

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

**July 10-11, 2008**

**Front Street Learning Center  
815 Front Street  
Helena, MT**

**July 10, 2008 - Thursday**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. Dr. Kirk Miller led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted. Ms. Patty Myers noted that Item 18 was moved to the first item on Friday, July 11, 2008.

**MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to approve the agenda as revised. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chair Ms. Patty Myers, Vice Chair Ms. Angela McLean, Ms. Sharon Carroll, Dr. Kirk Miller, Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Cal Gilbert, Mr. Bernie Olson, and Student Representative Ms. Katie Wood. Staff present at the meeting included: Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, 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. Ex-officio members present at the meeting included: State Superintendent Linda McCulloch, Commissioner Sheila Stearns, and Ms. Jan Lombardi represented Governor Schweitzer as an ex-officio member. Visitors in attendance at the meeting included Mr. Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, OPI; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, Accreditation Division Administrator, OPI; Ms. Anna Green, Governor's Office; Mr. Al McMilin, Educator Quality Program Specialist, OPI; Mr. Steve Gettel, Superintendent, MDSB; Dr. Bruce Messinger, Helena Public Schools, Superintendent; Ms. Kathleen Magone, Legal Council, OPI; Ms. Jean Howard, Mathematics Curriculum Specialist, OPI; Mr. Dale Kimmet, Accreditation Specialist, OPI; Mr. Pete Carparelli, Education Management Specialist, OPI; Ms. Beck McLaughlin, Montana Arts Council; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Mr. T.J. Eyer, Technical Education Director, OPI; Dr. Jan Clinard, OCHE; Mr. Tim Harris, Special Education Division Administrator, OPI; Ms. Cathy Kendall, Health Enhancement & Safety Education Division Administrator, OPI; Ms. Christine Emerson, Director of the School Nutrition Program, OPI; Dr. Claudette Morton, Montana Small Schools Alliance; Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe, Deputy Commissioner, OCHE; Mr. Tom Osborn, NCILS; Ms. Lily Sobolik, Governor's Office; Ms. Chandel Hermanson, Vocational Rehabilitation; Ms. June Hermanson, MYLF; Ms. Kelly Casillas, Department of Commerce; Mr. Mike Hermanson, Disability Service Division, DPHHS; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI; Ms. Steph Knisley, Helena Public Schools; and Mr. Jake Gustin, Helena Public Schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch introduced Ms. Jean Howard, Mathematics Curriculum Specialist and Mr. Dale Kimmet, Accreditation Specialist from the Office of Public Instruction.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Items Pulled from Consent Agenda if Requested**

The financial report was pulled from the consent agenda.

**MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to adopt the consent agenda after pulling the financial report.**

**Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Steve Meloy requested to pull the financial report from the consent agenda to acknowledge the budget after fiscal year end noting that the Board functioned within its means without much extra from FY 2008. Chief legal council from the Office of Public Instruction promises more legal cases in FY 2009. Presently there is a highly prolific revocation case coming directly to the Board of Public Education from the Billings High School District Board of Trustees. The BPE Executive Committee has decided to add this to the agenda at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 11-12, 2008.

**MOTION: Mr. Storrs moved to accept the financial report that was pulled from the consent agenda. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Items are presented in the order in which they appeared.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- May 17, 2008 AAUW State Meeting Panel – Billings, MT
- May 24, 2008 MSDB Graduation – Great Falls, MT
- June 12, 2008 ELG K-12 Subcommittee – Joint K-12 & PEPB Subcommittee – Helena, MT
- June 13, 2008 Education & Local Government Interim Committee – Helena, MT
- June 16, 2008 MT Learning First Alliance – Helena, MT
- July 1, 2008 MSDB Committee Meeting – Great Falls, MT
- July 8, 2008 Board of Regent's Meeting – Great Falls, MT

Ms. Patty Myers read a letter from Ms. Brenda Welburn, Executive Director from NASBE, thanking the Board for Dr. Kirk Miller's nomination to the NASBE's Distinguished Service Award. Even though Dr. Kirk Miller did not receive the award, Ms. Patty Myers acknowledged that he is a winner in the hearts of the Board. Ms. Patty Myers acknowledged that the following Montana teachers have been selected as state-level finalists by the selection committee for this year's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Program: Ms. Deanna Collins, Harrison; Mr. Charles Bertsch, Polson; Ms. Kathleen Hill, Kalispell; Ms. Courtney Niemeyer, Billings; and Ms. Lori Peterson, Polson. Ms. Patty Myers extended the invitation from Lewis and Clark's County Superintendent Marci Davis to attend the Montana Association of County School Superintendents meeting in September 2008.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION APPEARANCES**

**Dr. Kirk Miller**

- June 12, 2008 ELG K-12 Subcommittee – Joint K-12 & PEPB Subcommittee – Helena, MT

