

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10-11, 2008

**MONTANA STATE CAPITOL
ROOM #172
HELENA, MT**

January 10, 2008 - Thursday
1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2008. Mr. John Miller led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chairperson Ms. Patty Myers, Vice Chairperson Ms. Angela McLean, Ms. Sharon Carroll, Dr. Kirk Miller, Mr. John Fuller, Mr. Storrs Bishop, and Ms. Katie Wood. Staff present at the meeting included: Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education and Ms. Carol Will, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Ex-officio member State Superintendent Linda McCulloch was in attendance. Visitors in attendance at the meeting included: Mr. Bud Williams, OPI Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Mr. David C. Huff, OPI; Mr. Michael Hall, OPI; Ms. Cathy Kendall, OPI; Mr. Willy Schauman, OPI; Mr. Al McMilin, OPI; Ms. Karen Crogan, OPI; Ms. Kris Wilkinson, LFD; Mr. Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT; Ms. Anna Green, Governor's Office; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, Anaconda High School Principal; Ms. Cassie Mann, Anaconda High School Student; Ms. Nancy Hall, OBPP; and Ms. Faye Wood, Grandmas of Montana Students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MOTION: Mr. John Fuller moved to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cal Gilbert was absent for the vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda if Requested

There were no items pulled from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cal Gilbert was absent for the vote.

Items are presented in the order in which they appeared.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1:50 p.m. State Superintendent Linda McCulloch arrived.

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Patty Myers

Chair Appearances

- 12/5/2007 MSDB Meeting with Bridget Butler Legislative Audit Division, Great Falls, MT
- 12/7/2007 Conference Call preparing for upcoming meetings scheduled on 12/13-

- 14/2007
- 12/13/2007 Joint K-12 and PEPB Subcommittee, Helena, MT
- 12/14/2007 Full Educational Government Interim Committee, Helena, MT
- 12/16/2007 MSDB Holiday Dinner, Great Falls, MT
- 12/21/2007 MSDB Holiday Program, Great Falls, MT
- 1/2/2008 Executive Committee Conference Call – Revocations
- 1/3/2008 MSDB Committee Meeting, Great Falls, MT

Ms. Patty Myers announced the death of Mr. Duane Edmonds from Powell, WY, who was a chairman and a member of the Wyoming State Board of Education, and a member of the National Association of School Boards of Education (NASBE). Ms. Patty Myers requested that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Duane Edmond's family.

LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE

Dr. Kirk Miller recommended that the Board of Public Education should move forward with the Learning First Alliance. Mr. Steve Meloy will represent the Board on the next Learning First Alliance meeting on January 23, 2008. Organizers of the Learning First Alliance are trying to get enough support for the concept to create a power base among public education associations to "band together around a compelling vision." NASBE is one of 18 members of the National Learning First Alliance.

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE ARTICLES

Ms. Patty Myers included articles from the Great Falls Tribune on Montana schools and editorials on dual enrollment published in November and December 2007.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION APPEARANCES – Calendar Provided for Board Members and Staff for November, December, and January

Ms. Angela McLean

- 11/29/2007 Conference Call planning Safety Awareness Meeting scheduled 2/13/2008
- 1/2/2008 Executive Committee Conference Call – Revocations

Dr. Kirk Miller

- 11/14-16/2007 Board of Regent's Meeting, Bozeman, MT
- 12/13/2007 Joint K-12 and PEPB Subcommittee Meeting, Helena, MT
- 12/14/2007 Full Educational Government Interim Committee, Helena, MT
- 1/4/2008 Planning meeting for Distance Learning Task Force via conference call
- 1/8/2008 Distance learning, dual enrollment, and dual credit planning meeting via conference call

Cal Gilbert

- 1/3/2008 MSDB Committee Meeting, Great Falls, MT

Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT - Steve Meloy

Mr. Steve Meloy expressed the gratitude of the Board of Public Education for having the opportunity to participate in the K-12 Subcommittee and the joint meeting of the K-12 and Post Secondary Education Policy and Budget (PEPB) Subcommittee. The Board appreciated the opportunity to meet at the Capitol for this meeting and is hopeful that the Board will be able to have its meetings in a state of the art facility in the future. The K-College Workgroup will have its next meeting on January 31, 2008 and a progress report will be delivered to the Board of Public Education in March 2008. The Education and Local Government Committee invited the Board into a discussion with its partners from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education about college preparedness and how to reduce remediation rates on campus. Mr. Steve Meloy invited the NASBE Executive Director to the Board of Public Education's

strategic planning session on July 9, 2008 in Helena, MT.

SCHOOL LAW EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION STAKEHOLDERS

Mr. Steve Meloy was invited to represent the Board of Public Education at a collaborative meeting regarding School Law Graduate and Continuing Education for K-12 Principals and Superintendents on Thursday, February 21, 2008 in Helena at the School Administrators of Montana Office. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. Review the current structure and status of the school law graduate and continuing education process for K-12 principals and superintendents, identifying the roles each of the stakeholders play in the process
2. Identify whether the current structure and status serves to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of K-12 principals and superintendents
3. Identify whether a need exists to provide a consistent forum of communication and collaboration of the aforementioned stakeholders for the purpose of improving and maintaining quality school law education opportunities for K-12 principals and superintendents
4. If needed, set forth direction toward improving the school law education process for K-12 principals and administrators, including the formation of a regular opportunity for collaboration among stakeholders

The end goal is to meet the school law education needs of K-12 principals and superintendents through increased collaboration between stakeholders. Ms. Patty Myers believed that Mr. Steve Meloy should attend this meeting and Ms. Angela McLean acknowledged that this meeting will dovetail nicely with the upcoming Safety Awareness Meeting to be held on February 13, 2008 in Helena.

