Montana National Guard with a grant titled *Star Base*. It is a math, science, and technology curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- First lady has partnered with the United States, Alberta, and British Columbia to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park.
- Business Summit in Early Childhood.
- Partnering with the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators. Senator Carol Juneau is the chair. A focus is to address the American Indian achievement gap.
- The First Lady and Ms. Jan Lombardi met with the women’s prison to determine what the needs are for adult education. The focus was how to help the women and women with children to help provide them some technical skills to live with a livable wage.
- Board of Education – Delighted that the meeting is in Lame Deer. The BOE meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 9-1:00. The Northern Cheyenne Council will be invited by Governor Brian Schweitzer to attend.
- K to College Workgroup will be meeting on July 25, 2007 to look at successes and strategic plans of BOR and BPE to continue collaboration. The report from the Southern Regional Education Board, *Building Transitions from High School to College and Careers for Montana’s Youth*, will be used as a template for the meeting.

**Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT-Jenny Tiskus**

**Katie Wood (Introduction)**

- Introduction of new Student Representative Ms. Katie Wood from Laurel, MT.
- Ms. Jenny Tiskus hopes that Ms. Katie Wood will continue with the radio spots and advertising from the NASBE grant and incorporate the on-line survey into the Montana Association of Student

Council's meeting in the fall.

- Addressed the concern that during the interview process for the BPE Student Representative position, the question was asked whether or not the potential representative has a parent with a credit card to help pay for travel expenses. Ms. Jenny Tiskus requested that the Board look into this process so that no one is denied from this position due to economic reasons. She suggested that the Board should consider paying for the Student Representative's hotel room in advance.
- Ms. Jenny Tiskus suggested that the Board of Public Education consider partnering with the Montana Association of Student Council to market the support for the public school system through pennants to be displayed in community business's windows.
- Ms. Jenny Tiskus thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent the students of Montana. She concluded by saying, "The Board has great heads and great hearts to do great things."

#### **Item 8 BPE'S STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE-Steve Meloy**

Mr. Steve Meloy provided an overview of the Board of Public Education's Strategic Planning Session held on Wednesday, July 11, 2007. The highlights are as follows:

- Reviewed those in attendance at the meeting.
- Topics discussed under public comment were: Learning First Alliance; fractured relations; review technology standards beyond distance learning; K to College Workgroup; marketing public education; and review of Chapter 57.
- Reviewed Legislative Finance Committee template for the Board of Public Education. Standardization allowed each appropriations subcommittee member to find the same information on each budgetary unit. The template will be amended every year to reflect the goals, measurable objectives, and the current status of measures.
- Draft of the Board of Public Education's Annual Agenda Calendars for September 2007 – November 2008 and September 2008 – November 2009 was presented.
- Suggested revisions for the Board of Public Education's bylaws.
- Each BPE committee reviewed the goals and emerging issues for the upcoming year.
- Alignment with Board of Regent's Strategic Plan.
- Draft performance measures for 2007-2008 will be presented to the Board for review.
- The next 5-year strategic plan will be in July 2008. The Board will hire a consultant to assist in this process.

#### **Item 9 ANNUAL GED REPORT-David Strong**

Mr. David Strong, GED Administrator, presented the 2006 Montana GED Statistical and Demographic Reports. In addition the report of status of current fees charged for administration of the GED was also presented. The 2006 Montana GED Statistical and Demographic Reports were used to give an overview of the GED testing program in Montana and to identify current trends occurring in the state. The five top reasons on the Demographic Statistical Report for not completing high school were: Did not like school; was absent too many times; was bored; had trouble in math; and poor grades. Montana will be piloting some sites in 2008 to take the GED on-line through computer based testing centers. The yearly status report of GED fees was also presented, including rationale for a proposed increase from \$48 to \$55. OPI does not want to see a fee increase because the majority of the people taking the GED have a total annual income from \$0 - \$10,000 and a fee increase may cause an additional barrier; however, the costs of the expenses at the testing sites have increased. There has not been a fee increase since 2002 and the cost per student has risen by 15%. Mr. Steve Meloy reviewed the ARM rule to establish fees of 10.66.104. The rule states: "(1) Upon advice and consent of the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall establish annually a schedule of fees that may be charged for the administration of the GED test battery. The schedule of fees shall be commensurate with the testing program centers' actual costs related to the GED test. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall report annually to the Board of Public Education the status of all fees associated with the GED test."