**Mr. Bernie Olson**

- July 2, 2008 MSDB Committee Conference Call Meeting – Great Falls, MT

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

- May 22, 2008 MSDB Audit Report Meeting – Great Falls, MT
- May 23, 2008 Counselor Initiative – Helena, MT
- May 29, 2008 Roger Barber's Retirement Dinner – Havre, MT
- May 30, 2008 Board of Regent's Meeting – Havre, MT
- June 5, 2008 Legislative Fiscal Committee Meeting – Helena, MT
- June 12, 2008 ELG K-12 Subcommittee – Joint K-12 & PEPB Subcommittee – Helena, MT
- June 13, 2008 Education & Local Government Interim Committee – Helena, MT
- June 16, 2008 MT Learning First Alliance – Helena, MT
- June 18, 2008 Board of Regent's Student Orientation – Helena, MT
- June 20, 2008 MSDB Performance Audit – Helena, MT

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is planning to move back to the Students Assistance Foundation building in the fall. The Board of Public Education's office has decided to stay in the New York Building. The Worker's Compensation Management Bureau has offered the Board with facility/infrastructure improvements and equipment upgrades that are not always adequately funded within agency budgets. As a result, the Board's office will be receiving 4 ergonomically correct work stations along with chairs, wrist rests, and mouse pads.

### **5-YEAR BPE STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT**

Mr. Steve Meloy expressed his gratitude for the use of Montana School Board's Association's Conference Room for the 5-year strategic planning session. He noted the exemplary facilitation from the Executive Director from NASBE, Brenda Welburn. Mr. Steve Meloy prepared a PowerPoint summarizing the work of the Board and its partners from the planning session.

### **LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE**

Ms. Patty Myers noted that the Montana Learning First Alliance met on Monday, June 16, 2008 in Helena. The alliance is planning to work at the national and local levels to promote a positive image of education. Montana School Board's Association (MTSBA) and MEA-MFT were not present. At the meeting there was a facilitator that helped the group look at what the goals should be and what it should look like in Montana. Dr. Kirk Miller questioned if other state boards of education were members in other states. Mr. Steve Meloy believed that there are about seven states that are members.

### **Item 3 CSPAC REPORT - Peter Donovan**

The CSPAC Liaison, Ms. Angela McLean stated that she and Mr. Pete Donovan are in regular dialogue with Ms. Elizabeth Keller from the Office of Public Instruction in regard to safety awareness issues.

On May 14 – 16, 2008 Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh and Mr. Pete Donovan attended the NCATE Clinic in St. Louis, Missouri. NCATE staff provided demonstrations of new online tools for teacher preparation institutions and state accreditation officials. NCATE staff also provided updates on recent changes in NCATE procedures to streamline the teacher education accreditation process.

On June 1-4, 2008 Dr. Doug Reisig, Ms. Kathleen Magone, Ms. Elizabeth Keller and Pete attended the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual NASDTEC conference in Providence, Rhode Island. Mr. Pete Donovan noted that a growing number of states are using alternative programs to prepare teachers to fill teacher shortage areas. The terminology of "alternative teacher preparation" is slowly being replaced with "pathways to teaching". NCATE and TEAC are in the initial phase of discussing the possibility of creating a single, national accreditation body for teacher preparation institutions. Discussion ensued on MSU Bozeman's state review.

### **INTERPRETER WORKGROUP**

CSPAC along with OPI has convened a workgroup to recommend standards for educational sign language interpreters who work with P-12 students in Montana schools. The Interpreter Workgroup is chaired by Dr. Doug Reisig and the members are: Mr. Vern Beffert, Director, Park County Cooperative; Ms. Bonnie Christensen, Vice-President, Montana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; Ms. Char Harasymczuk, President, Montana Association for the Deaf; Ms. Connie Hyatt, parent of a hearing impaired child; Mr. Steve Gettel, Superintendent, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind; Mr. Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer to CSPAC; Mr. Tim Harris, Director of Special Education for OPI; Ms. Trish Smith and Ms. Missy Grinnell, interpreters from Montana's Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MRID); Ms. Mary Morrison, Associate Director, Preparation of Interdisciplinary Early Intervention for Rural States (PEPNet-West) at the University of Montana. The group will also research options to enhance opportunities for training and professional development for educational sign language interpreters. The workgroup held an initial meeting in Helena on June 11, 2008. The group anticipates meeting approximately 6 times during the next 12 months to formulate recommendations to the Board. The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2008.

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

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch presented the Board of Public Education with the following: May

highlights; important dates for the summer of 2008; Full-Time Kindergarten Conference – Billings, August 12-13, 2008; 2011 biennium budget request for the 2009 legislative session; 2008 timeline for release of AYP determinations; five-year comprehensive education plan; call for nominations – A working conference June 23-27, 2008; and Montana Reading Institute – August 4-7, 2008.

Governor Brian Schweitzer and the 2007 Montana Legislature appropriated \$350,000 for the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program for K-12 educators and licensed professionals. An educator may qualify for loan repayment assistance of \$3,000 per year for up to four years. 343 educators applied and were ranked based on a scoring system that takes into account the critical shortage areas in Montana in addition to academic areas. Recipients were notified by the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program the week of June 26, 2008 and loans began the week of July 1, 2008. 105 quality educators received an award. They represent 57 different schools, 38 of which are schools with high American Indian populations, and 2 special education co-ops. Grade levels taught were: 34 elementary; 31 grades 7 – 8; 7 middle school; and 34 high school. The most common age range of successful applicants was ages 26-30. Over 60% were 40 years of age or younger. Recipients covered all identified impacted academic subject areas. The largest was special education with 25 awardees and second was mathematics with 17. Discussion ensued about tracking what happens to the teachers who receive this assistance to determine how long they teach and how long they continue to teach in Montana.

