

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

November 6-7, 2008

CAPITOL BUILDING
Room 137
Helena, MT

November 6, 2008 - Thursday
8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. State Superintendent Linda McCulloch led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted. Ms. Patty Myers presented State Superintendent Linda McCulloch and Deputy Superintendent Bud Williams marbled engraved letter openers in appreciation of their leadership for the education on behalf of Montana students. Congratulations were extended to Ms. Linda McCulloch on becoming the Montana Secretary of State.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Patty Myers noted the following changes to the agenda: Item 6, Governor's Office Report was moved to Friday; Item 16, MSDB Committee Meeting Report was moved to Friday after Item 17; and Item 3, CSPAC Bylaws (Action) and Item 27, Revise Annual Agenda Calendar were deleted. Others indicated time conflicts on additional agenda items. Ms. Patty Myers asked for the leeway to adjust the agenda as necessary to meet the accommodations. In addition, she noted that the motion that occurred at the September 11-12, 2008 meeting to appoint Mr. Bernie Olson to the K-College Workgroup should have been a recommendation, but the minutes reflected correctly what occurred at the meeting.

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda if Requested

Executive Secretary Steve Meloy requested to pull the financial report from the consent agenda. He pointed out the 2% over expenditure according to the elapsed time as a result of the NASBE dues. Mr. Steve Meloy also noted the reorganization that occurred moving into one program with three different orgs.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the consent agenda as amended. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed 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, Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe represented Commissioner Sheila Stearns, and Ms. Jan Lombardi represented Governor Schweitzer. 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; Mr. Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT; Mr. Dale Kimmel, Accreditation Specialist, OPI; Mr. Al McMilin, Educator Quality Program Specialist, OPI; Mr. Bill Sykes, MSDB; Mr. Steve Gettel, Superintendent, MSDB; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Ms. Kim Warrick, Middle School/At-Risk Specialist, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, Library Media/Information Literacy Specialist, OPI; Mr. Michael Hall, Curriculum and Instruction Unit Manager, OPI; Mr. Darrell Rud, SAM; Ms. Cathy

Kendall, Health Enhancement Division, OPI; Ms. Kris Wilkinson, LFD; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Mr. Willy Schauman, Accreditation Accountability, OPI; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI; Dr. Bruce Messinger, Superintendent of Helena School District; Mr. Dave Puyear, MREA; Mr. Joe Furshong, Helena School District; Mr. Marvin Williams, Helena School District; Ms. Penelope Strong, Attorney; Mr. Bob Runkel, OPI; Mr. Daniel Bowerly, teacher; Ms. Kathleen Magone, Attorney, OPI; Mr. Andrew Huppert, Attorney, OPI; Mr. T.J. Eyer, OPI; Mr. Brad Eldredge, OCHE; Dr. Stanley Rabinowitz, WestEd; Ms. Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, OPI; Ms. Susan Bailey-Anderson, Unit Manager – Special Ed Professional Development, OPI; and Dr. Susan Brookhart.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Items are presented in the order in which they appeared.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Patty Myers

Ms. Patty Myers extended sincere congratulations to Mr. Peter Donovan for being honored with the Governor's Award of Excellence. Ms. Patty Myers attended the following since the last Board of Public Education meeting:

- October 16, 2008 Teacher of the Year Banquet – Missoula, MT
- October 16 - 17, 2008 MEA-MFT Conference – Missoula, MT
- October 29, 2008 MSDB Committee Meeting – Great Falls, MT
- October 30, 2008 Blue Ribbon School Celebration – Great Falls, MT

MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE

Ms. Patty Myers and Ms. Sharon Carroll have agreed to participate in the Math and Science Initiative. The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) has proposed a collaborative of member institutions to increase the number, diversity, and quality of science and mathematics teachers prepared annually to meet needs as the nation and the state strive to sustain the desired quality of life and global competitiveness. The national challenge is to determine the actual and developing need in the state and putting a straightforward plan of action together to address the identified need. The initiative will help find ways to ensure retention of current and future teachers for long-term success and develop innovative pedagogies and materials to enhance any success.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION APPEARANCES

Ms. Angela McLean

- September 26, 2008 Board of Regents Meeting – Butte, MT
- September 26, 2008 Educator's Forum – Helena, MT
- October 16, 2008 Teacher of the Year Banquet – Missoula, MT
- October 16 – 17, 2008 MEA-MFT Conference – Missoula, MT
- October 25, 2008 WMC-UM Accreditation Review – Dillon, MT

Dr. Kirk Miller

- September 26, 2008 Educator's Forum – Helena, MT
- October 3, 2008 MCEL Presentation Conference Call Planning Meeting
- October 15 – 16, 2008 MCEL – Billings, MT
- October 16 – 19, 2008 NASBE Annual Conference – Alexandria, VA
- October 20, 2008 Class 8 Implementation Working Group Conference Call

Ms. Sharon Carroll

- October 16, 2008 Teacher of the Year Banquet – Missoula, MT
- October 16 – 17, 2008 MEA-MFT Conference – Missoula, MT

Mr. Bernie Olson

- September 15, 2008 MSDB Foundation Meeting – Great Falls, MT
- October 29, 2008 MSDB Committee Meeting Conference Call

Mr. Cal Gilbert

- October 29, 2008 MSDB Committee Meeting Conference Call

Ms. Katie Wood

- October 20 – 22, 2008 State Student Council Convention – Belgrade, MT

Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT - Steve Meloy

- September 17, 2008 Chapter 57 Working Meeting
- September 30, 2008 MT Learning First Alliance Meeting
- October 2, 2008 LFD Budget Meeting
- October 2, 2008 Class 8 Implementation
- October 9, 2008 Healthy Schools Network
- October 9, 2008 LFD Performance Subcommittee
- October 10, 2008 Class 8 Implementation Plan Working Session
- October 10, 2008 MT School Nurses Association
- October 15 – 18, 2008 NASBE Annual Conference – Alexandria, VA
- October 20, 2008 Class 8 Implementation Working Group Conference Call
- October 23 – 24, 2008 CSPAC and Joint CSPAC/Council of Deans – Missoula, MT
- October 29, 2008 MSDB Committee Conference Call
- November 5, 2008 MT Learning First Alliance Meeting
- November 7, 2008 Legislative Audit Division Meeting

Mr. Steve Meloy extended his thanks to the Board of Public Education Members for all of their participation and involvement in the committees they represent. The work that they do is greatly appreciated and certainly recognized.