**The Board of Public Education agrees with the Superintendent of Public Instruction's recommendation of raising the GED fees from \$48 to \$55 effective January 1, 2008.**

### **Item 10 ASSESSMENT REPORT-Nancy Coopersmith**

The Office of Public Instruction presented the 2007 Aggregated Iowa Test Results that were embargoed until July 13, 2007. The report aggregated results by:

1. \*The National Percentile Rank (NPR). The NPR refers to the percent of students in the national norm group that earned the same score or lower than Montana students. For example, a NPR of 57% would mean that Montana students scored the same as or better than 57% of the students in the national norm group.
2. \*\*Montana performance levels. Montana has designated four performance levels: Novice, nearing proficiency, proficient, and advanced.

Included in this report are charts and tables for the following:

- Charts and Tables 1: \*National Percentile Ranks (NPR) for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 in grades 4, 8, and 11.
- Charts and Tables 2: \*\*Percent of Montana students at each Montana performance level in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 in grades 4, 8, and 11.

The July 2007 *Jump Newsletter* was presented to the Board of Public Education to show how the Office of Public Instruction was notifying schools on the action of the Board on norm referenced testing. This edition of the newsletter was not distributed until the Board approved the BPE meeting minutes from May 10-11, 2007 at the July 12-13, 2007 Board of Public Education Meeting. Discussion ensued concerning how schools were being notified of this action and other significant issues. Some methods mentioned were: *Jump Newsletter*; list serves; staff; BPE/OPI websites; school district highlights; and educational partners. The Board and OPI agreed that they need to take extra steps to enhance communication among their constituents.

### **Item 11 ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT-Bob Runkel**

The report included information on trends in special education child count and student enrollment, special education funding, and an analysis of twenty performance indicators that measure student outcomes.

- **Part 1 Students Served** – There has been a decline the last 2 years of special education students due to the following factors: Implementation of interventions in general education resulting in fewer referrals; student progress reviews that identified students no longer in need of special education instruction; decreases in student enrollment; and Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Services (CSCT) programs are providing services to emotionally disturbed students without special education support. The number of students identified as having Autism (AU) has increased substantially over the last 10 years.
- **Part 2 Funding** – Montana's special education funding structure distributes state appropriations in accordance with 20-9-321, MCA, based on a combination of school enrollment and expenditures. Seventy percent of the appropriation is distributed through block grants, which are based on enrollment. Twenty-five percent is distributed through reimbursement for disproportionate costs, which is based on expenditures. The remaining 5 percent is distributed to special education cooperatives to cover costs related to travel and administration.
- **Part 3 Accountability** – Twenty federal indicators were listed based on a revised State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR). Some indicators listed were: Participation and performance of children with disabilities on statewide assessments; rates of suspension and expulsion; percent of preschool children with IEP's who received special education and related services in settings with typically developing peers; percent of children with IEP's, aged 6 through 21, in less restrictive and more restrictive educational environments; and percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

### **Item 12 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS-John Fuller**

Mr. Steve Meloy presented this item in Mr. John Fuller's absence. *The State Education Standard: Preparing for Tomorrow by Restructuring Today: Reforming America's High Schools*, December 2006, was presented to the Board. Mr. Steve Meloy referred to the American Diploma Project (ADP) that

states, “we must provide all students with a curriculum that will open the door to better opportunities, including post-secondary education and well-paying jobs. ADP calls for four years of grade-level English, including literature, writing, reasoning, logic and communication skills, and four years of math, including Algebra I and II, geometry, data analysis, and statistics. States in the ADP Network have pledged to raise their requirements over time, either by specifying the high-level courses students must take to earn a diploma or by working with school districts to raise their local requirements.”