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Steve Meloy reviewed some issues from the Legislative Finance Committee meeting held on December 11-12, 2007. He stated that the Board's performance measure of science content and performance standards have been substituted to mathematics, library media, and technology content performance standards. The goal reads, "Revise and monitor standards in Math, Library Media, and Technology Content and Performance Standards – Amendments to be completed in FY 2008. One hundred percent of schools will be in compliance by July 1, 2010 as measured by the Annual Accreditation Process; Appendix E-1 of the Montana School Accreditation Standards and Procedures Manual." Mr. Steve Meloy stated that the workgroup should keep in mind that the performance measurement of having 100 percent of schools in compliance with all content and performance standards by March of each year may not be attainable. A discussion should pursue as to the various reasons that this occurs and could enhance the workgroups understanding of the issues currently facing the school districts in Montana in relation to complying with the content and performance standards. A comparative analysis is being completed from the 2006-2007 Montana Accreditation Status Recommendations to the 2007-2008 recommendations from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Item 3 CSPAC REPORT - Steve Meloy and Angela McLean

Ms. Angela McLean addressed the invitation for a Safety Awareness meeting to be held on February 13, 2008 in Helena. This letter was sent to the Board of Public Education's partners to determine what efforts have been made in Montana to identify threshold behaviors and collectively decide if there is a greater need to increase awareness. The Montana Code Annotated 20-4-110 Letter of reprimand, suspension, revocation, and denial of certificate (1)(f) "immoral conduct related to the teaching profession;" does not clearly identify threshold behaviors. The discussion from this meeting will be very helpful to the work of the Chapter 57 Committee as they are reviewing and revising the ARM rules that address these threshold behaviors.

CHAPTER 57

Mr. Steve Meloy referred to the *Administrative Rule, Title 10, Chapter 57, Educator Licensure 5-*

year *Comprehensive Review Work Group Results* document that was included in the agenda packet stating that it shows the topics discussed, outcomes and recommendations of the group. Ms. Angela McLean distributed information from the mentoring surveys that was compiled and collected by the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council during November and December 2007. The goal of these surveys was to determine the need for mentoring programs and what impact it had on school districts that had them. The next Chapter 57 meeting is March 18, 2008.

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

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch presented the following documents to the Joint K-12 and PEPB Subcommittee, Board of Regents, and the Board of Public Education:

- The purpose and foundation of Montana K-12 education
- *Measuring Up 2006* snapshot on preparation
- Montana student readiness summary
- News release on "Montana Student ACT Scores Remain Strong"
- News release on "Montana Students Rank High in Reading and Math"
- News release on "Montana Student Science Scores Among Top in Nation"
- *Local6.com 2006-2007 Smartest State Award*
- Letter to Board of Regents from State Superintendent Linda McCulloch
- 2004 College Bound Seniors: *ACT Assessment Results 2004*
- Draft December 12, 2007 document stressing her campaign to encourage students and their parents to maintain high academic standards through all four years of high school.

These documents were distributed to the groups mentioned above to demonstrate that most Montana K-12 students are prepared for higher education and that the State Superintendent promotes a rigorous core that provides sound college preparation. The Office of Public Instruction is being proactive to increase the minimum requirement from 2 to 3 years of math for college preparedness. State Superintendent Linda McCulloch does not oppose the change, but is concerned about the capacity. The Office of Public Instruction is issuing a survey to schools to determine what the capacity is of Montana's K-12 schools to address the increased rigor passed by the Board of Regents.

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch included in her report the following information: November Highlights, December Highlights, Ms Tara Jensen promoted to the Office of Public Instruction's Communications Director, Mr. Joe Lamson accepted a position at the Department of National Resources and Conservation, Carl Perkins accountability fall data collection, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council's surveys on teacher mentoring programs, Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program, library media and technology content standards revision, Title I statewide system of support, 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, February 2008 spring enrollment count, and Capitol Christmas tree 2008 Christmas ornament drive.

The Library Media Specialist has been filled by Colet Bartow and the Middle School and At-Risk Specialist has been filled by Ms. Kim Warrick. State Superintendent Linda McCulloch stressed that the state needs to allow these specialists to be enrolled in the Public Employee's Retirement System (PERS).

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL REPORT

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch asked the Board of Public Education if this report could be titled the *Indian Education Report* to allow the inclusion of both Indian Education for All and the Indian Achievement Gap since both are being funded through the Office of Public Instruction.

The Board of Public Education agreed with this request. The following information was included: Ready-to-Go professional development contracts, Ready-to-Go higher education professional development grants, Indian education professional development opportunity, Indian Education for All free online 101 course, Indian student achievement professional development stipends, and digital teacher workshops for teachers of Native American Students. There is a plethora of national information on learning trends and research into achievement gaps on African American, urban, Hispanic student, etc, but nothing on American Indian students and the professional

development stipends have been established to support districts and schools as they work to close the achievement gap by focusing on data, research and identified needs.

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

No report provided.

Item 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - Jan Lombardi

No report provided.

Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - Katie Wood

Ms. Katie Wood presented the Board of Public Education with the results from the 2007 Montana Association of Student Councils (MASC). Some of the questions from the survey include: 1) How would you rate the education you have received thus far? 2) Do you feel the No Child Left Behind policy has improved the education of students in your school? 3) If you could attend a Native American culture camp during the summer for credit, would you? The survey results are available on the Office of Public Instruction's website.