The Board of Public Education completed its audit for the two fiscal years ended June 30, 2008 with two recommendations: Record expenditures related to rent and payroll in the proper year according to state accounting law and policy; and implement procedures for monitoring and testing its internal control procedures. Mr. Steve Meloy reported to address these recommendations: The Board of Public Education will receive a monthly bill directly from the landlord rather than the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board will work with the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind to address assessing each other’s internal control procedures.

Mr. Steve Meloy presented the Board with a copy of the draft strategic planning document for 2008-2013. Ms. Patty Myers requested that the Board members review and provide Mr. Meloy with some specific feedback as a homework assignment.

LFD PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Each agency is required to complete the Performance Measurement Report from the Legislative Fiscal Division. Due to the partnership with the Office of Public Instruction, legislative performance measures 1a, 1b, and 1c are almost complete. Legislative performance measure 2 states: “Monitor All Content and Performance Standards – 100 percent of schools will be in compliance by the Board of Public Education’s March meeting each year as measured by the Annual Accreditation Process; Appendix E-1 of the Montana School Accreditation Standards and Procedures Manual. The Legislative Fiscal Division’s narrative states that a progress report is needed. The comments state: “The agency appears to be on track with the performance measures for revising and monitoring standards in Math, Library Media, Technology, Distance Learning, and Teacher Licensure. However, additional work needs to be completed for the accreditation standards. Some of the data requested by Dr. Kirk Miller was included in this performance report. This data shows that slightly more than one-half of the public school students

were served by schools with some level of accreditation issues in 2007-08 (Regular w/Deviations, Advice, or Deficiency). What is not addressed by this performance report is the strategy that the Board of Public Education will employ or recommends be employed to reduce non-compliance accreditation and work towards its goal of 100 percent compliance. The Legislative Fiscal Committee may wish to request a follow up report from the agency that addresses ongoing accreditation issues and how these issues can best be resolved." Mr. Steve Meloy will draft a narrative to the committee explaining the complexities of this measure. Ms. Angela McLean requested that the Board of Public Education compile a database that would contain some of the following information: The accreditation request; the action of the Board; the number of students impacted, the school impacted; and the size of the school. This will ensure consistency and have the information readily available to the Board at each meeting. Mr. Steve Meloy expressed his caution about tying funding to standards.

LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE

Mr. Peter Donovan and Mr. Steve Meloy continue to attend the Learning First Alliance meetings and are participating in a subgroup to set up some bylaws to determine the purpose of the alliance. This needs to be accomplished before the Board of Public Education becomes committed. A draft of the Montana Learning First Alliance Constitution was provided. Some purposes of the alliance mentioned were: Receive and administer general and special grants; disseminate research results; promote a full exchange of information; and promote the leadership and strengthening general education programs. Some alliance members to date include: American Association of College for Teacher Education; American Association of School Administrators; American Association of School Personnel Administrators; American Federation of Teachers; American School Counselor Association; National Association of State Boards of Education; National School Boards Association; National Association of Elementary School Principals; National Association of Secondary School Principals; and more.

Item 3 CSPAC REPORT - Peter Donovan

Mr. Peter Donovan reported that the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana in Missoula has been designated one of about 200 Confucius Institutes in over 50 countries and regions around the world by the Office of Chinese Language Council, PRC. The Language Council provides limited funding to Confucius Institutes to enable them to develop programs for K-12 educational systems in Chinese language, culture, and history. Mr. Bob Brown has offered to present to the Board of Public Education at a future meeting if interested. The Board requested that Mr. Donovan ask Mr. Brown to make a presentation during the BPE meeting in January 2009.

Mr. Peter Donovan provided additional information to the Board in regard to the School Staffing Module which is the data project that is being coordinated by the Office of Public Instruction. Ms. Elizabeth Keller, Ms. Linda Atwood, and Mr. Peter Donovan have submitted a grant application to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The CCSSO is offering small grants to states in the Data Quality Standards Project. This project provides funds for states to participate in personnel exchanges. If the grant is approved, then they will be able to travel to Oregon to review the school staffing database which appears to have the features that the state of Montana is hoping to incorporate in the Montana School Staffing Module. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan provided more information during Item 22 of this meeting.

Some topics discussed at the Joint CSPAC/Council of Deans Meeting on October 23, 2008 included the following: Math/Science Initiative; perception of teacher shortages; transferability of credits between state universities and universal course numbering; and Chapter 57.

CSPAC BYLAWS (Action)

Ms. Patty Myers pulled the CSPAC Bylaws action item and Item 27 from the November 2008 BPE meeting. Mr. Steve Meloy stated that these items were on the agenda because the legislative audit inquired about the creation of advisory councils MCA 2-15-122(10) that states "an advisory council may not be created to remain in existence longer than 2 years after the date of its creation or beyond the period required to receive federal or private funds, whichever occurs later, unless extended by the appoint authority in the manner set forth in subsection (1). If the existence of an advisory council is extended, the appointing authority shall specify a new date, not more than 2 years later, when the

existence of the advisory council ends and file a record of the order in the office of the governor and the office of the secretary of state. The existence of any advisory council may be extended as many times as necessary." The auditors contacted their attorney and determined that this didn't apply to the Board of Public Education and CSPAC, but the auditors never relayed that determination back to the Board. CSPAC believed its bylaws needed to be changed and the Board of Public Education believed that it needed to take action to extend CSPAC and continue to do so every two years. Mr. Eric Feaver stated that CSPAC was created by legislative action and therefore does not need to be renewed every two years pursuant to MCA 2-15-122(10). Discussion continued about whether or not MACIE would fall under the renewal of MCA 2-15-122(10). State Superintendent Linda McCulloch stated that she would gather the history of MACIE to present to the Board of Public Education.

INTERPRETER WORKGROUP

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council along with the Office of Public Instruction called together the Sign language Interpreters' Working Group Meeting on October 8, 2008. Mr. Peter Donovan explained that before placing the language into Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) format, the group would have to review the rules, discuss the proficiency on the (Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), and look at the potential access to training. The chair of the workgroup, Dr. Doug Reisig will revise the proposed rules with the suggested changes and present to the next Interpreter Workgroup meeting on November 14, 2008. Mr. Donovan believed that the workgroup would be coming to the Board soon with a recommendation.