Ms. Beck McLaughlin from the Montana Arts Council provided the Board with some research documenting the need for the arts in high school graduation requirements. A key point among many was: “The Arts enable students to make decisions and seek multiple solutions. They improved perception, reflection, and creative thought. They advance higher order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. The Arts provide powerful tools for understanding human experiences and cultures – past, present, and future.”

Discussion ensued about the need to make learning real and relevant for students; providing a balanced education; and inviting Dr. Willard Dagget to the Board of Public Education as this topic is explored in greater depth.

#### **Item 13 REPORT OF SURRENDERS (3)-Cathy Warhank**

The Associated Press under the Montana Open Records Law requested information regarding the number of teachers who lost their educator licenses due to misconduct. The request was also for the names and previous districts of employment for those who lost a license due to sexual misconduct. OPI sought a letter of advice from Attorney General McGrath. Assistant Attorney General Ali Bovingdon advised that, because educators hold a position of public trust, the right to individual privacy in this case, was outweighed by the public’s right to know. This letter was presented to the Board under correspondence of the May 10-11, 2007 meeting. The individuals who are named in the response were notified of the disclosure by mail on April 16, 2007.

#### **3:25 p.m. CLOSED SESSION**

This report of the surrender of licenses by individuals who resigned from their current teaching positions to avoid termination. Their resignations were reported to the State Superintendent by their respective school districts as required under MCA 20-4-110.

#### **3:42 p.m. BPE MEETING RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION**

#### **Item 14 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REPORT-Nancy Coopersmith**

This presentation included information about recent No Child Left Behind (NCLB) activities including a federal on-site review of NCLB Title I, electronic applications for NCLB funding, and the federal appropriation for NCLB programs. It is the hope that the appropriations will be approved on time by September 30, 2007 and go in effect by October 1, 2007 with the distribution of funds by July 1, 2008. OPI received grant awards after July 1, 2007 and there was **no** attachment “T” and that indicated that the Office of Public Instruction is in compliance with Title II funds. Many doubt that the reauthorization of NCLB will occur before the next presidential election due to three significant issues that are not resolved in the draft bill: Minimum number for accountability; growth models; and how to deal with the achievement of children with disabilities. In June 2007 OPI had the on-site federal review of NCLB Title I which included: Title I Part A; Title I Even Start; Title I Neglected and Delinquent; and Homeless Programs. On-site reviews were conducted at Rocky Boy, Butte, Billings, and Hardin. An exit conference was held and a draft of the review will be made available within 35 working days. The accountability workbook or application for funding can only be revised with an amendment request. The Office of Public Instruction requested the following: All schools are to be allowed to be part of the small schools accountability process; if that isn’t approved, then change the “N” for the subgroup to “All Students” subgroup to “40”; and flexibility of special education. The results were that the only amendment request that was approved was the flexibility of special education. The Office of Public

Instruction plans to mail the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) proposed determinations around August 1, 2007 to school districts.

**Item 15 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT-Steve Gettel**

Mr. Steve Gettel distributed the following documents for the MSDB Annual Report: Present Law Adjustments-Agency Level; MAD (Montana Association of the Deaf, Inc.) Resolutions-2007; Montana Association of the Deaf, Inc. letter from Ms. Alice Guilbert, Secretary; Office of Public Instruction letter dated May 24, 2007 from Ms. Marilyn Pearson, Acting Director, Division of Special Education; and District Performance Report on State Performance Indicators for school year 2005-2006. The items that were discussed during the MSDB Committee Meeting Report were:

1. MSDB Annual Report
2. Human Resources
  - Personnel actions
  - Update on negotiations with MEA-MFT and UFCW
3. Professional Development
  - Orientation plans for 2007-2008
4. 2007 Legislative Session
  - Review of actions taken
5. MSDB Foundation
  - Update of activities
6. Conferences, Meetings, and Contacts
7. Finance and Facilities
  - Update on year-end finances and maintenance projects
8. School Calendar of Events
9. Student News
  - Summer Programs
10. Public Comment for Non Agenda Items

***July 13, 2007 – Friday***

**8:30 a.m.**

**Item 16 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND STATE CONNECTIVITY-Dick Clark, Chief Information Officer**

Mr. Dick Clark presented the following to the Board of Public Education: His information technology vision; the package that was presented during the 2007 legislative session; the outcome of the session; and the challenges for the future of information technology and state connectivity.