Ms. Katie Wood was asked by the Governor's Office, Commissioner of Higher Education, and the State Superintendent to determine what students in Montana feel is necessary for them to be fully prepared for postsecondary education. Ms. Katie Wood wants to follow through with this request by contacting students around Montana to get a general idea of their opinions. Ms. Katie Wood intends to:

- Contact one AA, A, B, and C school in each western, central, and eastern Montana
- Ask one boy and one girl from each grade level some questions about their opinions
- Some sample questions would include:
 - How prepared do you feel you are for college?
 - For what part of college do you feel you need to be better prepared for?
 - What do you think your teacher/school needs to do to help you fully prepare yourself for college?
 - What is your idea of being "prepared" for college?
 - Do you know what remediation tests are?

A draft report was included from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) titled the *Guiding Organizational Principles for State Boards of Education*. In an effort to expand and enhance opportunities for students to participate in state education policymaking across the country, NASBE launched the Student Leadership Initiative in 2006. This report highlights the activities of five states involved in the initiative: Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. John Fuller was presented with gifts and gratitude from the Board of Public Education and visitors for his years of service and dedication to the students of Montana.

Item 8 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND UPDATE - Nancy Coopersmith

This presentation included information about the U.S. Department of Education peer review process of the Montana Assessment System and the Montana Science Criterion-Referenced Test; appropriations from the U.S. Congress for federal programs in Montana; and current Office of Public Instruction activities including, but not limited to amendments to the Montana Accountability Workbook, the calculation of preliminary allocations of funds for federal programs, and the approval of the Montana application to the U.S. Department of Education for school improvement funds under ESEA Title I, Part A.

A letter was sent to State Superintendent Linda McCulloch from the United States department of Education acknowledging the full approval of Montana's assessment system under Title I of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*, as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*. This status means that Montana's standards and assessment system meets all statutory and regulatory requirements for reading/language arts and mathematics.

In 2007-2008 each state is required to administer science assessments in each of three grade spans (3-5, 6-9, and 10-12). The US Department of Education has scheduled peer reviews on January 28 – February 1, 2008 and March 17-21, 2008. An additional date will be scheduled in the fall for those states administering science assessments for the first time in 2007-2008. The evidence that will be required for the science peer review is the same evidence that has been required for the Standards and Assessments Peer Review Guidance. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith stated to put an “X” through the Labor, Health and Education Subcommittee page because it is old news.

A document dated January 3, 2008 from the Department of Education was included that addressed the appropriations for progress authorized by the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 2007-2008*. This act was approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Bush on December 26, 2007. There have been some increases in Montana, but funds are being shifted to more urban populated states. There have been significant decreases in appropriations in Reading First State Grants. The Office of Public Education has some carryforward money that will help their grants maintain where they are functioning. State grants for innovative programs have been cut to zero. Keep in mind that these figures are all national numbers.

The staff at the Office of Public Instruction compiled a chart of funding for six school districts to view the allocation history from 2002 – 2008 concerning the ESEA V, Part A Innovative Programs. It is clear to see how the funding has been cut significantly over time and OPI wanted the Board Members to see how their individual school districts are impacted. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith continued to bring to the Board’s attention to several programs that have either increased or decreased in appropriations.

Discussion ensued around the lawsuit that found that NCLB has some unfunded requirements in the law. A lower court found no cause for this lawsuit, but a district court reversed the court ruling because if there is not a funding mandate, then states and the school communities are not obligated to implement the requirements. Mr. Eric Feaver believes that the Bush Administration will appeal this decision. Further discussion ensued around the science assessment and how this will not be calculated in the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), funding for rural schools, and Dr. Kirk Miller attending the NASBE Government Affairs Committee in DC and would present any ideas from the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education to Senator Jon Tester, Senator Max Baucus, and Representative Dennis Rehberg.

**Item 9 K-12 SUBCOMMITTEE AND JOINT MEETING OF K-12 AND PEPB
SUBCOMMITTEE - Dr. Kirk Miller, Patty Myers, and Steve Meloy**

Dr. Kirk Miller, Ms. Patty Myers, and Mr. Steve Meloy participated in the K-12 Subcommittee and the joint meeting of the K-12 and PEPB Subcommittees on December 13, 2007. Listed are some of the items on the agenda: Facilities inventory, Mr. Joe Triem, Planning Manager, Architecture and Engineering Division, Department of Administration; Full time kindergarten, State Superintendent Linda McCulloch, Office of Public Instruction; Education spending and tax reform, Senator Jim Peterson; Oregon approach to school funding, Senator Sam Kitzenberg; and College preparedness & remedial courses, Commissioner Sheila Stearns, State Superintendent Linda McCulloch, and BPE Executive Secretary Steve Meloy.

Dr. Kirk Miller mentioned the Oregon approach to school funding is based on small schools and asked how to factor in enhancements in the accounting formula for funding considering the rural nature of these schools. These are all factors that the Quality Schools Interim Committee looked at in significant detail.