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

Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe, Deputy Commissioner for Two-Year Education, announced her excitement in the Board of Public Education being involved in the Math and Science Initiative. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education continues to work on developing common course numbers for 12 disciplines by the time the legislature reconvenes in January 2009. If a course has been determined to be equivalent they will have the same title and number. This is part of the transfer initiative and the ones completed can be found on the Commissioner of Higher Education's website at <http://mus.edu/transfer/index2.asp>.

Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe departed at 10:35 a.m.

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

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch expressed her appreciation to the Board of Public Education for the relationships developed within the last 8 years and the Board's vigilance for its leadership in being mindful of its constitutional duties. She continued to say that Montana's education system will remain in good hands with the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction with Ms. Denise Juneau at the helm, and all of the educational partners.

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch provided the Board with the highlights of her activities for September and October. In addition, she provided information on the following: Read for the Record Montana; Huntley Project High School Donations; Warren Miller Freedom Foundation Program; 2008 Blue Ribbon Schools; Healthier U.S. Schools; 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); New Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program; Free Fire Prevention and Safety Interactive CD; AIM Montana Edition Training; AIM-Fall Attendance Collection from October 6 to October 24, 2008; MAEFAIRS Fall Enrollment Count; AIM and MAEFAIRS; October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week; Rigorous Core Brochure; 2008 Facts about Montana Education; 2009 Montana Teacher of the Year; NBC Teacher Stipends; Milken Educator Award; Centennial Bell Award; Presidential Awards for Excellent in Mathematics and Science Teaching; 2008 Montana Student Mock Election; Montana School Directory; October JUMP Newsletter; English Language Proficiency Assessment, and Montana Cover Story.

A schedule of site reviews of Montana Professional Education Units was presented according to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and State Professional Education Unit Reviews.

- October 5-8, 2008 Completed MSU-Bozeman State Review and anticipates presentation of the exit report to BPE in January 2009
- October 25-29, 2008 Completed NCATE/State Joint Review at UM-Western and anticipates presentation of the exit report to BPE in March 2009
- April 14-17, 2009 State Review at MSU-Northern
- Fall 2009 Focused State Review at Salish Kootenai College
- Spring 2010 NCATE/State Joint Review at MSU-Billings

INDIAN EDUCATION REPORT

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch reported on the following items: Grants for Professional Development; Indian Education for All Professional Development at MEA-MFT Educators Conference; Call to Greatness IV; and New Tribal History Document. Other topics included under the Indian Education for All Ongoing Initiatives from July 2007 to November 2008: Ready-To-Go IEFA Professional Development Grants 2008; Montana University System Teacher Education Professional Development Grants 2008; Indian Education for All Museum Educator Best Practices Program II; Indian Education for All Museum Educator Best Practices Program: A "Museum-Educator Best Practices Handbook"; and Montana Council for Teacher of Mathematics (MCTM) and Montana Science Teachers Association (MSTA).

Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - Katie Wood

Ms. Katie Wood attended the State Student Council Convention in Belgrade, Montana, October 20-22, 2008. Approximately \$22,000 was raised and donated to the Make-a-Wish Foundation; workshops were very interesting; and speakers, such as the Lieutenant Governor, were terrific. Elementary students were able to leave their "print" on a tile for the new dinosaur park that is located between Bozeman and Belgrade. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith and Ms. Gale Kramlick from the Office of Public Instruction worked with Ms. Katie Wood to put the Student Representative's Survey Report on the OPI website.

Item 8 SCHOOL WELLNESS REPORT - Cathy Kendall, Bob Vogel, and Steve Meloy

For several years the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has collaborated with the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) and the Board of Public Education (BPE) through the Healthy Schools Network to support health and wellness initiatives. During 2007 and 2008 these groups have been involved with the Montana Team Asthma project to inform and provide technical assistance to school districts to encourage creation of asthma-friendly environments. The report described the completed activities and the plans for the next 12-18 months. The second topic addressed indoor air quality and the potential for providing technical assistance and resources to schools through partnership with the Children's environmental Health Network, Department of Environmental Quality and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Cathy Kendall distributed a resource guide titled Creating Asthma Friendly Schools in Montana. Significant pages mentioned by Mr. Bob Vogel were: p. 7 the Montana Authorization to Possess or Self-Administer Asthma, Severe Allergy, or Anaphylaxis Medication; p. 8, the Montana Student Asthma Action Plan; and p. 10, the Montana School Board Association Model Asthma/Allergy Medication Policy. These documents outline the responsibilities of administering medications. The resource guide was attached to a clip board that lists the steps in responding to an exercise induced asthma attack.

Ms. Cathy Kendall stated that two pilot training programs for school office staff have been set up in Havre and Great Falls, Montana. The attendance exceeded the expectations. She stressed that the office staff is usually the first resource because the chances of the school nurse actually being available in the school at the time during an emergency is slim. Mr. Steve Meloy notified the Board that Ms. Sue Buswell, R.N., M.S. will be presenting at the January Board of Public Education Meeting to discuss the issue of Montana school districts being under served by nurses. Other topics discussed were airflow systems and other environmental issues.

State Superintendent Elect Denise Juneau arrived at 11:45 a.m.

- November 2008 1st Progress Report to BPE
- February 2009 2nd OPI On-Site Team Visit
- March 2009 2nd Progress Report to BPE
- April 2009 3rd OPI On-Site Team Visit
- May 2009 3rd Progress Report to BPE
- July 2009 Final BPE Action if all accreditation standards have been met
- August 2009 School Opens

The Culture of Lone Peak High School and the Grassroots Grow a High School documents were distributed to the Board. Dr. Kirk Miller stressed that the Lone Peak High School is very student centered; he supports their work towards accreditation and believes that Bozeman will recover from the loss of students to its district.

Item 11 REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AREAS REPORT - Susan Bailey-Anderson and Al McMilin

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education an update on the development of regional education service areas for Montana. This ongoing project has been supporting the development of five regional educational service areas in Montana that will address the challenges and limitations that are presented by the geographic size and rural nature of Montana to the effective and efficient delivery of these high-quality professional development opportunities. Each area represents a partnership between major professional development providers. These partnerships include institutions of higher education, non-profit educational professional organizations, curriculum consortiums, collaboratives organized under special education’s Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), and major school districts. To date, three regional service areas are operational.