### **INDIAN EDUCATION REPORT**

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch addressed the following topics in the Indian Education Report:

1. Professional development for Indian Education for All
2. Course entitled "Investigating a Plains Tipi"

The following grants were presented under the Indian Education for All Ongoing Initiatives:

- Indian Education for All Museum Educator Best Practices Program
- Ready-to-Go IEFA Professional Development Contracts 2008
- Montana University System Teacher Education Professional Development Grants 2008
- Indian Education for All Museum Educator Best Practices Program II
- Montana Council for Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) and Montana Science Teachers Association (MSTA)

The following grants were presented under the Indian Student Achievement Ongoing Initiatives:

- Closing the Achievement Gap Summer Professional Development Grants
- Indian Student Achievement Professional Development Grants

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

Commissioner Sheila Stearns announced that Dr. Sylvia Moore has been hired as the Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs and Dr. Mary Moe has been hired as the Deputy Commissioner for Two-Year Education at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE).

Commissioner Sheila Stearns discussed the electronic transcript project and included the following points:

- Designed to determine the feasibility of implementing electron transcripts for high school students on a statewide basis
- Pilot to involve the University of Montana, UM Western, Helena College of Technology, 3-6 school districts, and the National Transcript Center
- May decrease workload of high school counselors and provide data to research factors that lead to student success in higher education

Other topics of discussion included:

- Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (Administered by Montana Guaranteed Student Loan)
- OCHE's Title II Improving Teacher Quality Grants: Professional Development for K-12
  1. Before It's Too Late (BITL)
  2. Writing Intervention Now (WIN)
  3. Technical Writing Essentials for Math and Science (TWEMS)
- Would like to see continued support for the Montana University System Writing Assessment
- Commissioner Sheila Stearns stated that the Board of Regents and the OCHE staff are open to revitalizing

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- Discussion ensued around MSU College of Technology Program and the vote from the Board of Regents' meeting that occurred in July and the UM Montana Tech sponsored proposal to create a K-12 Math/Science Academy

#### **Item 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - Jan Lombardi**

Ms. Jan Lombardi reviewed some of the tasks that have occurred to support the K-College Workgroup's homework assignments:

- School readiness
- Students ready for college and work
- Close tuition and salary gap
- Technology framework

Ms. Jan Lombardi provided the Board with the May 2008 Executive Summary of the report titled: Investments in Early Childhood: An Essential Industry that is Both Good for Business and Vital to Montana's Economy. This report is the result of a unique collaboration between the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Early Childhood Services Bureau, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the Governor's Education Initiative. Together these partners formed a technical committee, who provided expertise around the data for this report.

In conclusion, the Montana College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) project – Go2CollegeMT was presented to the Board. This project is designed to address the challenges, many which are unique to Montana, by employing both traditional and leading edge technology to successfully communicate valuable information and engage Montana citizens in creating the “college going culture” call for in many of the Governor's programs related to education, as part of his “Education for Life” agenda. This Go2College MT project will raise the awareness, particularly in underrepresented students, of the opportunities available to all Montana students; and contribute to more Montana students that are prepared for college, apply for college, and successfully continue to the completion of a degree or certificate.

#### **Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - Katie Wood**

Ms. Katie Wood reported that she would like to continue working on what it takes for Montana's high school students to pursue higher education.

#### **Item 8 ANNUAL SCHOOL NUTRITION REPORT - Christine Emerson and Kathy Kendall**

This presentation included information about the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, Special Milk Program, USDA Donated Foods Program, Cooperative Purchase Program, and Team Nutrition Program for the 2006-07 school year. It showed changes in program participation and funding over five school years. It covered nutrition education activities for schools, parents, and the community to improve nutritional value and acceptability of school meals, and promote the health and education of children. Ms. Christine Emerson stated that in 2006 the Team Nutrition Program passed a resolution to establish a school wellness policy in Montana schools. Approximately 85% of Montana schools do have a policy in place. Now the Team Nutrition is working to move these policies into actual practices. Ms. Kathy Kendall addressed the Asthma in Schools Training Workshop that was held January 23, 2007. The Montana Team Asthma goals are:

- Establish the team and build the capacity of the team
- Identify and assess where Montana is in asthma school management
- Create and/or increase awareness of asthma issues as related to school wellness
- Provide information on all aspects of school health issues (liability, achievement, policies, teaching materials, in-service materials) to all stakeholders in Montana

Discussion ensued around when the school nutrition program receives its reimbursement, purchasing locally, commodities, grant money to support districts in economic duress, summer food service program, prices of school lunches and the impact these increases are having on Montana families.