Dr. Kirk Miller commented that a committee member asked what is going to be the big issue in the 2009 legislature. It was stated by several members of the committee; including Dr. Kirk Miller and Ms. Patty Myers that the big issue lies in the funding shortfalls for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Jim Standaert, Senior Fiscal Analyst of the Legislative Fiscal Division, presented to the full Education and Local Government Interim Committee the next day stating that 40% of Montana school districts are

experiencing shortfalls. Mr. Jim Standaert believes that these school districts need to rely heavily on mill levies. Dr. Kirk Miller believes that of the 40% of school districts experiencing these shortfalls probably encompass 80% of Montana's students. As a result, it is affecting both large and small school districts. Senator Sam Kitzenburg requested a special session. A motion was brought forth and failed on a 3-9 vote. Discussion at the Board of Public Education meeting ensued around the shortfall concerns and Mr. Jim Standaert was asked to follow-up this discussion of the report he provided to the full committee during the Board of Public Education's meeting on Friday, January 11, 2008.

Mr. Steve Meloy addressed issues and recommendations on behalf of the Board of Public Education to the K-12 and PEPB Subcommittee in regard to college preparedness and remedial courses. He provided testimony about the setting of content and performance standards, history of the Board, minimum upon which quality should be built, collaboration with higher education, Chapter 57, and the increased rigorous core. The Board of Public Education supports high school reform but is concerned about capacity and all of the additional requests to extend health, civics, physical education, math, writing etc... The Board believes that issues cannot be resolved through one standard alone but through a systemic, holistic approach.

Item 10 EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE - Dr. Kirk Miller, Patty Myers, and Steve Meloy

The agenda for the Education and Local Government Interim Committee held on December 14, 2007 contained some of the following items: Second year funding, Mr. Jim Standaert, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division; Education spending as portion of state budget, Senator Jim Peterson; Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) distribution of funds and implementation of HB 512, Mr. Jim Edgcomb, TSEP Program Manager, Department of Commerce; and Keeping apprised of the Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC), Mr. Tom Cotton, President, MQEC.

Mr. Steve Meloy presented the Board of Public Education's work with the Distance Learning Task Force (DLTF) Phase I and Phase II. The next DLTF Phase II meeting will be held on January 15, 2008. The following items are on the agenda: Timeline; discussion of ARM 10.55.907 Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Education; report on the Utah Concurrent Education Conference; Montana Schools e-Learning Consortium (MSELC) update and discussion; and state of the state on distance learning preliminary data report. Mr. Steve Meloy disclosed that there is work being done to create a class 8 license that would enable higher education instructors to teach K-12 students and meet the licensure requirement established by the distance learning rule. Dr. Kirk Miller stated that the media and discussion get so far out in front of the very productive work that is occurring to resolve complicated issues. Mr. Dave Puyear, Director of the Montana Rural Education Association and Dr. Tom Gibson, Director of the e-Learning Business Development with the Montana University System expressed their constituents' points of view respectively.

Item 11 ASSESSMENT UPDATE - Madalyn Quinlan

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith presented on behalf of Madalyn Quinlan. The Office of Public Instruction recommended five avenues to the Board of Public Education in the further development of Montana's Comprehensive Assessment System.

1. Pilot a statewide writing assessment in at least one primary and one secondary grade
2. Conduct an analysis of seven years of Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) results to learn more about student performance trends related to specific academic skills sets
3. Create awareness and build understanding of best practices in formative assessments in schools
4. Use surveys and focus groups to gather information from schools about their assessment needs
5. Form an assessment oversight committee to oversee the projects described above

More detailed plans and timelines will be presented to the Board in March 2008.

Item 12 TRAFFIC EDUCATION REPORT - David Huff

1. Novice Driver Education Program Summary 2005-2007. See Traffic Education Reports. Attendance is somewhat static, around 10,000 students per year. The fluctuation between the 2006 and 2007 school year was a little more than usual due to students rushing to take driver

education before the implementation of the GDL in July 2006. This also resulted in a little higher reimbursement for SY 07 with funds being divided up between fewer students. The mode rate of teacher pay increased 33 percent from \$15 to \$20 per hour. The mode fee paid by parents for traffic education remains at \$150 per teen, with the highest fee remaining at \$340. Long-term trends indicate a drop in eligible teen attendance from 90-95 percent participation during the 1980's and early 1990's to last several years at 70-75 percent participation. During the same periods we saw a drop in state reimbursement from approximately 50 percent to approximately 25 percent of actual costs, with a slight increase of state percentage this past year due to the GDL anomaly.

An Adapted Illustrated Version of the Montana Driving Manual was completed in December. This highly popular document is designed for individuals with reading and learning challenges, both teens and adults.

2. Montana DRIVE (Advanced Driver Education). See brochure. This popular Lewistown based program began in 1979 to provide advanced professional development to driver education teachers and school bus drivers. Its value has been recognized by state agencies and other companies with fleets and now serves a variety of customers. Western Transportation Institute (WTI) of Montana State University is sharing the facility and developing a cold weather research center. Lease terms and logistics for track use have been negotiated and are nearly complete. A teen research project conducted with WTI in 2005 is showing reduced teen crashes during the first year following training. The classroom and office at Montana DRIVE have 1970s vintage mobile driver education simulator trailers. These trailers are becoming more costly to maintain and nearing the end of their useful life. Options to replace the trailers are being explored.
3. Graduated Driver License (GDL). See Montana's GDL Parent Role brochure. The Office of Public Instruction continues working with other state agencies and private partners to maximize the benefits of this law. The law took effect July 1, 2006, and due in part to the training given driver education teachers and the "Parent Role" brochure, the law has seen widespread support with parents, many of whom did not understand the law prior to meeting with teachers on parent night. The "Parent Role" brochure is very popular and was developed as a joint project of the Office of Public Instruction and Department of Justice, and paid for by a coalition of partners with State Farm Insurance and AAA paying the bulk of the printing expense.