- Region 5 - Western Montana – Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (WM-CSPD)
- Region 2 - Montana North Central Educational Service Region (MNCESR)
- Region 3 – Southern Montana Alliance for Resources and Training (SMART)

Pamphlets were distributed on the operational regional services listed above. Discussion ensued about the need to provide legislators with this information to let them know what is being done to streamline professional development services. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith requested that the Board of Public Education stand shoulder to shoulder in the upcoming legislative hearings to seek additional funding for regions 1 and 4. Other topics included the level of conductivity in the regions and whether or not this will help address schools not meeting the accreditation standards.

Item 12 WEB-BASED FIVE-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION PLAN UPDATE - Willy Schauman, Michael Hall, and Al McMilin

The Office of Public Instruction provided to the Board of Public Education a demonstration of the Web-based Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan (5YCEP). The development, testing, production, and evaluation of this new format continues to gain momentum. OPI anticipates the launch of the Web-based 5YCEP early in 2009. With support and guidance from OPI, Montana districts, and schools will complete the Web-based 5YCEP by December 31, 2009.

The 5YCEP process helps to ensure “continuous education improvement” in every school district across Montana. First and foremost the process relies on relevant data for districts and schools to set and measure clear goals to improve achievement of all students.

The ultimate goal of the 5YCEP will be reached when districts and schools develop, implement, and evaluate a single, comprehensive education improvement plan that includes state and federal programs. The Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education continue to work toward this goal: A district and school focused, single, comprehensive education improvement plan that improves teaching and learning for all.

The next steps for the Office of Public Instruction:

- Finalize the Web-base 5YCEP

- Test – OPI staff
- Test – Volunteer school district personnel
- Conduct “How to” workshops using face-to-face, videoconference, video streaming, Adobe connect
- Launch Web-based 5YCEP
- Develop and deliver technical assistance to support the completion of the 5YCEP by December 31, 2009
- Provide ongoing support

The Web-based 5YCEP is organized around the 9 Correlates of Effective Schools Research. The Correlates are organized under three categories: Academic Performance, Learning Environment, and Efficiency. Completion of the 5YCEP will be done at the three category levels, as well as the nine correlates. The sub-correlate level is where the district and school data is provided. The new program has three types of data. Most of the data is pre-filed through the Office of Public Instruction databases. Some of the data needs to be provided by the school/district and can be uploaded.

In the past districts had to manually enter this information, the document 5YCEP would be completed and collect dust on the shelf. Now it is being used as a digital tool that acts as a living document that promotes productivity, communication, and coordination with other district plans. The document is available online 24/7 to allow for modification as needed and promotes usability. Discussion ensued about keeping school districts informed in regard to whether or not they need to complete the effectiveness report. Mr. Al McMilin stated that the effectiveness report needs to be completed until the Web-based Five-year Comprehensive Education Plan is completely in effect.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 13 STANDARDS/CURRICULUM PROGRESS REPORT - Michael Hall

The curriculum specialists in the Curriculum and Instruction Unit are actively working with standards, model curriculum and professional development. A few examples of their work include: providing leadership and facilitating the process to revise the Montana K-12 content standards and performance descriptors; providing the professional development implementation levels for the standards; and the development of the Essential Learning Expectations.

Mr. Michael Hall, Technology Specialist indicated that the primary work focus for the Essential Learning Expectations (ELEs) for the Technology standards are to complete the draft standards by December 2008 and the Gifted Education services through the Response to Intervention is under development. Ms. Colet Bartow, Library Media/Information Literacy Specialist stated that the ELEs for Library Media/Information Literacy standards are expected to be completed by December 2008. Ms. Kim Warrick, Middle School/At-Risk Specialist addressed that the middle grades publication is currently being disseminated, middle grades through high schools Response to Intervention is underway, and is working with the National Association of Middle Schools to bring middle grades specific professional development to Montana teachers.

Mr. Michael Hall presented the primary work focus for the remaining Curriculum and Instruction Specialist for those who either couldn't attend or haven't been hired at this time.

- Ms. Katie Burke, Science Specialist – ELEs for Science K-12 revisions to the draft are expected to be completed by December 2008 and level 1 workshop training of trainers is being done regionally
- Ms. Jean Howard, Mathematics – Focus groups have been completed and nominations are currently being selected for the writers in the revision process for the Mathematics Content Standards and the work on the revisions will begin November 14, 2008
- Ms. Julie Ferro, Consultant for Communication Arts – Communication Arts Standards revisions are beginning in November by holding focus groups and with the recruitment of writers. The anticipated beginning work on the revision is January 2009

- Recruitment continues for the Early Childhood Education and Communication Arts Specialist
- A completed draft of the Montana Full-Time Kindergarten Model Curriculum was distributed to the Board and at the Second Annual Full-Time Kindergarten Conference in August 2008

The specialists want to be in the field to ask and answer questions to meet the needs for educators. Ms. Angela McLean requested that the specialist keep civic education and a curriculum related to those with disabilities in the forefront of discussions.

Item 14 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT REPORT - Nancy Coopersmith

The report included the findings of the U.S. Department of Education April 2008 on-site review of the Office of Public Instruction ESEA Title II, Part A program and Office of Public Instruction's response to the findings. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith expressed her pride in the Office of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, educational partners, and Montana educators. She then referred to a letter dated May 22, 2008 to State Superintendent Linda McCulloch from James Butler, the group leader of the Teacher Quality Programs from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs, that stated "the [US] Department [of Education] has identified areas in which further action is required. Of particular concern is that Montana has not assessed the highly qualified status of special education teachers who teach core content classes, as required by both NCLB and IDEA, and the State indicated in its December 2008 Consolidated State Performance Report submission that the reported data did not include core academic subject classes taught by special education teachers. As a consequence, the data that the State has reported to the Department and to the public are inaccurate, parents may not have been properly notified when their children have been taught by teachers who are not highly qualified, and Montana may not have correctly applied accountability provisions in districts that have not met HQT goals."