#### **Item 12 ALTERNATIVE DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS**

**Dr. Bruce Messinger, Superintendent, Helena Public Schools**  
**David Strong, Career, Technical and Adult Education Coordinator**

The Helena Board of Trustees approved a resolution on May 21, 2008 formally initiating the process to seek and support any legislative and regulatory measures that may be necessary to offer an alternative high school diploma pathway for students in Montana. This resolution was included in the agenda packet. The alternative diploma could be attained through a different pathway than the "traditional" diploma path which is based on very specific graduation requirements set in accreditation rules. This resolution will be presented to the Montana School Board Association for their consideration. The research that the Helena School District conducted concluded that there is presently only one "traditional" path to attain a high school diploma in Montana, and one "equivalency" path. Montana Code also provides for the issuance of an "equivalency of completion of secondary education" credentials in accordance with BPE policies (20-7-131, MCA). Although the equivalency statute allows for two options (a testing program or an external diploma program), the reality is that only one of these alternatives actually still exists. The sole equivalency alternative in Montana is in the form of a General Educational Development (GED) test. For some students these two options (traditional diploma or GED equivalency) do not always meet their needs or life circumstances. In the present system, time is the constant and learning is the variable. It is the hope of the Helena School District to offer an alternative diploma pathway in which learning is the constant and time is the variable. The development of alternative paths may require the Board of Public Education to consider possible changes in accreditation rules. While there is a certain level of flexibility now (10.55.906, ARM), this would need to be fully examined in light of broader alternative diploma pathways to determine the full scope of possibilities. Possible changes could include a method to award credit based on performance and mastery of subject area as one example. The goals of the Helena Board of Trustees are to:

- Develop high quality educational pathways that increase graduation rates and prepare all students for college and work
- Develop framework of elements that would support local school districts in developing high quality alternatives
  - Shared responsibility and systemic coordination
  - Flexible demonstrations of proficiency
  - Supply of choice-based, high quality alternatives

Dr. Bruce Messinger and Mr. David Strong stressed that another alternative would be rigorous, relevant, but different. A PowerPoint titled Alternative Diploma Pathways was presented with statistics, what is presently available to students through two paths, a third external diploma pathway, and what other states are doing.

Discussion ensued around No Child Left Behind, National Governor Graduation Rates, mastered graduation, drop-outs, admission requirements to the university system, constitutional changes, rule making process with fiscal notes, Chapter 66 in the Administrative Rules of Montana, workforce program of K-12, and being aware of the public and student perception of the exit criteria. In conclusion, Dr. Bruce Messinger believed that this was best brought before the Board of Public Education to consider as an accreditation rule. The Helena Board of Trustees is asking for the support of the Board to proceed with the development of alternative diploma/certification pathways.

**Item 9 GED ANNUAL REPORT - T. J. Eyer**

The 2007 Montana GED Statistical and Demographic Reports were presented to give an overview of the GED testing program in Montana and to identify current trends occurring in the state. Some statistical data included the following:

- 3,171 people tested
- 2,604 people completed and passed the entire GED test battery
- 2,017 people achieved scores high enough for a credential in the jurisdiction
- 77% passing percentage
- Top five reasons the respondents gave of not completing high school were:
  1. Absenteeism
  2. Didn't like school
  3. Bored
  4. Wasn't happy

## 5. Trouble with math

Mr. T.J. Eyer stated that there are three initiatives to ensure better transition for people who have completed the GED are:

- Formal chief examiner training – to build relationships and extended connections
- Formal initiation of creating content standards for the instruction of the GED
- Marketing plan to change the perception of the GED - Mr. T.J. Eyer stressed that the GED is a high stakes test and the validity needs to be ensured. He noted some people have experienced suicidal situations as a result of taking the GED. Many are concerned about imitation assessments that are available on the web that compromise the security of the results of the GED

Mr. Bernie Olson inquired if there was a breakdown in the data that would indicate what high schools these test takers dropped out of before coming to complete the GED in Montana. Ms. Jan Lombard also inquired about any data that might be available of the type of jobs and/or further education that GED graduates obtain upon completion. Mr. T.J. Eyer stated he did not have this type of data, but would attempt to gather more information.

Mr. Storrs Bishop and Mr. Cal Gilbert shared some success stories of students who have successfully obtained a GED.

### **Item 10 SPECIAL EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT - Tim Harris**

The report covered a discussion of numbers of students with disabilities served through public education in Montana, the types of disabilities served, and numbers of students per category. The report also compares the funding sources, trends of participation of the funding sources over a number of years and concluded with a description of 20 performance indicators the Office of Special Education Programs in the Department of Education requires the states to address each year.

Analysis of the December 1, 2007, Child Count data (term used for the collection of student special education data) show there was a decrease of 399 students from the previous year with the most significant decreases occurring in the speech-language impairment and learning disabilities categories. Thirty-five percent of the decrease occurred in grades K-3. Districts reported the following reasons for the decrease:

- Implementation of interventions in general education resulting in fewer referrals
- Student progress reviews that identified students no longer in need of services
- Decreases in student enrollment

Analysis of the data also showed a significant decrease in the count of students reported in the disability category of emotional disturbance. Factors affecting the decrease include implementation of positive behavioral supports in general education and the positive effects of the implementation of over 100 Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Services (CSCT) programs in schools across the state.