Joining GDL, Parents and Driver Ed. – Researchers are looking to the potential benefit of this partnership. In collaboration with national researcher Dr. Jessica Hartos, the Office of Public Instruction is pursuing the creation of a "Parent Module" that will be added to the state driver education curriculum. This module will be research based and involve parents in homework with their teens at key points in the driver education class. The objective is threefold: 1) Help parents to better understand the risks associated with their teen beginning to drive, 2) Refamiliarize the parent with the rules of the road and defensive driving, and 3) Provide the parents with an assessment tool they can use to evaluate their teens driving skills at the end of driver education. The assessment will also generate tailored recommendations to best help their teen continue to improve driving during the six month supervised driving phase of the GDL. Driver education teachers will be the designers and testers of this module. The Office of Public Instruction is presently seeking grant funds for its development.

4. Comprehensive Highway Traffic Safety Plan. This plan facilitated by the Montana Department of Transportation represents the state's efforts to reduce transportation related crashes, injuries and fatalities. The planning group represents a broad array of affected and interested partners, including active participation of Indian reservation representatives. Mr. David Huff represents the Office of Public Instruction on the coalition and is chairman of the sub-committee on Young Drivers. He oversees the progress on four priorities identified by the coalition for young drivers: YD-9, provide tools and incentives to incorporate traffic safety education in elementary and junior high schools; YD-10, communication liaison to traffic education on primary safety belt law/child

passenger safety; YD-14, affordable/accessible drivers education at all schools; and YD-16, develop a role and strategy for law enforcement in GDL.

Discussion ensued around the fact that driver's education instructors receive a pay rate of \$20.00 per hour. This is significantly less than other educators. There has been a transfer of expenses from the state to the parents. The courses have been moved from the school day to afterschool and conflicts with other activities in which students are involved. Mr. David Huff expressed his desire to move the course back within the school day, but it probably will not happen due to costs of the program. Further discussion was related to parent involvement and remediation strategies.

Item 13 PROPOSED TRAFFIC EDUCATION RESOLUTION - David Huff

For the reasons articulated in the proposed resolution, the Montana Comprehensive Highway Safety planning coalition has identified several priorities to help improve traffic safety among Montana's young drivers and those who share the roadway with them. One countermeasure is increasing support and activities in Montana public schools related to traffic safety as a means of increasing knowledge and good experience with pre-driving K-8 children using Montana's roads and streets.

The proposed resolution represents one way to increase awareness of this important issue among schools, and to encourage schools to include traffic safety education and activities. In addition to this proposed resolution, other items are also being investigated. One is to develop an activity book for schools similar to the very popular "Mind & Body" activity book, but providing age-appropriate activities that improve the child's knowledge, awareness and skills about traffic safety behaviors.

Listed is an example of the proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, IN 2006, 8 Montana children ages 5-14 died and 563 were injured as a result of traffic crashes; and 27 Montana teens ages 15-19 died and 1,769 were injured as a result of traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for the age group 2-14 and 43% of school age pedestrian fatalities occur between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Montana Board of Public Education supports continued development and implementation of injury prevention education for all students in Montana schools in conjunction with strategies than encompass environmental and regulatory approaches; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Montana Board of Public Education endorses the provision of traffic education activities for K-8 students in Montana schools to provide age appropriate traffic safety training for age related mobility and use of the highway transportation system and the streets and roads of our cities, town and communities, through a locally developed education strategy.

This will be an action item at a future Board of Public Education meeting.

***January 11, 2008 – Friday
8:30 a.m.***

8:37 a.m. Meeting called to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jim Standaert was not available to present the Education and Local Government Committee FY 2009

Funding for schools as discussed in item 9. Dr. Kirk Miller presented the report after item 17.

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch presented the Board with Montana apple pins.

Item 14 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT - Cathy Kendall

Ms. Cathy Kendall presented the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Montana High School Trend Report. The items highlighted in yellow are healthy trends and those highlighted in pink are unhealthy trends.

Some examples of healthy trends are:

- 83.8 percent of students who rode a bicycle and never or rarely wore a bicycle helmet during the past 12 months
- 14.2 percent of students who never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else
- 13.2 percent of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months

Some examples of unhealthy trends are:

- 4.2 percent of students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days
- 16.2 percent of students who used inhalants during their life
- 29.1 percent of students who described themselves as slightly or very overweight

The 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Summary Report was presented to the Board and it complements the 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report and contains information regarding risk behaviors of Montana youth in relation to:

- Intentional and unintentional injuries
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies
- Nutrition and dietary behavior
- Physical activity

Ms. Cathy Kendall stated that the state of Montana turned down federal funds for abstinence only because in Montana the focus is to teach to all students. She stressed the hope that the Board of Public Education continues to support comprehensive sex education for all Montana students. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith noted that over 20 states do not accept these federal funds for abstinence only instruction. State Superintendent Linda McCulloch distributed two charts representing the Montana high school student meth use prior and after the Montana meth project campaign. There has been a 66 percent decrease in meth use since 1999. Ms. Cathy Kendall concluded the presentation stating that most of Montana's children are doing well and making good decisions.