- Vision – Mr. Dick Clark explained that Ireland was the largest exporter of people due to the immigration of their children to search for better jobs. This caused the Irish to establish a plan to build the connectivity in their country. As a result, the Celtic economy is the fastest growing economy in Europe today. Mr. Dick Clark stressed that Montana is experiencing the exportation of its children as did Ireland.
- Package presented to 2007 Legislative session: Mr. Dick Clark prepared a package to take to the 2007 Legislative Session dealing with the executive agencies investing in the lighting up of some dark fiber and upgrade the network connectivity to move a tremendous amount of data quickly for research within the university system and other institutions.
- Outcome – The technology package of connectivity received a lot of focus during the session. The telecommunication industry in the state of Montana was adamantly against this dark fiber being lit. A compromise was reached where the state executive agencies would not be able to use the fiber for transport, but the university system could use the fiber for research. The university system has money budgeted to light this fiber, but the law is ambiguous as to what can go on this fiber. In the preamble of the law it states that it shall be used for research and education, but later on in the law it only talks about research. Mr. Dick Clark states that if you don't include education, it is hard to separate out research. So it will be litigated so that this dark fiber can be lit.
- A challenge for the future – The Board of Public Education's mission is to educate Montana's children

just as the Board of Regent's. Mr. Dick Clark asked what the education of K-20 look like? He stressed that it can't be split. How is the Board of Public Education going to work with the telecommunication's industry? Kids don't live in audio. Kids live in video today, but it takes a lot of band width and connectivity. The Board of Public Education along with the Board of Regent's need to have a strategic plan to build this connectivity for the education of Montana students. In order to build the future of Montana we need to have a balanced economy between knowledge and finances.

A rich discussion followed in regard to the transferability of data being expensive to collect and the importance of being able to share the data and maintain its security. In conclusion, Mr. Dick Clark stressed that other states are doing what we are just talking about. This can't wait. Every day that passes is another day that is wasted.

#### **Item 16a K-12 SUBCOMMITTEE – Casey Barrs, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division**

On June 29, 2007 the Education and Local Government Interim Committee created the K-12 Public Education Subcommittee. This subcommittee's membership **could** include: 4 legislators; 2 Board of Public Education members; 1 executive appointee; and 1 Superintendent of Public Instruction as an ex-officio. The four legislators to date are: Senator Sam Kitzenberg, Chairman; Senator Dave Lewis; Representative Wanda Grinde; and Representative John Ward. The other two subcommittees formed were: Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget; and HB 49. The purpose of these subcommittees is the need to make the education system more seamless. Mr. Casey Barrs distributed the *Education and Local Government Interim Committee 2007-2008 Work Plan*. The 2007-2008 committee schedule:

- June 29, 2007
- September 25, 2007
- December 13-14, 2007
- March 13-14, 2008
- June 12-13, 2008
- September 4-5, 2008
- Final decision by committee on content of reports and proposed legislation, if any.
- Selection of bill sponsors.
- Review proposals and decide whether or not to request that staff draft Board of Education, Board of Public Education, Board of Regents, or the Office of Public Instruction's legislation for pre-introduction.