The monitoring report from OPI dated April 8-9, 2008 concerning the Highly Qualified Teachers and Improving Teacher Quality State Grants (ESEA Title II, Part A) were distributed. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith went through every critical element that had the status of "Finding" or "Recommendations" and described the requirement for each. A document was provided that described Montana's plan and timeline to address each critical element. Discussion ensued about the state's recourse, continued high levels of student achievement, notifying parents and schools, banding together with western states to share resources, hindering the confidence in public education, and the Friedman Foundation's Survey on school choice.

In conclusion, a letter dated July 14, 2008 from State Superintendent Linda McCulloch to the U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings was distributed. The letter was to request an approval of flexibility under Section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act. The proposal was to permit the State of Montana, given its uniquely rural character, to apply on a statewide basis the flexibility extended by the Secretary of Education's letter of March 31, 2004, to school districts eligible under the Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program on a nation-wide basis.

Item 15 2008 NASBE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Dr. Kirk Miller and Steve Meloy

Mr. Steve Meloy notified the Board that the current NCSBE President that served in 2008-2009 exercised her option to serve the second year of her presidency. Mr. Meloy graciously agreed and will serve the 2009-2010 term. Some points addressed were: Alaska, difficulty meeting the requirements of NCLB; Utah, addressing ethic code violations; Rhode Island, budget reductions; Wyoming, experiencing a 25% dropout rate; Delaware, moving to on-line formative assessments; and Mississippi, striving to reduce the dropout rate by 13% by 2013. A handout was distributed concerning *Student Free Speech*. Dr. Kirk Miller stated that the general session speakers were outstanding. A breakout session that Dr. Kirk Miller referred to was conducted by Mr. Frank Phillip, CCSSO, who talked about summative and formative assessment that is on target with our work on assessment. Dr. Kirk Miller came away from that session with an analogy that stated the difference between summative and formative assessment is the difference between an autopsy versus a physical. The summative assessments are after the fact, you are dead and

an autopsy is needed to identify what are the causes of death. Formative assessments are like physicals that are preventative in nature to evaluate and adjust what can be done to prevent the end result of an autopsy. In conclusion, Dr. Kirk Miller cast the NASBE election of officers vote on behalf of the Board per directed.

5:30 p.m. Meeting concluded for the day

November 7, 2008 – Friday

8:30 a.m.

Deputy Superintendent Bud William represented State Superintendent Linda McCulloch

8:35 a.m. meeting resumed

Item 17 TWO-YEAR EDUCATION REPORT: THE NEW TECH PREP – A HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE SUCCESS STORY - Mary Sheehy Moe, Bob Runkel, T.J. Eyer, and Brad Eldredge

Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe, Mr. Bob Runkel, Mr. T.J. Eyer, and Mr. Brad Eldredge stated that Montana is creating the Next Generation of Career and Technical Education, a system of high quality educational options that will support a skilled and competitive workforce for the 21st Century. The key activities underway in Montana to implement the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, a source of approximately \$6 million in federal funds for Career and Technical Education (CTE) offered in school districts and two-year colleges in Montana. Under this new State Plan for CTE, over time many of the Montana's CTE offerings will be merged into new "Big Sky Pathways" – model programs of study that include academic and CTE content and that connects to Montana's two-year postsecondary institutions and also its state university programs. In addition, during implementation of the new Perkins Act, all CTE programs (at the high school and postsecondary levels) will benefit from upgraded curriculum, high quality technology, and ongoing training to help CTE teachers demonstrate excellence in their knowledge of current industry standards and good teaching practices. Tech Prep will be shifted from a regional service area approach to having a single Tech Prep Consortium with statewide activities around six broad career fields. Members of the consortium will focus on developing model *Big Sky Pathways* that will be adopted by partners in the consortium, and will also be available for use by other school districts and two-year postsecondary institutions within Montana.

The Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) and the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) are working closely on joint program development and oversight. The agencies are creating a joint leadership structure ("*the State CTE Executive Leadership Team*") to provide ongoing review of state activities and progress in improving CTE programs. This joint leadership structure will be informed by the ongoing involvement of a newly formed *State CTE Advisory Committee*.

The state plan for implementation of the Perkins Act focused on the following issues:

- *Implementing Career and Technical Education Plans of Study;*
- *Re-organizing Tech Prep to Support Big Sky Pathways;*
- *Strengthening Accountability for Results;*
- *Assessing Career and Technical Skills;*
- *Integrating Academic and CTE Skills and Knowledge;*
- *Transforming Professional Development, Recruitment and Retention of CTE Teachers;*
- *Ensuring Effective Instruction and Strategies for Special Populations; and*
- *Connecting CTE to Employers and Workforce Priorities.*

The implementation of the Perkins Act by Montana's CTE teachers, faculty members and administrators is a key element to building a skilled and competitive workforce in Montana. Montana's state agencies responsible for CTE are committed to providing the leadership, support and professional development to help CTE educators succeed in this endeavor.

8:50 a.m. Ms. Jan Lombardi arrived

Big Sky Pathways 101 was a PowerPoint that was presented to the Board. The Big Sky Pathway Model will be available on the Office of Public Instruction's website February 15, 2009.

The Montana State Executive Leadership Team (SELT) includes the following: Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe, OCHE; Mr. Bob Runkle, OPI; Mr. Brad Eldredge, OCHE; Mr. T.J. Eyer, OPI; Ms. Jane Karas, FVCC; and Mr. John Cech, Billings COT. Mr. T. J. Eyer stressed that it is a federal requirement for schools who receive Carl Perkins funding to have at least one plan of study. Each school must submit an application and supply evidence of the tech prep program. He also wants to ensure that the size of school doesn't affect its access to this tech prep program. Common course number was discussed in support of this effort.

9:15 a.m. Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe departed

Item 18 ASSESSMENT SURVEY REPORT - Stanley Rabinowitz

This report presented the results of the statewide survey of educators to identify needs for state and local assessment. Ms. Judy Snow introduced Dr. Stanley Rabinowitz from WestEd, a nationally recognized independent organization that leads in standards, assessment, accountability development, and evaluation in over half of the United States. Dr. Rabinowitz presented the Future of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MONTCAS): Results of a Statewide Survey. He reviewed the survey process, survey structure, demographic results, CRT Program Results; and Formative Results. Dr. Rabinowitz stated the following conclusions:

- Demographics: Response to the survey was large and demographically diverse, representing the geographic breadth of Montana and a range of school types and roles in education. However, because of the voluntary, on-line administration process, the sample is certainly not random and cannot be assumed to be fully representative of the state's population. Thus, results must be generalized with caution.
- CRT Program: The respondents reported themselves to be highly familiar with the various components and feature of the CRT program, less so with the CRT-Alt. Moderate satisfaction was found with the existing program. Little support was found to expand the program into additional content areas. No consensus emerged on possible next steps as the CRT program evolves.
- Formative Assessment: The respondents reported significant activity around the state over the past several years. They indicated support for more professional development opportunities and for dissemination of best practices and item banks. Little desire was expressed for a formal state role in monitoring local formative assessment practices.