Item 15 ANACONDA STUDENT PRESENTATION - Cassie Mann – Anaconda High School

Ms. Cassie Mann an Anaconda High School student presented a PowerPoint to the Board of Public Education titled *We are Montana's Future*. This report dovetailed nicely with the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) that was presented by Cathy Kendall as item 14. Ms. Cassie Mann expressed her concern about peers turning to violence, getting into trouble, being poverty stricken, being bored, and needing role models. Some of the solutions that Ms. Cassie Mann identified were: Getting involved in individual youth's lives, supporting thriving programs and activities, being sensitive to the community's and youth's needs, treating young people as equals and developing a partnership relationship, and serving as role models. Ms. Cassie Mann presented these statistics from the YRBS:

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Montana youth, ages 15-24 (accountable for 16% of all deaths)
- 80% of people who use tobacco start before age 18, thus making nicotine addiction a disease that begins in childhood
- In 2001, 51% of highway fatalities involving Montana youth were alcohol related, versus the national

average of 38.1%

- In 2005, 7th and 8th grade children reported the median age of first use of marijuana was 11-12 years old

Ms. Cassie Mann's vision to change the life of Montana's youth centered around youth empowerment and adult partnerships. This can be done by advocating for school funding, supporting and providing safe and adequate places for youth to recreate, educating and assisting "at risk" students, working for local youth centers, keeping all parks clean and safe for a more enjoyable experience, volunteering time, broadening a variety of classes available to students, and creating a new (good) name for the youth of Montana. In conclusion, Ms. Cassie Mann expressed that Montana's youth need to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to them.

Item 16 REPORT ON FIVE-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION PLAN - Michael Hall and Willy Schauman

In May 2003 Montana districts and schools completed the first ever Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plans (5YCEP). These plans are aligned to the Board of Public Education's approved Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.601(3). The purpose of the 5YCEP is "to ensure continuous education improvement" in every school district across Montana. The review scores are used in the multiple measures Small Schools Accountability Process, which is part of Adequate Yearly Progress determinations. Pursuant to ARM 10.55.601(3)(c) the Office of Public Instruction shall develop and implement procedures necessary to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of each school district's comprehensive education plan. This presentation provided to the Board an update of the effectiveness reporting process and the next steps for the 5YCEP. The Office of Public Instruction is planning to develop a web-based online tool for the 5YCEP 2008.

The 5YCEP is currently under review at the Office of Public Instruction. Some of the updated changes that have occurred based on requests from districts are:

- Time-out feature has been lengthened from 20 minutes to 60 minutes
- For districts that have only one school a "transfer data" feature has been added to eliminate the need of entering the same information multiple times
- The ability to upload a data display image in .jpg, .jpeg, .png, or .gif format
- Impersonation mode which allows for better technical assistance

Mr. Willy Schauman presented a PowerPoint that displayed screens from the report with dialogue boxes to describe and demonstrate the new features.

Technical assistance has also been revised to help facilitate the completion of the report.

- MASS meeting presentations have been well received. Presentations have been made to the NE, Central, SE MASS regions
- Invitations have been received to attend the Hi-Line and Western MASS regions and efforts are being made to work out a schedule with the remaining MASS regions
- Possibility of other training if needed
- Other technical assistance is provided via telephone and e-mail

For more information and assistance contact Mr. Willy Schauman, Accreditation Accountability Specialist, OPI at wschauman@mt.gov or (406)444-0716. The web site is <http://data.opi.mt.gov/5YCEP/> Discussion ensued around the importance of using data to drive instruction and taking a comprehensive look at the whole school to improve accreditation reviews.

Item 17 REPORT OF FOLLOW-UP ON-SITE VISIT TO VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL Al McMilin

Valley Christian High School is in the second year of provisional accreditation status. The school was granted state accreditation in September of 2005. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has completed the accreditation review process for the first of three annual visits during the school's provisional status period that are required prior to receiving a recommendation for final accreditation status. The review process has included both a review of the accreditation process to date, an analysis of the 2007 Annual Data Collection documentation submitted by the school and an on-site visit to the school by the Office of

Public Instruction team on December 4, 2007. This team consisted of Mr. Al McMilin from the OPI Accreditation Division (Team Leader); Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI Library Media Specialist from the Accreditation Division; Mr. Kent Paulson, Whitefish High School Principal; and Mr. Hugh Smith, Principal of Great Falls Central Catholic High School. Mr. Kent Paulson and Mr. Hugh Smith were on the original accreditation review team for Valley Christian High School. .

The team highlighted the following issues and concerns with the school administrators and board members:

- a. The school had begun the year with a non-licensed teacher on staff. The teacher did subsequently receive licensure. However, all were reminded that if licensure had not been secured by December 1, 2007, the school would have been in Deficiency status for accreditation purposes. The initial accreditation guidelines state that if during the Provisional status time period if a school receives Advice or Deficiency status the school would lose their accreditation status altogether
- b. The team noted the school had a new set of curriculum documents. The Principal explained the process used for their development
- c. The original accreditation team had encouraged the school to participate in one of the curriculum cooperatives. The principal explained they had applied to the Ravalli County curriculum consortium but had been turned down for membership. The team encouraged the school to look at the Missoula County curriculum cooperative and provided contact information
- d. The team noted that the school needed to begin Indian Education for All training for their teachers. It was suggested that they contact the Western Montana Partnership for Educational Resources (WMPER), one of Montana's new regional education services provider for assistance
- e. The team discussed some preliminary concerns and issues with the school's library

Recommendations:

- a. The team agreed that there needed to be some substantial improvements in the library facility and library/media program to bring them both more in line with the standards. A short and long range plan for those needed improvements were included
- b. Before the next visit scheduled for November of December 2008, an OPI curriculum team needs to review the new curriculum documents to insure continued alignment with Montana's content and performance standards
- c. The Office of Public Instruction will follow-up with the school on efforts to initiate Indian Education for All training for the teachers and will also provide any needed assistance to the school as they pursue membership in a curriculum cooperative

Ms. Colet Bartow reviewed the report on the library issues and expressed her concerns in relation to the data collection (ARM 10.55.1801 (1)(B) and the library collection (ARM 10.55.1801 (1)(A)) (ARM 10.55.1801 (1)(C)(b)(iv)). In regard to the library facility, there wasn't as much concern because Valley Christian High School will be moving into a new building and many of the concerns listed will be remedied once the move occurs.