The disability category showing the most significant increase (9.09%) is autism. This is reflective of what is occurring nationwide. Factors affecting this are the increase in numbers of student previously identified as having autism and moving into Montana, as well as an increase in knowledge of how to more effectively identify children who meet the criteria for autism

The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* requires states to submit a State Performance Plan outlining efforts to implement the requirements and purposed of Part B of the Act. The primary focus of the performance plan is based on three key monitory priorities for the Office of Special Education Programs of the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Provision of a **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**;
2. The state exercise of **general supervisory authority**; and
3. **Disproportionate representation** of racial/ethnic groups in special education and related services

Within each of the three monitoring priorities, performance indicators established by the United States Secretary of Education quantify and prioritize outcome indicators for special education. The state uses these 20 performance indicators to establish measurable and rigorous targets with which to assess performance of both local educational agencies and the state over the next six year. These 20 indicators include some of the following:

- Graduation rates
- Dropout rates
- Statewide assessments
- Suspension and expulsion rates

Discussion ensued about identifying autistic children, group homes, and the Comprehensive System of Professional Development (CSPD)

**Item 11 UPDATE ON THE FIVE-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION PLAN (5YCEP) WEB-BASED DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE - Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

The Office of Public Instruction provided the Board of Public Education the proposed timeline for the development and implementation of the 5YCEP 2009. At the May Board of Public Education meeting, Mr. William Schauman and Mr. Michael Hall discussed the first ever 5-Year Comprehensive Education Plans completed by Montana districts and schools in May 2003. The Office of Public Instruction discussed its plan with the Board to develop and implement a Web-based 5YCEP application. The Web-based application aligns to the Board's approved Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.601.

The project timeline is as follows:

- February – April: FRP process completed
- April: Web-based Templates Developed
- May – July: Meetings with OPI divisions regarding coordination and web-based development of 5YCEP
- June – July: Generate organizational structure for 5YCEP using the Effective Schools Research Correlates
- July – August: Work sessions with Montana educators
- August: Involve Montana educators in test environment
- September: Presentation to BPE on 5YCEP Web-based application

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Item 13 REVIEW OF ACCREDITATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES - AI McMilin**

This presentation provided the Board of Public Education an overview of the current accreditation process and supporting procedures. An accreditation calendar was provided as the basic outline for the presentation. Mr. Al McMilin reviewed the accreditation calendar and the accreditation response options for continuing deviations.

Currently 15% of our schools in Montana have at least one alternative standard. There are a total of 183 alternative standards in place. The breakdown by standard:

- 10.55.709 – Library Media – 86
- 10.55.710 – Guidance – 88
- 10.55.704 – Administration – 8
- 10.55.902 – Basic Program – 1

According to 10.55.604 the goals of the alternative will meet or exceed the results under the current standard. This excludes standards stating statutory criteria, standards pertaining to teacher licensure or endorsement and content and performance standards.

**Item 14 DATA ANALYSIS OF THE ACCREDITATION STATUS OF MONTANA SCHOOLS - AI McMilin**

This presentation provided the data summary requested by Board of Public Education member, Dr. Kirk Miller, for questions concerning the 2007-2008 Accreditation Status determinations for Montana public schools. A copy of the correspondence from Dr. Kirk Miller was attached as well as an initial data report addressing the

questions.

Mr. Al McMillin referred back to the PowerPoint from Item 13 to address how OPI mines the data.

- The Annual Data Collection (ADC ) has a variety of data sets:
  - Program, personnel, survey, compliance, statistical, text
  - Most sets are “snapshots” in time
- ADC provides primarily descriptive data sets (Get the data in summary form and look for trends. It is up to the human element to draw conclusions.)

The degree of analysis that can be applied to a given set depends on:

- **The question asked** – can the available data set by itself provide or suggest an answer to the question posed
- **The nature of the data set** – is it sufficient in scope – consistent and reliable – comprehensive

Often the questions asked will lead to the creation of a new data set – Like Dr. Kirk Miller’s questions – There is a lot of value asking the questions and continuing to mine the data.

#### **DATA SUMMARY FOR QUESTIONS ON ACCREDITATION STATUS OF MONTANA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Question 1** – In each category – Regular, Regular with Deviation, Advice and Deficiency what is the number of students in public schools under that category.

**Question 2** – In each category – Regular, Regular with Deviation, Advice and Deficiency what is the percentage of students in public schools under that category.

**Note - The data in this table are as of June 16, 2008, and do not include information on the 14 accredited private schools.**

**Question 3** – A request to review the variance to standards (alternative standards) to quantify the most frequently requested variances and illustrations of how those standards are meeting or exceeding the standard. This was answered in general at the May meeting as part of the overall review of the alternative standard process. That information was presented again as part of this report. In addition to the above information the following is provided as another possible data set which takes a look at the number of "classes" impacted by misassigned and non-licensed teachers.