Mr. Casey Barrs identified six possible topics for consideration:

1. New distance learning rule and dual (high school – college) credit programs
2. Department of Administration school facilities inventory
3. Funding in second year of biennium
4. Financial challenges for rural schools
5. Preparedness for college
6. Education Savings Plans

The Distance Learning Task Force will be a great vehicle for Mr. Casey Barrs and he requested to be notified of all upcoming meetings. Dr. Kirk Miller and Ms. Patty Myers will be the Board of Public Education members on this subcommittee.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

***The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Board on every action item on the agenda prior to final Board action.***

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Item 17 ACCREDITATION UPDATE – ADDENDUM TO THE 2006-07 RECOMMENDATIONS-AI McMilin**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended to the Board of Public Education the approval of

the Addendum to the 2006-2007 Accreditation Status as presented at the May 2007 Board of Public Education meeting. The addendum is for the Manhattan Public School 7-8 in Gallatin County to change from **Advice (No library services offered)** to **Regular**. The reason is the librarian FTE was not reported correctly by the district. Manhattan 7-8 does provide library services. This change affects the middle grade school summary data as reflected on the bar charts. The percent of middle grade schools in regular status now becomes eighty-one percent and the percent of middle grade schools in advice status now becomes seven percent. The change is too small to affect the all schools category.

**MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the addendum to the 2007-2007 Montana Accreditation Status Recommendations. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**Item 18 ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARDS REQUEST-AI McMilin**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended to the Board of Public Education the approval of the Alternative to Standards Request for the five-year renewal in accordance with 10.55.604, ARM, and including an on-site visit when practical and appropriate for Wisdom Elementary from school year 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. The standards that were reviewed and evaluated were: 10.55.709, Library Media Services; and 10.55.710, School Counseling Services. The Accreditation Status Summary – Addendum #1 and #2 – June 2007 was included.

**MOTION: Mrs. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the alternative standard five-year renewal application for standards 10.55.709, Library Media Services and 10.55.710, School Counseling Services for Wisdom Elementary in Beaverhead County per the recommendation of the State Superintendent. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**Item 19 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM PROPOSED BY SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE PROFESSIONALEDCATION UNIT-Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson and Cindy O'Dell**

On April 10-12, 2007, the Office of Public Instruction conducted a state review of the Professional Education Unit at the Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo, MT. The purpose of the review was to validate the Professional Education Unit's Institutional Report (IR) for the Elementary Education Program at SKC. The review was based on the standards articulated in the Board of Public Education's approved 2007-2013 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) and Procedures Manual. SKC requested initial accreditation for its Elementary Education program.

Professor Audrey Peterson, the University of Montana-Missoula, served as chairperson of the review. Mr. Peter Donovan, Ms. Bonnie Klein, and Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson served as members of the State Verification Team.

The review found that the standards, as established by the Board of Public Education, were met. The State Verification Team recommends initial accreditation for the Elementary Education program in the Professional Education Unit at the Salish Kootenai College, with a follow-up visit to be scheduled in 2009 to review the assessment system and the Salish Kootenai College Elementary Education program data regarding student knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

The State Superintendent recommends to the Board of Public Education the approval of the initial accreditation. The following documents were included: *Salish Kootenai College Professional Education Unit State Review, April 10-12, 2007, Exit Report*; and *Professional Education Unit, Salish Kootenai College, Program Review Report Form, April 2007*.

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to accept the State Superintendent's recommendation to approve the initial accreditation of the Elementary Education program in the Professional Education Unit at Salish Kootenai College. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried**

**unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**Item 20 REQUEST TO PROCEED ON ACADEMIC DENIAL OF LICENSE-Cathy Warhank**

Ms. Nancy Gede appealed the decision of the Office of Public Instruction to deny her a Special Education Endorsement for the state of Montana during the May 2007 Board of Public Education meeting. The Board moved to delay action from the Board until July 2007 to provide Ms. Nancy Gede the opportunity to obtain a transcript review from a higher education institution. Ms. Brenda Hanson, Licensure Specialist, University of Montana, School of Education, notified Ms. Nancy Gede via e-mail on June 2, 2007 that of the 30 credits required for a teaching minor, Ms. Nancy Gede completed 6 credits. In addition to the 24 credits that are needed, Ms. Nancy Gede would also need to pick up a teaching major to be eligible for licensure in Montana.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended to the Board of Public Education to take final action on Ms. Nancy Gede's denial. Ms. Cathy Warhank explained to the Board that Ms. Nancy Gede may not appeal to the Board on the same ground for three years, but could submit new data and reapply her appeal.

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to accept the recommendation of the State Superintendent to deny Ms. Nancy Gede, Case No. 2007-01 BPE, the Special Education Endorsement for the state of Montana. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**Item 21 TEACHER LICENSURE**

• **ANGELA HELVEY – Steve Meloy**

Ms. Patty Myers stated that Montana statute allows the presiding officer of a public meeting to close a meeting during the time a discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy, if the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure. Ms. Patty Myers believed that the public's right to know should prevail in this particular case.

Mr. Dick Richardson, Superintendent of Heart Butte School, notified Mr. Steve Meloy that Ms. Angela Helvey breached her contract for the 2006-2007 school year. The Heart Butte School Board felt that there was a substantial and material nonperformance of the employment contract between the teacher and the trustees of the school without good cause or the written consent of the trustees. The Heart Butte School Board requested that the Board of Public Education complete an investigation and take action they feel is appropriate. Mr. Steve Meloy reviewed ARM 10.57.801 in regard to "substantial and material non-performance of the employment contract."

Ms. Angela Helvey read a letter written by her to the Board of Public Education, dated April 30, 2007. A prepared packet of materials was distributed in the Board's agenda packets two weeks prior to the Board of Public Education's July meeting to be reviewed.

An in depth discussion occurred between Ms. Angela Helvey and the Board of Public Education in regard to the following: "Good cause"; improvement plans; and contractual obligations. The Board of Public Education expressed its concern that there is the development of a negative employment pattern.

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to place a letter of reprimand in Ms. Angela Helvey's public record licensure file for a breach of her teaching contract with the Heart Butte School District. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kris Wilkinson, Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division, wanted to notify the Board of Public Education of a change in process used by the Legislative Finance Committee in which the Board reports. The Board of Public Education's budget is appropriated by the legislature during the interim time when the legislature

is not in session. The Legislative Finance Division oversees the finance matters of the state and its appropriations. When the Board of Public Education made its presentation to the subcommittee on education, the Board created a template with goals and objectives. The Finance Committee has made a decision to have various members of each subcommittee look at how each agency is doing on its goals and objectives. Senator David Wanzenried and Ms. Kris Wilkinson are assigned to the Board of Education to review the progress of its goals and objective and report to the Finance Committee every 6 months. In addition, the report will be made available to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee.

**11: 30 a.m. CLOSED SESSION**

**Item 22 REVOCATION (S) OF LICENSES (3)-Cathy Warhank**

After initial investigation, the State Superintendent has found that sufficient grounds exist to recommend revocation of educator licenses held by three individuals. The State Superintendent believes that the right to privacy of the individuals involved exceeds the public's right to know in these instances and requested a closed session.

**12:22 p.m. BPE MEETING RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke license 2007-7-1. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke license 2007-7-2. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke license 2007-7-3. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to have the revocation of 2007-7-1 come into effect in 30 days after notification unless the person involved in this case chooses to appeal. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to have the revocation of 2007 -7-2 come into effect in 30 days after notification unless the person involved in this case chooses to appeal. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to have the revocation of 2007-7-3 come into effect in 30 days after notification unless the person involved in this case chooses to appeal. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. John Fuller were absent for the vote.**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS BPE MEETING– SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2007**

Set Annual Agenda Calendar  
Election of Board Officers  
Committee Appointments  
Superintendent Goals  
BPE Goal Review  
Assessment Update  
NCLB Update  
MACIE Update

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update will be moved to November 2007 BPE meeting  
Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (Discussion 9-13-2007)  
Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (Action 9-14-2007)  
Amendments of BPE Bylaws – Action  
Strategic Planning Working Document 2007-2008 – Action  
Invite State Superintendent candidates to BPE meeting in November 2007  
Invite Teacher of Year to an upcoming BPE meeting

**Meeting was adjourned by concurrence of the Board of Public Education at 12:40 p.m.**

Approved