Item 10a EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE – Jim Standaert

Dr. Kirk Miller presented the FY 2009 Funding for Schools report that was presented to the Education and Local Government Committee meeting on December 14, 2007 due to the illness of Mr. Jim Standaert, Senior Fiscal Analyst of the Legislative Fiscal Division. The report focused on funding for schools with a comparison of enrollments in October 2008 and with enrollments in October 2009. The 2008 enrollments have been converted to preliminary Average Number Belonging (ANB) estimates for fiscal 2009, in order to calculate base and maximum fiscal 2009 general fund budgets. From this data it is possible to estimate those districts that may have to cut budgets or may have to go to their voters to raise district general fund mill levies.

All data is preliminary and not exact. The true ANB for Fiscal 2009 will only be known after the second enrollment count in February. Typically statewide the February enrollment count is around one percent less than the enrollment count in October.

Mill levies have been calculated under two assumptions: 1) the number of mills required to be voted on for those districts that want to get back to their FY 2008 budget, and 2) under the assumption that general fund budgets will grow 3.5 percent between FY 2008 and FY 2009. This is the long term growth rate in spending by district over the last 15 years. It is also assumed that taxable values in each district will not change between FY 2008 and FY 2009.

Dr. Kirk Miller reviewed the spreadsheet that provided the sum of Base Aid and Other State Aid. Beginning with 2003 through 2005 this refers to the “bathtub” years as referenced by Governor Brian Schweitzer during the Board of Education meeting on January 11, 2008, where the state of Montana was not keeping up with inflation rates. Governor Brian Schweitzer referenced the years of 2006 through 2008 as the 26% increase of State Aid assisting Montana schools and the year 2009 as the 1.9% of the second year of the current biennium.

Discussion ensued around Mr. Jim Standaert’s analysis projected ANB, with the 1.9% increase, and how it would affect Montana Schools in the second year of the current biennium. The charts that show the percent of change in fall enrollment during the FY 2007 to FY 2008 and the percent of change in ANB for FY 2008 to FY 2009 were reviewed and noted the decline. Additional charts were reviewed that represented the change in general fund over base mills to get back to the 2008 general fund budget and with the 3.5% assumption of growth. An example was presented with three different scenarios of what may occur in the budgets of double AA schools and about 40% of school districts in Montana. The remaining documents included how school districts will calculate the FY 2008-09 general fund budgets and voting limits as amended by HB363 and SB2.

Dr. Kirk Miller reported that Mr. Lance Melton came to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee Meeting with documentation stating for the equalized districts in the state to adopt general fund budgets in 2009 at a level with a 3.5% inflation increase, it would take an increase in voted local taxes of approximately 14.5 million dollars. This figure is nearly equal to what the state’s contribution is at 1.9% increase for equalized districts. Mr. Lance Melton provided other documents with a variety of scenarios for unequalized districts etc... at the Education and Local Government Interim Committee Meeting.

Dr. Kirk Miller concluded his report stating that this shortfall was not created by the Governor’s office. It was created because the state of Montana has lived in scarcity for the previous 14 years to the last three years where there has been a significant increase. Nonetheless, this still remains a difficult problem for the school districts in Montana. The link to the Local Government and Education which includes Mr. Jim Standaert’s presentation on second year funding for school districts is http://leg.mt.gov/css/committees/interim/2007_2008/edu_local_gov/meeting_documents/materials.asp#meeting3.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Item 18 ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARD REQUEST - Ai McMilin

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education the consideration for Initial Alternative Standard and Five-Year Renewal Alternative Standard Requests recommended for approval or for disapproval by the State Superintendent Linda McCulloch.

Review of Montana Small Schools Alliance (MSSA) Plan for Alternative Standard Collaboration.

- Small rural member districts will contract with MSSA for the services provided under this model to meet one or both of two accreditation standards: ARM 10.55.709 – Library Media Services; and ARM 10.55.710 – Counseling Services

- The model consists of workshops for rural teachers each year to address the applicable content and performance standards in Library Media and the program area standards in Counseling
- MSSA licensed and endorsed staff will provide workshops and serve as consultants to teachers and programs during the school year. One librarian and one counselor will serve the eastern part of the state with the workshop to be held in Miles City in August and one librarian and one counselor will serve the western part of the state with the workshop to be held in Helena in September
- Each year the workshop will deal with one of the four library media content and performance standards and corresponding benchmarks. In the counseling area the emphasis will be on academics, careers and personal social development utilizing the MSSA guidance curriculum. In addition, for the counseling area, the workshop will also deal with the health enhancement curriculum standard five (critical thinking), standard six (interpersonal relationships) and standard seven (group skills). Assessment instruments are provided for each area covered
- MSSA staff will be available five times throughout the year to respond to questions concerning the implementation of the standards and workshop goals

The following 2 five-year renewal alternative standard requests representing 1 district and 1 school have been received and evaluated in accordance with ARM 10.55.604. The district and school are Swan Lake – Salmon Elementary with standard 10.55.709, Library Media Services and standard 10.55.710, School Counseling Services. The proposal meets or exceeds current standards.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to approve the 5-year requests of standards 10.55.709 and 10.55.710 for Swan Lake – Salmon Elementary as recommended by State Superintendent Linda McCulloch. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cal Gilbert was absent for the vote.