<b>Subject Area Grouping</b>	<b>Number of Misassigned Teachers</b>	<b>Number of Classes Taught</b>	<b>Number of Nonlicensed Teachers</b>	<b>Number of Classes Taught</b>
<b>Career &amp; Technical Ed</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Arts</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>

		Status Category – <u>Regular</u>	Status Category – <u>Regular w/ Deviations</u>	Status Category – Advice	Status Category - Deficiency
Total Count of Public Schools	830	474	151	88	117
Category Count – Percent of Total		57%	18%	11%	14%
Total Enrollment	143,421	70,466	38,359	12,005	22,591
Enrollment – Percent of Total		49%	27%	8%	16%

Health Enhancement	14	19	2	5
Communication Arts	14	31	7	32
Mathematics	13	39	4	15
Science	23	55	5	26
Social Science	20	38	2	4
World Language	5	12	3	16
Special Education	19	61	2	3
ESEA Title I	3	10	2	2
Elementary Education	5	5	6	6
<b>Total Number of Classes Taught in State: 37,643</b>				

**Note 1 - The data in this table are as of June 16, 2008, and do not include information on the 14 accredited private schools in the state.**

**Note 2 – There is duplicated count in this table as some teachers are assigned in more than one area.**

**Note 3 – For elementary a class is defined as the entire day.**

Discussion ensued around the Office of Public Instruction’s internship program as to whether or not those who are participating are considered misassigned teachers. Mr. Al McMilin stated that as long as they are in the program, they are not misassigned. Mr. Steve Meloy noted there may be an inconsistency in the application of the standard when misassigned teachers are not properly endorsed because in ARM 10.55.604 it states, “a school district may apply to the Board of Public Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement an alternative to a standard or a section of standards, excluding standards stating statutory criteria, standards pertaining to teacher licensure or endorsement, and content and performance standards as defined by the Board of Public Education and provided in guidance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.” Mr. Meloy went on to ask why those districts with misassigned teachers only receive a minor deviation. Shouldn’t it be more extreme? If so, is the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction setting itself up for criticism when districts with non-licensed teachers receive a deficiency, but if they have misassigned teachers they only receive a minor deficiency? Discussion ensued around the need to work with districts who are trying to comply with the standards and whether or not the standards need to be revised to address the practice. Dr. Kirk Miller addressed how difficult it is to measure input standards, but we have a need to measure accurately what kids in Montana are able to do in accordance to the content standards. This data needs to be mined accurately in order to provide solutions to meet the educational needs of Montana’s children, so all of these questions still need to be answered.

**Item 15 AMENDMENTS TO ARM 10.55.907 (3) AND (3) (a); ARM 10.57.102 DEFINITIONS “FACULTY”; ARM 10.57.201 GENERAL PROVISIONS TO ISSUE LICENSES; AND (NEW) ARM 10.57.437 CLASS 8 DUAL CREDIT- ONLY POSTSECONDARY FACULTY LICENSE - Steve Meloy**

Mr. Steve Meloy reviewed the timeline for the proposed Chapter 55-57 rules and the Class 8 licensure for the amendments to ARM 10.55.907 (3) and (3) (a); ARM 10.57.102 definition “faculty”; ARM 10.57.201 general

provisions to issue licenses; and (NEW) ARM 10.57.437 Class 8 dual credit-only postsecondary faculty license. The hearings have been set for August 26, 2008, the proposed adoption notice will go before the Board at its September 11-12, 2008 meeting, and the final rule changes will go to the Secretary of State for notice by September 15, 2008. This will result in the effective date of rules to be September 26, 2008 if adopted.

**Item 16 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND UPDATE - Nancy Coopersmith**

This item contained information about current No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act activities in Montana. Included was information about the timeline and process to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all Montana schools and districts. In addition, regulations concerning NCLB Title I are proposed by the U.S. Department of Education. An overview of these proposed regulations was presented.

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith provided a copy of the letter dated February 15, 2008 from State Superintendent Linda McCulloch to Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education Kerri Briggs. This letter addressed the proposed amendments to the Montana Accountability Workbook in regard to the small schools policy process. The three attachments were included:

1. Expansion of Montana's Valid and Reliable Statewide Rural Small Schools Process
2. Extension of the 2 Percent interim Flexibility
3. Implementation of 1 Percent Cap

The Montana Annual Measurable Objectives for reading and math were also included. The final document dated June 23, 2008 is a memorandum from State Superintendent Linda McCulloch to Zollie Stevenson, Jr. from the U.S. Department of Education in regard to Montana's response to the proposed ESEA Title I Regulations.

Discussion centered on more and more Montana schools not making the Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP), special education, teacher retention, highly qualified teachers, and the fact that Montana's standards are tougher than most states.

**Item 17 K-12 SUBCOMMITTEE AND JOINT MEETING OF K-12 & PEPB SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Dr. Kirk Miller and Patty Myers**

Dr. Kirk Miller opened this presentation stating that the Board of Public Education would like to be involved in the K-12 Public Education Policy and Budget (KPEPB) Committee that was presented at the May 2008 meeting by Ms. Pam Joehler, LFD Analyst. The KPEPB Committee will work jointly with the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (PEPB) Committee beginning in 2009. These committees will work together to make decisions on the common spectrum of issues and bridge the conversation between higher education and K-12. There was discussion about maintaining the Board of Public Education's autonomy. The June 12, 2008 K-12 Subcommittee and the Joint Meeting of K-12 & PEPB Subcommittee's agenda was included.

**EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**

**Steve Meloy**

Mr. Steve Meloy reviewed the Performance Measurement Report that was submitted by the Board of Public Education to the Legislative Fiscal Division. This document contains the program description, legislative goals, legislative performance measures, 2009 biennium significant milestones, LFD narrative, and the Montana accreditation history charts for the school years 2002-2003 through 2007-2008 pertaining to all schools. Mr. Steve Meloy also addressed the Board of Public Education's requirement of SB152 that resulted in the ARM Rule 20-7-101(2) that states, "prior to adoption or amendment of any accreditation standard, the board shall submit each proposal to the education and local government interim committee for review. The interim committee shall request a fiscal analysis to be prepared by the legislative fiscal division. The legislative fiscal division shall provide its analysis to the interim committee and to the office of budget and program planning to be used in the preparation of the executive budget." The June 13, 2008 Education and Local Government Interim Committee agenda was included in the agenda packet.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**

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

**Meeting reconvened at 8:34 a.m.**

**Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe represented ex-officio member Commissioner Sheila Stearns at the Board of Public Education Meeting**

**Item 18 ASSESSMENT UPDATE - Madalyn Quinlan**

Update on the status of the following statewide assessment recommendations:

1. Pilot a writing assessment for K-12
2. Analysis of seven years of NRT results
3. Creating interest and awareness in formative assessment
4. Survey of school districts to identify needs for state and local assessment
5. Form an assessment task force

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan stressed that the Office of Public Instruction has begun work on the implementation of the statewide assessment recommendations. This presentation included the original recommendations, a current timeline, and the current status of each recommendation. Also included was the Transformative Assessment book written by W. James Popham.

The formulation of the assessment task force has begun. The Office of Public Instruction has contacted several people and they plan to convene the task force in August 2008. The names are not finalized to date. The composition of the panel will include a principal, superintendent, guidance counselor, a curriculum director, BPE member, BPE's Assessment Task Force's Chair, and OPI's Statewide Student Assessment Specialist. Ms. Patty Myers recommended that higher education be included on the task force as well.

**Public Comment**

Dr. Jan Clinard reported on the Montana University System Writing Assessment (MUSWA). She stated that 299 teachers, college instructors, and pre-service teachers received training and scored tests of Montana's high school juniors at eight sites in Montana (Glasgow, Great Falls, Billings, Miles City, Helena, Bozeman, Missoula, and Whitefish) during March of 2008. The Writing Proficiency Policy:

- Informs high school juniors if they are on target to enter a freshman composition course that is developmental or a composition course that will count toward core or degree requirements;
- Ensures that students take the developmental course they need during their first year in college; and
- Identifies students who need more intensive writing instruction as high school seniors in order to graduate at the "proficient" level in writing.

Dr. Jan Clinard recommended that scoring these assessments provides instructors with authentic professional development. It is her hope that there will be collaboration between K-12 and higher education as the Assessment Task Force works on the writing assessment for K-12 according to recommendation #1 of the Statewide Assessment Recommendations.

Further discussion was focused on the ACT, SAT, and NAPE Assessments. Dr. Claudette Morton stressed that the standards need to be reviewed prior to creating new assessment requirements.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Ms. Patty Myers executed executive action to switch Items 19 and 20 to accommodate the Board's guests**

**Item 20 DISABILITY HISTORY & CULTURE: INCLUSION INTO STATE STANDARDS**  
**June Hermanson, Montana Youth Leadership Forum**  
**Lily Sobolik, Montana Transition Task Force**

### **Montana Youth Leadership Ambassadors**

Ms. June Hermanson, Ms. Lily Sobolik, and Mr. Mike Beers are requesting the Board of Public Education to include disability history and culture into the Social Studies Curriculum and Montana Standards. They believe that it is important that Montana's youth understand disability history and culture in order to appreciate how individuals with disabilities were once viewed and treated. Students need to be provided with the opportunity to learn how people with disabilities were instrumental in changing history, and how they became active participants in changing societal attitudes about their needs, desires, and capabilities. By teaching disability history in schools, the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that history is not repeated and that there continues to be movement towards an even more accessible society in future generations. This is a part of the civil rights movement that is often overlooked and what took place to advance the Americans with Disabilities Act. In Montana's public schools youth with disabilities are the largest minority. They need to be taught about the community they are a part of which will result in pride and dispel the shame of having a disability. This will help others realize that people with disabilities are not a burden to society.

Reference was made to a document called "Heroes for Everyone" written by Ms. Tricia DesJarlais, a teacher from Seeley Lake, MT. A disability history resource list, Montana independent living centers, and a sample of disability history were provided. Ms. Shyla Patera, Mr. Mike Beers, and Mr. Tom Osborn provided personal testimonies. The Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education welcomed this group to provide input as the Social Studies Standards are reviewed in 2009.

**Closed Session 10:00 a.m.**

#### **Item 19 LICENSE SURRENDER (CLOSED SESSION) - Kathleen Magone**

Report to the Board of Public Education of a surrender of an educator license as required by Administrative Rules of Montana 10.57.605(5): "The superintendent of public instruction shall provide notice to the board of public education of each surrender of a license and of the circumstances surrounding the surrender."

**Break after Closed Session at 10:10 a.m.**

**Reconvened in Open Session at 10:20 a.m.**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

### **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.*

#### **Item 21 REVISED TIMELINE FOR THE NOTICE OF AMENDMENT RELATING TO CONTENT STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTORS FOR INFORMATION LITERACY/LIBRARY MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY - Steve Meloy**

Mr. Steve Meloy presented the revised timeline for the proposed information literacy/library media content standard and performance descriptor rules dated June 2, 2008. This revised timeline will allow the rule to be effective August 15, 2008 if approved by the Board of Public Education at its conference call meeting scheduled for July 30, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

**MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to adopt the revised proposed timeline for the information literacy/library media and technology content standards and performance descriptors. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Item 22 ADDENDUM TO 2007-2008 ACCREDITATION RECOMMENDATIONS - AI McMilin**

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education to consider an addendum to the 2007-2008

accreditation determinations for all schools as recommended by the State Superintendent Linda McCulloch. The changes are due to errors identified by the Office of Public Instruction after the accreditation determinations were acted on during the March BPE meeting and the districts were notified.

**MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the addendum to the 2007-2008 accreditation recommendation. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Item 23 NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ARM 10.55.907 (3) AND (3) (a); ARM 10.57.102 DEFINITIONS "FACULTY"; ARM 10.57.201 GENERAL PROVISIONS TO ISSUE LICENSES; AND (NEW) ARM 10.57.437 CLASS 8 DUAL CREDIT-ONLY POSTSECONDARY FACULTY LICENSE  
Steve Meloy**

Mr. Steve Meloy presented to the Board of Public Education the notice of public hearing on the proposed amendment of ARM 10.55.907 relating to distance learning to be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education's (OCHE) Conference Room at 9:30 a.m. He also presented the notice of public hearing on the proposed adoption of NEW RULE I and amendment of ARM 10.57.102 and 10.57.201 relating to Class 8 licensure to be held in OCHE's Conference Room on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to notice for public hearing the amendments relating to ARM 10.55.907 (3) and (3)(a); ARM 10.57.102 Definitions "Faculty"; ARM 10.57.201 General Provisions to Issue Licenses; and (NEW) ARM 10.57.437 Class 8 Dual Credit-only Postsecondary Faculty License as outlined in the notices. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Ms. Patty Myers executed executive action to move Item 27 before Items 24, 25, and 26**

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Item 27 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT - Steve Gettel**

The following agenda was reviewed for the MSDB Committee Report by Mr. Steve Gettel:

- MSDB Annual Report
- Human Resources
  - Personnel actions
- Professional Development
  - Orientation plans for 2008-2009
- MSDB Foundation
  - Update of activities
- Conferences, Meetings, and Contacts
- Finance and Facilities
  - Update on year end finances and maintenance projects
- School Calendar of Events
- Student News
- Public Comment for Non Agenda Items

Discussion ensued about the MSDB audit, MSDB Foundation requested to meet with a Board of Public Education representative to review its mission, and how MSDB would serve as a center of autism according to its mission statement. Mr. Steve Gettel noted that MSDB could certainly revise its mission to encompass autistic students, but the school would need to be funded and staffed by appropriately trained educators to meet the needs of autistic students.

**Closed Session 11:30 a.m.**

**MEETING WAS CLOSED FOR ITEMS 24- 26**

**Open Session 12:13 p.m. for Board Action on Items 24-26**

Item 24 HEARING – DENIAL CASE NO. 2008-01 - Steve Meloy and Kathleen Magone

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to deny the Montana license of case no. 2008-01. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 25 PROPOSED FINDINGS – REVOCATION CASE NO. 2008-03  
Beda Lovitt, Administrative Law Judge

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to accept the proposed findings of fact and suspend the Montana license of case no. 2008-03. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 26 HEARING – REVOCATION CASE NO. 2008-05 - Steve Meloy and Kathleen Magone

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke the Montana license of case no. 2008-05. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS

### July 30, 2008 – Conference Call – 2:00 p.m.

Final Action – Literacy/Library Media Content and Performance Descriptors  
Final Action – Technology Content and Performance Descriptors

### September 11-12, 2008

Election of Board Officers  
Committee Appointments  
Superintendent Goals  
BPE Goal Review  
Assessment Update  
NCLB Update  
MACIE Update  
Material and Non-Performance Case 2008-06 (Action)  
Revocation Case 2008-04 (Action)  
Distance Learning – Proposed Adoption Notice (Action)  
Learning First Alliance  
Education and Local Government Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to adjourn the Board of Public Education meeting. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 p.m.