The next steps are to discuss findings around the state, delve more deeply into reasons for satisfaction and dissatisfaction, develop policies to increase satisfaction from current moderate level, and greater support for local formative assessment activities. Discussion ensued about when high school math assessments should be given, writing assessment, formative assessment, and professional development. In conclusion, Dr. Rabinowitz addressed a balance assessment system that has a formal accountability role for the state test, the CRT in its current or future form, and then the Board and OPI should provide guidance and resources for local follow-up based on the valid and reliable information of the CRT accountability program. Dr. Kirk Miller referred to the NRT as the "autopsy that explains assessment of" and the CRT that is more like the "physical". The Board needs to define "assessment for" and should incorporate formative assessment.

Item 19 NORM-REFERENCE TEST (NRT) DATA ANALYSIS REPORT - Sue Brookhart

This report provided an analysis of seven years of Norm-Reference Test (Iowa Tests) data. Ms. Judy Snow introduced Dr. Susan Brookhart to present the Skill Level Results for Montana ITBS and ITED: 2001-2007 for Grades 4, 8, and 11. The Montana Office of Public Instruction requested analysis of the

skill level results for the Iowa Tests taken by Montana students in grades 4, 8, and 11 from 2001-2007, in five subjects and reference skills, to determine patterns by grade in performance over time and to inform policymakers regarding areas of strength, weakness, and growth in content area strands. Fifty skills in Grade 4, 54 skills in Grade 8, and 28 skills in Grade 11, in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Reference Materials, were described in this report. The Technical Report and its Appendix provided the details. The news is generally excellent. The following table summarized the performance.

Summary of Skill Levels and Trends 2001 - 2007

Trend 2001-2007	Much Above Norm (by .40 S.D. or better)	Above Norm (by .10 - .39 S.D.)	At Norm
Increasing	Grade 4-5 skills	Grade 4 – 15 skills Grade 8 – 4 skills Grade 11 – 1 skill	Grade 4 - 2 skills
Stable	Grade 4 – 6 skills Grade 11 – 9 skills	Grade 4 – 19 skills Grade 8 – 35 skills Grade 11 – 7 skills	Grade 8 – 14 skills Grade 11 – 5 skills
Decreasing	Grade 11 – 4 skills	Grade 4 – 3 skills Grade 8 – 1 skill Grade 11 – 2 skills	

Dr. Brookhart stated the following points in regard to all three grades (4, 8, and 11):

- Montana students scored above the norm on most skills (84% of the 132 skills tested).
- Montana students' skills were mostly stable from 2001 to 2007 (72% or increasing (20%). Only 8% of tested skills decreased.
- Diving skills crassly into “good news” and “acceptable” – with “good news” skills being anything much above the norm, or anything above the norm that is stable or increasing, and “acceptable” skills being those above the norm but decreasing or at the norm, an interesting pattern emerges. The “acceptable” skills totaled only 27 out of 132 (21%), and *all but three* of those were rote or mechanics-type skills (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, math computation) that are not well aligned with the Montana Content and Performance Standards.
- The skills measured by the ITBS and ITED represent a subset of the educational goals embodied in the Montana Content and Performance Standards. The content area where the ITBS and ITED aligned best was Mathematics. The content area where the ITBS and ITED aligned least was Language Arts; tested skills were mostly about the mechanics of writing and editing.

In conclusion, Dr. Brookhart recommends that OPI investigate two questions:

1. From a curriculum perspective, it would be useful to understand what caused the dramatic increase in Grade 4 mathematics skills. What happened in Grade 4 mathematics, beginning in 2004-2005?
2. From a curriculum perspective, it would be useful to understand why most of the skills for which Montana students are “merely” at the norm were rote memory and mechanics skills. Does this represent a curriculum philosophy of encouraging higher order thinking and subordinating mechanical skills? Does this represent the effects of the Montana Content Standards on curriculum choices? Or is it merely how students with overall above-the-norm scholastic aptitudes test out? More information about how the Montana Content Standards are being used might help with this question.

Discussion centered on answering the first question as the result of implementing the CRT.

The Assessment Task Force announced the following members at the BPE's September 2008 meeting:

Sharon Carroll scarroll@midrivers.com

Cindy Quade	cquade_98@yahoo.com
Bobbie Barrett	barrettb@wfps.k12.mt.us
Josh Middleton	josh_middleton@laurel.k12.mt.us
Cal Gilbert	cal_gilbert@gfps.k12.mt.us
Gail McGregor	mcgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu
Madalyn Quinlan	mquinlan@mt.gov
Bud Williams	budwilliams@mt.gov
Judy Snow	jsnow@mt.gov

Ms. Annette Moody from Hardin, MT replaced Ms. Cindy Quade on the Assessment Task Force. The next meeting will be held November 24, 2008.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Capitol's bell rang for 60 seconds to honor Ms. Joanne Berry for receiving the 19th Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award that acknowledged her significant contribution to her students' understanding and appreciation of Montana history. Ms. Joanne Berry and her 7th grade students from Moore, MT were welcomed and congratulated by the Board of Public Education.

Item 20 PROGRESS ON CLASS 8 IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS - Linda Vrooman Peterson, Bud Williams, and Peter Donovan

At the September Board of Public Education meeting it adopted into Administrative Rules of Montana the Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Postsecondary Faculty License. This presentation provided to the Board information relating to the implementation of this new rule. The Office of Public Instruction established the Class 8 Implementation Advisory Committee. Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Bud Williams serves as chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Class 8 Implementation Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Office of Public Instruction about the process for implementing and administering the Class 8 License. Members of the Implementation Advisory Committee includes: Larry Baker, Montana Council of Deans of Education; Lynette Zuroff, Montana Council of Deans of Education; Jane Karas, Flathead Valley Community College; Tom Gibson, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education; Darrell Rud, School Administrators of Montana; Janet Thomson, Montana Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; Dan Zorn, School Administrators of Montana; Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association; Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association; Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association; and Kirk Miller, Board of Public Education. The Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Postsecondary Faculty License Application will require the following areas:

- Verification of Employment Eligibility
- Character and Fitness Information
- Evidence of Eligibility for Licensure and Endorsement(s)
- Evidence of meeting or exceeding the requirements of ARM 10.58.501

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 16 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT - Steve Gettel

1. Student Enrollment/Evaluation
2. Human Resources
 - Personnel actions
3. School Improvement
 - Update on strategic planning process
 - Update on other program issues
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 maintenance projects
- 9. School Calendar of Events
- 10. Student News

ACTION ITEMS

Item 23 ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARD REQUESTS - Al McMilin and Dale Kimmet

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education for consideration of the Initial Alternative Standard and/or Five-Year Renewal Alternative Standard Requests recommended either for approval or for disapproval by State Superintendent Linda McCulloch. The following five-year renewal alternative standard application represents the Bozeman Public School District in Gallatin County with the six following schools that have been evaluated in accordance with ARM 10.55.604:

Emily Dickinson	K-5	Current Enrollment:	504
Hawthorne	K-5	Current Enrollment:	314
Irving	K-5	Current Enrollment:	299
Longfellow	K-5	Current Enrollment:	324
Morning Star	K-5	Current Enrollment:	532
Whittier	K-5	Current Enrollment:	310

Mr. Al McMilin stressed that the Bozeman Elementary counseling model continues to be a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to providing the necessary components of an elementary counseling program. The district’s K-5 guidance curriculum adequately addresses the components of the School Counseling Program Delivery Standards. The delivery model addresses the delivery standards’ components dealing with individual and group counseling, crisis and intervention counseling, and consultation services for staff. The review team did identify three areas for recommendations and follow-up:

1. It was not clear how the district was assessing the overall effectiveness of the program. The central office did have data for individual schools in a variety of areas but no process to pull it together to look at the program in total. The district needs to develop a comprehensive process to assess and evaluate the program.
2. The assignment of staff with counseling duties should reflect the “need” in a given school not just the enrollment numbers. Whittier was one example. Based on the demographics of the school and the comments from the principal and staff regarding need, the team believes that the school was “underserved.”
3. There needs to be continuing emphasis with staff on the referral process itself. The impression from discussions with some teachers was that they had concluded services that were stretched to the limit; therefore, there was no point in referring a student. This meant that the counseling support system might be unaware of the need for more staffing and services.

The district is addressing each of these recommendations. The team further recommends that a follow-up visit be made in the spring of 2010 to review progress being made in each of these areas. In conclusion, the State Superintendent recommended the approval of the alternative standard request because the proposal meets or exceeds the current standard.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to approve the Five-Year Alternative Standard request renewal for Bozeman Public Schools in Gallatin County because it meets or exceeds the current standard. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Board member Dr. Kirk Miller recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Dale Kimmet presented the Initial Alternative Standard Application representing Helena Public Schools in Lewis & Clark County with the following eleven schools that have been evaluated in accordance with ARM 10.55.604:

Broadwater School	K-5	Current Enrollment:	260
Bryant School	K-5	Current Enrollment:	259
Central School	K-5	Current Enrollment	295
Four Georgians	K-5	Current Enrollment	512
Hawthorne School	K-5	Current Enrollment	246
Jefferson School	K-5	Current Enrollment	234
Jim Darcy School	K-5	Current Enrollment	270
Kessler School	K-5	Current Enrollment	221
Rossiter School	K-5	Current Enrollment	459
Smith School	K-5	Current Enrollment	305
Warren School	K-5	Current Enrollment	260

An attachment was included that illustrates the FTE summary for the Helena Elementary Counseling Program. The school's counseling program addresses the School Counseling Program Area Standards. The developmental component is accomplished through the use of Second Step, bullying and other safety programs during classroom instruction by the counselors. Group and individual counseling and the use of outreach programs are utilized for crisis intervention. Good lines of communication enhance collaboration between staff and counselors. Many other points were made to support meeting or exceeding the current standard. Mr. Dale Kimmet stressed that the team believes the district needs to develop a comprehensive process to assess and evaluate the program. They have agreed to do so and the team will review this component as part of the required on-site visit during the second year (2009-2010) of this initial application process. The State Superintendent recommended the approval of the alternative standard request.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to approve the Initial Alternative Standard request for Helena Public Schools in Lewis & Clark County because it meets or exceeds the current standard 10.55.710 in regard to school counseling. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 24 PROGRESS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ON-SITE ACCREDITATION VISITS FOR SCHOOLS WITH CONTINUING SERIOUS ACCREDITATION DEVIATIONS - Al McMilin and Dale Kimmet

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education a progress report and recommendations regarding on-site accreditation visits for schools with continuing serious accreditation deviations. Remaining report: Cheyenne Tribal Schools. Included was a copy of the completed improvement plan being recommended for approval. In addition, the Accreditation Division reviewed the Annual Data Collection reports for all schools in this category just prior to the Board's meeting to assess the progress each of the schools identified under this category and the progress each is making toward accomplishing its respective improvement plan. These schools include: Valier (all schools), Frazer (all schools), Mount Ellis Academy, Lustre Christian High School, Brockton, and Cheyenne Tribal Schools.

An outlying issue remains to be that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction provides annual recommendations to the Board of Public Education for accreditation status determinations for all Montana accredited schools. The continuing concern is: How does the OPI accreditation staff address continuing deviations fairly, consistently, and with intention toward continuous education improvement? The State Superintendent follows the process approved by the Board to address ongoing accreditation deviations.

Mr. Dale Kimmet stated that Lustre Christian High School and the Cheyenne Tribal Schools have cleared up their unlicensed positions. It was noted that the superintendent at Northern Cheyenne Tribal School is a licensed principal with a Class 3 license. As a private school, Cheyenne Tribal Schools do not have to have an administrator licensed as a superintendent. Mr. Dale Kimmet continued to state that Valier, Frazer, Mount Ellis Academy, and Brockton continue to have licensure issues and they have until December 1, 2008 to correct these issues. Valier hasn't been in compliance for the past 4 years. If the licensure issues are not cleared up by that date, OPI would like permission to notify the school administrator and the chairperson of the board of the deficient school to appear before the Board of

Public Education at its January 2009 meeting. The Office of Public Instruction will be in contact with the Executive Secretary and/or the Chair of the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to approve the State Superintendent's recommendation to request that the school administrator and the chairperson of the board of the schools in continuing deviations be required to appear before the Board of Public Education at the January 8-9, 2009 meeting. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kirk Miller departed at 12:45 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - Jan Lombardi

Some of the many activities that Ms. Jan Lombardi mentioned she and the Governor have been involved with during the last couple of months included: Placed geo signs for the Math and Science Initiative; visited Huntley High School and Anaconda High School; Fairfield High School received a grant for installing a wind turbine to generate electricity for a barn; celebrated an all weather sports complex in Corvallis; worked with the Montana University System to launch the Montana Green Project; worked with the Washington Foundation on strategies for early childhood; annual report on the best and brightest; K-College meeting on December 9, 2008; Children in Nature Summit; and more. Ms. Patty Myers presented the Governor's office with Christmas wreath ornaments made on recycled paper to place on the trees at the Capitol, which the theme is "A Tree for Every Troubled Nation." Many well wishes to Governor Schweitzer for his re-election.

Mr. Storrs Bishop departed at 1:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEM

Item 22 CRITICAL QUALITY EDUCATOR SHORTAGES REPORT - Madalyn Quinlan

In 2007, the Montana Legislature approved the creation of a Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program.

The program was implemented for the first time in the 2007-2008 school year. As part of the ongoing implementation of the program, Section 20-4-503, MCA directs the Board of Public Education, in consultation with the Office of Public Instruction, to identify:

- (a) Specific schools that are impacted by critical quality educator shortages; and,
- (b) Within the schools identified in (a), the specific quality educator licensure or endorsement areas that are impacted by critical quality educator shortages.

Quality educators working in schools that are identified as impacted schools and teaching in licensure or endorsement areas that are impacted by critical quality educator shortages are eligible for loan repayment assistance.

The Board of Public Education is required to publish an annual report listing the schools and the licensure or endorsement areas identified as impacted by critical quality educator shortages, explaining the reasons that specific schools and licensure or endorsement areas have been identified and providing information regarding any success in retention.

This agenda item included a summary of the program implementation for the 2007-2008 school year and an updated annual listing for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Office of Public Instruction requested a bill to be drafted for the 2009 legislative session to define "quality educator" as a full-time equivalent educator, as reported to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for accreditation purposes in the current year. (LC 0375) This remains to be an outlying

issue.

In 2007-2008, Montana school districts reported 1,800 vacancies for all education fields and reported a total of 506 vacancies in these ten areas:

Education Fields Impacted by Critical Quality Educator Shortages in 2007-2008

Rank	Education Field	Total Vacancies	Percent Difficult or Very Hard to Fill	Weighted Score	Total FTE Employed
1	Special Educ.	107	64%	68	887
2	Music	74	73%	54	364
3	Mathematics	71	59%	42	570
4	School Counselor	48	57%	27	451
5	Speech/Language Pathologist	27	100%	27	178
6	Science	54	48%	26	491
7	Library Media	33	75%	25	381
8	World Languages	33	72%	24	156
9	Art	31	62%	19	222
10	Business	28	64%	18	157

The education fields impacted by critical quality educator shortages have not varied much in the past five years. An analysis of the responses to the Personnel Recruitment and Retention Report over the past five years shows nine of the ten fields as the most critical shortage areas. Art is new to the list for 2007-2008. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan requested the Board adopt the report as presented in order to publish. She also noted that April 1st through May 31st is the application timeline. The Office of Public Instruction is proposing legislation to move the eligibility from the previous school year to the present school year. OPI requested support from the Board. Discussion ensued about tracking the teachers who have received this assistance to determine the impact on recruitment and retention.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to approve the November 2008 report to the Board of Public Education titled *Critical Quality Educator Shortages: Identification of Schools and Licensure and Endorsement Areas Impacted by Critical Quality Educator Shortages for the 2008-2009 school year*. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop and Dr. Kirk Miller were absent from the vote.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Item 21 REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAMS – ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE PROPOSES ADDING PROGRAMS FOR ENDORSEMENTS IN ENGLISH EDUCATION MINOR AND A READING MINOR - Linda Vrooman Peterson

The Office of Public Instruction introduced to the Board of Public Education a proposal from Rocky Mountain College to add an English education minor and a reading minor to its education curriculum. A letter received October 15, 2008 from Barbara J. Vail, Ph.D., Director of Education and Associate Academic Vice President, outlines the Rocky Mountain College proposal.

At the Board of Public Education meeting in January 2009, Dr. Barbara Vail will present the descriptions of the proposed programs including minor requirements, course syllabi, and a completed institutional report relating to the specific standards of Chapter 58 – Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards: ARM 10.58.509 English; ARM 10.58.521 Reading Specialist; and ARM 10.58.802 Standards for Approval.

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.

MEETING CLOSED FOR ITEMS 25 – 26

Closed Session at 2:15 p.m.

Item 25 PROPOSED FINDINGS – REVOCATION CASE BPE 2008-04 - Steve Meloy, Andrew D. Huppert, and Respondent

Opened Session at 3:25 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to revoke the teaching license of BPE Case #2008-04 according to the hearing examiner's recommendation in the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order dated October 16, 2008. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop and Dr. Kirk Miller were absent from the vote.

Dr. Kirk Miller Returned at 3:30 p.m.

Closed Session at 3:30 p.m.

Item 26 HEARING - DENIAL CASE BPE 2008-08 - Steve Meloy and Andrew D. Huppert

Opened Session at 4:27 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to uphold the Montana State Superintendent's recommendation to deny a Montana teaching license in the BPE Denial Case #2008-08. Dr. Kirk Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop was absent from the vote.

Item 27 REVISE ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDAR - Steve Meloy
Item is removed from the agenda.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS

5 YCEP Process Update
Exiting Board Member – Last Meeting
Transportation Report
Assessment Update
NCLB Update
MACIE Annual Report
Report on Teacher Education Program
Chapter 57
Class 8 Licensure
Rocky Mountain College – New Programs

MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to adjourn the Montana Board of Public Education meeting at 4:45 p.m. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop was absent from the vote.