Item 19 REPORT OF 2006-2007 IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVED ACCREDITATION ADVICE AND DEFICIENCY STATUS IN MARCH 2007 - Al McMilin

It is the intent of the Office of Public Instruction to provide the Board of Public Education with a final report on the improvement plans required of schools that received either Advice or Deficiency accreditation status for the school year 2006-2007. This final report verified the current status of those plans following a review of the 2007 Annual Data Collection electronic preliminary accreditation report for each of those schools. The report also included comments and recommendations for certain school improvement plans that the State Superintendent has determined to be incomplete, or not adequate to address the deviations that led to the Advice or Deficiency status determination. Mr. Al McMilin referenced several schools throughout this report to point out specific deficiencies.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to approve the State Superintendent's recommendations for accreditation improvement plans for schools receiving advice or deficiency status for 2006-2007 school year. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cal Gilbert was absent for the vote.

Item 20 SURRENDER OF TEACHER LICENSE (CLOSED SESSION) - Bud Williams

Closed session began at 11:55 a.m.

Meeting reconvened for open session at 12:05 p.m.

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch recommended the surrender of the following licenses:

Surrender of SUR 2008-1

Surrender of SUR 2008 - 2

DISCUSSION ITEM

Item 21 INTERPRETER STANDARDS - Steve Gettel and Steve Meloy

Mr. Steve Gettel provided some background of interpreting as a related service in Individuals with

Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) 2004. Interpreting services may include American Sign Language (ASL); manual codes for English (e.g., Signing Exact English (SEE)); Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE); cued speech; or oral transliteration. Some individuals may transliterate, striving to replicate exactly what the speaker says; others will interpret, conveying the meaning between English and ASL or its variants (e.g., Pidgin Signed English, CASE). The generic term of interpreting is used to describe this array of interpreting service options.

If an assessment of a student's academic needs warrants placement in an environment requiring an interpreted education, the quality of services should receive careful consideration. All interpreting service providers should be fully qualified according to state and national requirements.

Interpreting is complex and requires knowledge and expertise in a variety of contexts including subject matter, interpersonal relationships and an understanding of the teaching/learning process. When interpreting services are deemed appropriate, the agency responsible for the student's education must ensure that the student receives required instruction and services from appropriately certified personnel. In some instances, instruction and services should be provided by an individual certified in teaching students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The presence of an interpreter or transliterator does not replace a teacher certified in working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Mr. Steve Gettel stressed that interpreting is more than just being able to sign every word that is being spoken and without highly trained interpreters the children with these needs are not able to access the information that is being presented in the classroom. Interpreters need to have access to affordable training which provides the minimum competencies in the areas of performance skills and knowledge base and pre-service training opportunities for mentoring and structured professional development that is accessible, affordable, and allows for the advancement of skills beyond entry level competencies.

Mr. Steve Meloy recommended that the Board of Public Education should partner with the Office of Public Instruction and Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council to determine the feasibility for establishing standards that define the skill set/competencies necessary for personnel who serve as educational interpreters in the K-12 setting. The Board of Public Education agreed that the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council should proceed with the research and recommended standards for interpreters. The Board of Public Education will purchase the publication from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education titled, Meeting the Needs of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Educational Services Guidelines.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 22 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT - Steve Gettel

On behalf of the MSDB students and staff, a poster and a MSDB blanket was presented to Mr. John Fuller in recognition of his service.

12:35 p.m. Dr. Kirk Miller departed.

1. Student Enrollment/Evaluation
2. Human Resources
 - Personnel Actions
 - Update on negotiations with MEA-MFT
3. School Improvement
 - Update on strategic planning process
 - Update on LFC performance measures and LAD performance audit
 - Preliminary consideration of new proposals for the 2011 biennial budget
 - Approval of 2007-2008 Calendar (**Action Item**)

MOTION: Mr. John Fuller moved to accept the MSDB calendar as presented. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cal Gilbert was

absent for the vote.

4. Professional Development Activities
-Update on in-service training
5. MSDB Foundation Activities
-Update on activities
6. Conferences, Meetings and Contacts
7. Budget and Finance
-Update on budget
8. Facilities and Safety
-Update on current projects
-MSDB Safety Manual.
9. School Calendar of Events
10. Student News and School Events
11. Public Comment for Non Agenda Items

Ms. Kris Wilkinson commented that MSDB has received two “criticals” on their performance goals and measures because of recruitment. This evaluation is not meant to reprimand the school, but designed to provide information to the legislature in regard to the schools’ ability to recruit and retain a qualified workforce.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS BPE MEETING– March 6-7, 2008

- Executive Secretary Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension-Action
- MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension-Action
- Establish Executive Staff Salaries – Action
- CSPAC/BPE Joint Meeting
- Council of Deans
- Annual CSPAC Report
- Annual School Food Services Report
- Assessment Update
- Accreditation Recommendations
- NCLB Update
- Alternative Standards Requests & Renewals
- MACIE Update
- Special Education Report
- Superintendent Candidates
- Annual Transportation Report
- Report on Rocky Mountain College Education Leadership Program
- Annual Teacher Education Program Report
- Summit Preparatory School – Action
- NASBE Government Affairs Committee Report
- Asthma Update
- Distance Learning Task Force Phase II

MOTION: Mr. John Fuller moved to adjourn the Board of Public Education Meeting. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cal Gilbert was absent for the vote.

1:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourned