

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

March 11-12, 2010

MONTANA STATE CAPITOL
Room 172

March 11, 2010 - Thursday
1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. John Edwards. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Patty Myers noted that items 13, 20, and 21 will be pulled from the agenda. Item 10 will be moved to Friday after Item 16. Item 22 will contain an action item and will be presented by Ms. Patty Myers.

Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to adopt the agenda as revised. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chair Ms. Patty Myers, Ms. Sharon Carroll, Mr. Cal Gilbert, and Mr. John Edwards. 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 included: State Superintendent Denise Juneau; Dr. Sylvia Moore represented Commissioner Sheila Stearns; and Mr. Dan Villa and Ms. Anna Green represented Governor Brian Schweitzer. Visitors in attendance included: Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, Accreditation Division Administrator, OPI; Ms. Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, LFD; Ms. Beck McLaughlin, Education & Web Services Director, Montana Arts Council; Mr. Al McMilin, Accreditation Unit Manager, OPI; Ms. Stacey Howell, Field Representative, Office of Senator Max Baucus; Mr. Eric Feaver, President, MEA-MFT; Ms. Ann Gilkey, Chief Legal Counsel, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, Licensure Specialist, OPI; Ms. Norma Bixby, MACIE; Ms. Chris Emerson, School Nutrition Programs Director, OPI; Ms. Cindy O'Dell, Chairperson, Education Department, Salish Kootenai College; Ms. Regina Sievert, SKC; Dr. Larry Baker, Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Development, MSU-Bozeman; Dr. Joanne Erickson, Interim Department Head, College of Education, MSU-Bozeman; Ms. Sue Buswell, President, Montana Association of School Nurses; Mr. Steve York, Assistant Superintendent, OPI; Mr. Pat Schlaugh, SAF & MHSAC; Ms. Lynn Kelting-Gibson, MSU-Bozeman; Ms. Jayne Downey, MSU-Bozeman, Mr. Bryce Carpenter, MSU-Bozeman; Ms. Joyce Silverthorne, P-20 Policy Advisor, OPI; Ms. Kelly Glass, Accreditation Accountability Specialist, OPI; and Ms. Deb Halliday, Community Learning Partnerships Policy Advisor, OPI.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 1

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Patty Myers

- January 11, 2010 MSDB Foundation Meeting – Great Falls, MT

- January 15, 2010 Chapter 55 Meeting – Helena, MT
- January 15, 2010 Race to the Top Meeting – Helena, MT
- January 20, 2010 Finance/Executive Committee Conference Call
- January 26, 2010 Race to the Top Meeting – Helena, MT
- February 1-2, 2010 NASBE's Common Core Standards Regional Meeting – Las Vegas, NV
- February 16, 2010 Race to the Top Meeting – Helena, MT
- February 22, 2010 Streamline BPE Meetings – Helena, MT
- February 25, 2010 Great Falls Administration concerning PIR Days – Great Falls, MT
- March 2, 2010 MSDB Committee Meeting Conference Call

1:22 PM Mr. Dan Villa arrived

Ms. Patty Myers reported that the Board of Public Education will be working with the Office of Public Instruction to make some revisions to the Annual Agenda Calendar of the Board of Public Education to streamline the meeting.

A. VICE-CHAIR ELECTION (ACTION)

Mr. John Edwards moved: to elect Ms. Sharon Carroll as vice-chair to the Board of Public Education. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (ACTION)

This item was pulled from the agenda and will take action in May when the entire Board is present.

C. FINANCIALS

Ms. Carol Will reported to the Board of Public Education that the Executive Committee met via a conference call on January 20, 2010 to review options of proposed budget reductions to comply with reducing the general fund expenditures by 5% in anticipation that an ending fund balance "deficit" for the 2011 biennium is projected to exist, as provided in § 17-7-140, MCA. The Board of Public Education proposes to reduce operating expenses by \$3,967 in FY 2010 and \$7,412 in FY 2011. These reductions will include ITSD web hosting costs for both years at \$1,800 per year; cancellation of the January 2011 BPE meeting saving approximately \$4,500 in FY 2011; reducing travel expenditures, supplies, and postage by \$1,039 in FY 2011; fixed cost reductions in FY 2011 of \$73; and reverting all FY 2009 carry forward appropriation of FY 2010 of \$2,167. Total reductions for the biennium will be \$11,379 if requested to comply with § 17-7-140, MCA. Ms. Carol Will also presented the proposed calendar changes. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith expressed the concern about the Office of Public Instruction not being able to present the Annual Montana Accreditation Report in February if the meeting dates are changed. Ms. Patty Myers noted that some action items may need to be conducted via conference call meetings. State Superintendent Denise Juneau suggested using a webinar for the Annual Montana Accreditation Report.

D. CALENDARS (ACTION)

Proposed amendments to the 2010-2011 Board of Public Education schedule were presented in the event of budget reductions. In addition the proposed 2012-2013 Board of Public Education schedule was presented. Ms. Sharon Carroll expressed her concern in regard to handling licensure issues in a timely manner if a Board of Public Education meeting is eliminated in 2011. The BPE agreed that some action items may need to be dealt with via conference call meetings.

Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to accept the proposed calendars for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 as presented. Mr. John Edwards seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION APPEARANCES

Sharon Carroll

- January 28-29, 2010 Assessment Conference – Helena, MT
- March 10, 2010 MASS Meeting – Miles City, MT

Bernie Olson

- February 3, 2010 MASS Meeting – Kalispell, MT
- March 2, 2010 MSDB Committee Meeting Conference Call

Cal Gilbert

- March 2, 2010 MSDB Committee Meeting Conference Call

Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT - Steve Meloy

Mr. Steve Meloy reported to the Board of Public Education the following proposed objectives concerning the K-12 shared policy goals according to House Joint Resolution 6:

- Goal 1: Prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st century global society.
 - Objective 1.1: Increase Montana's high school graduation rate.
 - Objective 1.2: Review the ARM Rules that govern accreditation, certification, and professional educator preparation programs on a regular cycle.
- Goal 2: Improve teaching and student learning by promotion data-driven policy decisions and increasing access to educational information.
 - Objective 2.1: Develop a statewide longitudinal data system to collect and report reliable and timely data on Montana K-12 students.
 - Objective 2.2: Improve access to K-12 education data by educators, policymakers and the public.
- Goal 3: Improve student achievement in struggling schools.
 - Objective 3.1: Provide learning support and promote greater community engagement to increase greater student achievement in schools identified as struggling.
- Goal 4: Increase public awareness of and engagement in the K-12 educational system recognizing the roles and responsibilities of the state and local educational agencies and the legislature.
 - Objective 4.1: Promote coordination and collaboration among the legislature and K-12 education agencies recognizing the constitutional roles of the Board of Public Education, Montana Legislature and local school districts.
 - Objective 4.2: Increase accessibility and transparency of information and reporting to improve community awareness of K-12 education.

1:47 PM Mr. Dan Villa departed

Dr. Sylvia Moore reported to the Board of Public Education the following proposed objectives concerning the K-20 shared policy goals according to House Joint Resolution 8:

- Goal 1: Align high school outcomes with college readiness expectations to facilitate the transition from high school to college.
 - Objective: Decrease remediation rates of entering freshman from Montana public high schools.
- Goal 2: Increase college participation of Montana high school graduates.
 - Objective: Increase the percentage of MT high school graduates who participate in accredited postsecondary education.
- Goal 3: Expand distance learning opportunities.
 - Objective: Create easy access to distance learning opportunities through the development of a virtual academy and through improvements to current virtual college capabilities.

- Goal 4: Utilize K-20 data to improve student access and achievement.
 - Objective: Link K-12 and Higher Education data systems.

Mr. Steve Meloy reported that these proposed goals and objectives will be presented to the Education & Local Government Interim Committee on March 11, 2010. Other issues presented were: Counselorship Initiative; Montana Digital Academy; Healthy Schools Network; and streamlining the BPE meetings.

2:02 PM Mr. Dan Villa arrived

2:04 PM Mr. Dan Villa departed and Ms. Anna Green represented Governor Brian Schweitzer

Item 3 CSPAC REPORT - Peter Donovan

Mr. Peter Donovan reported that the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met on March 10, 2010. The terms have expired for Dr. Douglas Reisig, Chair, school administrator and Ms. Tonia Bloom, trustee. CSPAC will be seeking applications to bring before the Board of Public Education at its May 2010 meeting to consider action for the recommended appointments. Mr. Peter Donovan also presented a list of meetings attended from January 11, 2010 to March 12, 2010.

2:07 PM Ms. Anna Green departed

Item 4 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - State Superintendent Denise Juneau

State Superintendent Denise Juneau introduced Mr. Steve York, Assistant Superintendent at the Office of Public Instruction.

2:11 PM Ms. Anna Green arrived

Students in grades 3-8 and 10 were tested during March 1-24, 2010 in reading, math, and science. Montana will be participating in the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in science. A teacher survey is being sent out in March to determine what evaluation tools and systems are currently being used as part of the state fiscal stabilization funds. They were sent out to the MASS regions and OPI will collect them in the fall with the Annual Data Collection (ADC). There are a record number of students participating in Advanced Placement (AP) exams this year. Nearly 17% of Montana's seniors are taking an AP exam. The Office of Public Instruction received a \$25,000 grant to assist low income families with the cost of taking AP exams. The due date of the Chapter 55 survey is April 2, 2010. The Assessment Conference was January 28-29, 2010 and attended by Board Member Sharon Carroll. March 18-19, 2010 was the Effective Schools Conference, Missoula, MT. April 8-11, 2010 MACIE will be conducting a listening session to which the Board has been invited. The US Census deadline is April 1, 2010 and the Office of Public Instruction has been working closely with the schools to ensure that all of Montana's students are counted.

Ms. Denise Ulberg, School Finance Administrator from the Office of Public Instruction, responded to Mr. John Edwards' concern about the training requirements of bus drivers that was raised during the January 2010 BPE meeting. Ms. Ulberg reported that school bus driver requirements are listed in MCA 20-10-103 and 20-10-111. School bus drivers receive 10 hours of training each year that is not specifically listed in either statute. The Board of Public Education has put the 10 hour requirements in the accreditation standards for school buses. In order for a school district to receive state and county reimbursements for their bus routes the bus must be driven by a qualified driver. If the school districts operate the transportation program then the bus driver is an employee of the school district. If the school district chooses to contract with a private bus contractor, then those drivers are employed by that private contractor. Regardless of who the employer is the driver is subject to MCA 20-10-103 and 20-10-111 and

the ARM rules set by the Board of Public Education. Ms. Ulberg stated that there really is no difference in the training requirements. Ms. Maxine Mougeot reported in January that drivers who are employed by a private party are subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulations. This is where the difference in qualification occurs. MCA Title 20 Chapter 10 does not apply to activity drivers of school buses.

In conclusion, State Superintendent Denise Juneau reported that the Office of Public Instruction received high marks from the Legislative Audit Division for the security of the Student Information System. Discussion continued about the increased communication with the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education, bussing safeguards, and the appreciation for the work from the Office of Public Instruction in regard to the census.

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

Dr. Sylvia Moore reported that the Board of Regents met at the University of Montana Western in Dillon. The Kindergarten to College focus was on teacher education in which the Deans presented. All accredited teacher programs were represented and an effective discussion occurred.

2:30 PM Ms. Anna Green departed

Dr. Sylvia Moore continued to report on the following:

- More than 1,000 students participated in Montana's College Goal Sunday
- Montana GEAR UP (*Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs*) believes that postsecondary education is possible for all Montana students, regardless of economic background, and strives to empower them to realize that ambition. There are funds available for post secondary education and 364 achievement grants were recently distributed to 11th graders throughout the state for students who meet the criteria
- The second annual Extended Learning Institute (Xli2010) was offered free at the University of Montana. It provided an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge, effective practices, and research relative to online teaching and learning as well as support services for online students. This is a paradigm shift for educators and special attention needs to be addressed concerning how much of the budget needs to go to online learning

2:45 PM Mr. Steve Meloy departed to attend an Education Interim Committee Meeting

- Dr. Sylvia Moore has a new title: Deputy Commissioner for Academics Research and Student Affairs
- Kassandra Murphy-Brazil is the new Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
- During the Access to Success meeting Mr. Wayne Stein and Mr. Walter Flemming spoke about how to use the Native American Studies Program as a leverage for increasing services to Native American students
- Mr. Paul Bogumill, Director of Benefits at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education has been instrumental in the successful rolling out of the URX program for the State of Montana. It is the hope to see significant savings and therefore not see an increased cost in insurance rates

3:05 PM Ms. Anna Green arrived

Item 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - Dan Villa

Ms. Anna Green provided a few updates on the Governor and First Lady's Math and Science Initiative. Awards were presented at the Serve Montana Symposium for the AmeriCorps and Vista volunteers. The First Lady gave out three awards which included a business, an individual, and a community or non-profit organization. The Governor's Office is looking for nominations in regard to who needs to be recognized

for the call to action in math and science education. In addition, Ms. Anna Green attended a conference in Baltimore, MD, with Ms. Jean Howard, Math Curriculum Specialist, OPI and Ms. Katherine Burke, Science Curriculum Specialist, OPI, hosted by the National Governor's Association concerning state's plans for Race to the Top applications and the advancement of STEM Education.

Item 7 MACIE UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT - Norma Bixby

A presentation of annual activities to date and a summary of principle issues discussed at the January 2010 MACIE Meeting: Report on Youth Risk Behavior Survey, assessment activities, OPI Indian Education Division professional development and curriculum materials, and Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council suicide prevention program. Election of executive officers for MACIE took place in February of 2010. Ms. Norma Bixby reported that MACIE met in April and September of 2009. MACIE will be re-authorized by the Board of Public Education in September 2010. The Board was invited to the Montana Indian Education Listening Session scheduled April 10, 2010 in Billings, Montana to address the high dropout rates and achievement gap for American Indian students.

Item 8 ANNUAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS REPORT - Chris Emerson

The 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, Team Nutrition Program, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the 2008-09 school year. The presentation showed changes in program participation and funding over five school years. It also 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. Some facts that were noted over the past year included:

- Decrease of 25,085 lunches served
- Increase of 132,176 breakfast meals served
- Increase of 45,137 snacks served
- Decrease of 15,168 half-pints of milk served
- Increase of 16 sponsors and 16 sites
- In Montana, of the 145,802 students enrolled in schools participating in the School Nutrition Programs; 40,476 were eligible for free meals, 14,215 were eligible for reduced-price meals, and 91,111 were eligible for paid meals

Discussion ensued about offering special privileges for homeless families and the cost of an average school lunch.

Item 9 REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAMS-SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson and Cindy O'Dell

The Office of Public Instruction provided to the Board of Public Education a proposal from Salish Kootenai College (SKC) to add a Broadfield Science Secondary Teaching Major and an Area of Permissive Specialized Competency in Early Childhood to its education curriculum. Ms. Cindy O'Dell, Education Department Chairperson, and Ms. Regina Sievert, Science Education, presented descriptive information about the proposed new programs.

In April 2010, an on-site team will review the materials relating to the new programs as proposed by SKC. The SKC Education Department will provide for review the descriptions of the proposed programs, course syllabi, and a completed institutional report relating to the specific standards of Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Chapter 58 – Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards: ARM 10.58.522 Science; ARM 10.58.527(4) Early Childhood; and ARM 10.58.802 Standards for Approval. The team will provide recommendations to the State Superintendent. The full report and the State Superintendent's recommendations will be presented for discussion to the Board of Public Education at the July 2010 BPE Meeting.

3:50 PM Ms. Anna Green departed

A packet was provided that contained the program descriptions, objectives, standards, principles, requirements, and courses for each respective program. Discussion ensued about the PEPPS standards, interest in the programs, number of Native American Indians who teach science on reservations, funding, curriculum, cultural competencies, and the research obtained from the Big Sky Partnership.

March 12, 2010 – Friday

8:00 AM

8:07 AM Meeting reconvened

There was no representation from the Office of the Governor or from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

INFORMATION ITEM

8:10 AM Meeting closed

Item 12 NOTICE OF EDUCATOR LICENSE SURRENDER CASE #2010-04 (CLOSED) - Ann Gilkey

Ms. Ann Gilkey reported the surrender case #2010-04 to the Board of Public Education.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 13 DENIAL HEARING CASE #2009-05 (CLOSED) – Penelope Strong, Ann Gilkey, and Steve Meloy

Item 13 was pulled from the agenda.

Item 14 DENIAL HEARING CASE #2010-02 (CLOSED) - Ann Gilkey and Steve Meloy

8:30 AM Meeting opened

Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to uphold the decision of the State Superintendent in the denial of Case #2010-02 BPE. Mr. John Edwards seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 11 OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC DENIALS AND APPLICANTS FROM OTHER STATES WITH ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES FOR LICENSURE - Elizabeth Keller

During the January 2010 Board of Public Education Meeting, the Board heard an appeal from an applicant denied by the Office of Public Instruction because the applicant's academic record did not demonstrate meeting or exceeding the licensure requirements of Administrative Rules of Montana Chapter 57, even though the applicant is licensed in another state. The Board requested a presentation for information on other denials and applicants who were licensed in another state yet did not meet Montana's requirements.

Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI presented to the Board an overview of academic denials and applicants from other states with academic deficiencies for licensure. The OPI has denied seventy-four license applications since 2004. The top denials come from Texas. Twenty-three of these seventy-four were licensed in other states. Many of these denials are a result of the individual either not completing the NCATE accredited program, or they went through a non-NCATE accredited program that provided them a license in their respective states. Montana does not grant licenses to those who do not complete a program either accredited by NCATE or their state. Discussion ensued about people who switch careers,

people who are lightly prepared in content, states that allow tests to demonstrate content knowledge versus coursework, people with early childhood degrees may not be prepared to teach up through 8th grade, some states are looking for a warm body to teach, states have different licensure rules, economy changes, and alternative paths to licensure. In conclusion, the Board commended Ms. Elizabeth Keller and the Licensure Division at the Office of Public Instruction for being consistent in implementing the licensure rules established by the Board of Public Education.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 15 FEDERAL UPDATE - Nancy Coopersmith

The information presented included an update on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Action (ESEA) and the Race to the Top funds from the U.S. Department of Education. The Board of Public Education was provided with an article dated February 2010 from the Center on Education Policy titled *Better Federal Policies: Leading to Better Schools*. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith reported that on February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), historic legislation designed to stimulate the economy, support job creation, and invest in critical sectors, including education. The ARRA provides \$4.35 billion for the Race to the Top Funds, a competitive grant program designed to encourage and reward states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers; and implementing ambitious plans in four core education reform areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

The timing for the grant applications occur in two phases with the following timeline:

Notices Published:	November 2009
Technical Assistance:	
Informational Conference Calls:	November and December 2009
Technical Assistance Workshops:	December 3 and December 10, 2009
Other Events	TBD
Applications:	
Phase 1 Applications Due:	January 19, 2010
Phase 1 Awards Announced:	April 2010
Phase 2 Applications Due:	June 1, 2010
Phase 2 Awards Announced:	September 2010

As noted during the March 2010 Board of Education meeting, Montana will be applying for the second phase and will go to Washington DC to present and defend the application. Mr. Dennis Parman has established a leadership team and the Office of Public Instruction is ready to move forward with completing the application in a way that reflects Montana's values, local control, and quality of instruction. State Superintendent Denise Juneau stated that the Board of Public Education's role is to adopt the Common Core Standards and the evaluation system.

Item 16 NATIONAL COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE - Nancy Coopersmith

This informational presentation included the following: 1) A regional conference conducted by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). The team that represented Montana at this

conference included Patty Myers, Chair, Montana Board of Public Education; Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Montana Board of Public Education; and Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, Montana Office of Public Instruction; and 2) The Montana Response to the February 9, 2010, draft of K-12 English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards.

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith provided an overview of the NASBE Western Regional Conference that included the following topics: Process used to develop the standards and the vetting process by content experts; timeline for adoption; importance of aligning communication; adoption and implementation actions; explored and discussed challenges, resources required for a transparent and straightforward adoption and implementation process; and funds for professional development. It was clarified at the NASBE Western Regional Conference by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) that states must approve the entire Common Core Standards verbatim. States may choose to add 15 percent of their own material, but how that 15 percent would be measured remains an open question. The first official public draft of the K-12 Common Core State Standards became available for comment on March 10, 2010. The standards are expected to be finalized in early spring. For more information, visit www.corestandards.org.

In a letter dated February 19, 2010 to Mr. Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director, CCSSO; State Superintendent Denise Juneau stated that a "panel of dedicated, well respected elementary, middle, and secondary educators, along with university professors, continue to give of their time and expertise to thoroughly review the K-12 Common Core draft standards. Once the state receives the final standards document, we will conduct an alignment study of the Common Core Standards and the Montana Content Standards." Some issues addressed in this letter included: Cultural relevant content be implemented; questions to be considered; appreciations; concerns; and recommendations. State Superintendent Denise Juneau said, "If we are going to look at student performance based on achievement, we better be looking beyond math and reading."

The Office of Public Instruction requested that the Board of Public Education consider the following questions surrounding the National Common Core Standards if they were to be adopted:

1. Which standards in Montana's current standards are not addressed in the Common Core Standards? The Office of Public Instruction has reserved funding and has contracts in place to do an alignment review the moments the final drafts are available.
2. Would adoption by the Montana Board of Public Education of the Common Core Standards better serve Montana students than the current Montana content standards and performance descriptors? The Office of Public Instruction will examine this question and bring the Board some thoughts, but this will need to be answered directly by the Board of Public Education.
3. If it is decided to adopt the Common Core Standards, what would be the adoption process and timeline? The Office of Public Instruction made the recommendation to the Board of Public Education that it follows its regular adoption process. Race to the Top (RTTT) requires that evidence must be submitted that the Common Core Standards will be implemented. An application of RTTT might be approved according to its application, but that state will not receive funding until the Common Core Standards are adopted. Mr. Steve Meloy addressed the fact that if the Legislative Fiscal Division determines the costs of implementation are exorbitant there may be a delay of implementation.
4. What funding would be needed to adopt and assess the Common Core Standards? The state of Montana currently has a statewide assessment with MONTCAS in reading and mathematics as required by ESEA. There is talk about recommendations to lessen the testing requirement and to look at student level data. If Montana adopts the Common Core Standards we need to know how we are going to assess them and how will we fund the development of the assessment of the additional standards. Perhaps there will be some private, federal, and RTTT funding available. Montana cannot adopt the Common Core Standards if it cannot afford to assess them.
5. What process would be needed to adopt and assess the additional standards not included in the Common Core Standards?

6. What resources would be needed to provide professional development needed for Montana educators to implement the Common Core Standards? There is a current use of local, state, and federal funds available for professional development. These funds could be redirected.

These questions need to be answered if the State Superintendent decides to recommend that the Board adopt the Common Core Standards and if the Board of Public Education decides to adopt them. Discussion ensued about the loss of local control, national assessments, Indian Education for All, lack of input from minority groups, transparency, subjects still being left out, text books, curriculum, economics, and revision of standards. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith stressed that national is not synonymous with federal. State Superintendent Denise Juneau stated that these are going to become federal standards and there will be a national assessment and Montana needs to decide how it should respond.

ACTION ITEM

Item 10 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOZEMAN – EXIT REPORT PROPOSED CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN - Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, Dr. Lynette Zuroff, Dr. Larry Baker, and Dr. Joanne Erickson

A four-member team visited Montana State University in Bozeman on November 9-10, 2009, for a focused review of six standards. The purpose of the visit was to examine the Professional Education Unit's (Unit) progress in meeting the six specific standards that were found to be either "Not Met" or "Met with Weakness" during the October 5-8, 2008 on-site visit. Dr. Lynette Zuroff, Director of Teacher Education at Carroll College in Helena, served as chairperson of the focused review. The attached exit report and narrative provided to the Board of Public Education showed the results of the review. The team recommended provisional accreditation approval of the standards marked with "Met with Weakness." Provisional accreditation requires continued action by the unit at MSU-Bozeman. The Dean, or designee, of the College of Education, Health, and Human Development met with the BPE in 2010 and described the plan and progress on meeting the standards that are marked with "Met with Weakness." Since the report to the BPE indicated that the unit is making progress toward meeting the standards, the BPE approved provisional accreditation and required the unit to complete a written annual progress report by September 2010. The Office of Public Instruction will continue to monitor the unit's progress and provide an update to the Board of Public Education at the November 2010 meeting.

The following introductions were made: Dr. Larry J. Baker, Dr. Joanne Erickson, Ms. Lynn Kelting-Gibson, Dr. Jayne Downey, and Mr. Bryce Carpenter. The following documents were provided to the Board of Public Education: Memorandum to Dr. Larry Baker dated December 11, 2009; Montana State University-Bozeman Professional Education Unit Focused Review Exit Report dated November 9-10, 2009; College of Education, Montana State University-Bozeman On-Site Focused Review dated November 9-10, 2009; and a memorandum to the Board of Public Education and Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson dated February 15, 2010.

Dr. Joanne Erickson reported the Montana State University made substantial progress in the way they think and it is reflected by the commitment of the faculty. Dr. Erickson believes that the team has been very generous to allow two years to implement the corrective plan, but MSU does not need, nor does it want two years. MSU does not feel comfortable with provisional accreditation because it wants to be recognized as being fully accredited by the Board of Public Education. Dr. Joanne Erickson requested that the College of Education, Health, and Human Development at MSU-Bozeman receive its focused site visit of the Professional Education Unit in the fall of 2010 and not wait until the fall of 2011.

Dr. Larry Baker stated that Montana State University will have in place a fully implemented assessment system that is aligned to the conceptual framework providing robust, usable data for decision-making that will result in program improvement that is valid and reliable. Dr. Baker continued to acknowledge the successful and productive meeting of the Council of Deans at the Board of Regents meeting in March 2010.

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson and State Superintendent Denise Juneau appreciated MSU's aggressive timeline to face the challenges that the Board of Public Education put in front of the Teacher Preparation Unit and will work with MSU to meet this timeline.

Ms. Patty Myers noted that normally she would recuse herself from this particular vote since she is a university supervisor for pre-service teachers at Montana State University. If Ms. Myers does not vote then there will not be a quorum to take action. Ms. Myers will vote on this particular issue and if anyone challenges her vote, then it can be reviewed in May 2010.

Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to approve the State Superintendent's recommendation of provisional accreditation of the Professional Education Unit of the College of Education at MSU-Bozeman. Mr. John Edwards seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 17 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF CHAPTER 55 JOINT TASK FORCE CONFIGURATION AND SCOPE OF RESEARCH - Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson and Al McMilin

In January of 2010, the Board of Public Education approved the Superintendent of Public Instruction's recommendations for 1) the general purpose and process of the Chapter 55 review; and 2) the nomination and selection criteria and procedures to appoint members to the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force.

During that January meeting, the BPE discussed the need for additional considerations and recommended changes to the approved procedures. The Office of Public Instruction staff, in consultation with the BPE Chair, revised the task force configuration and selection procedures. These revisions were presented to the Board of Public Education. The revised Chapter 55 Joint Task Force configuration and selection procedures are recommended by the Superintendent to the BPE for approval. This presentation also included a brief report on the scope of the research guiding the Chapter 55 review.

The task force leadership consists of the following: Ms. Patty Myers, Board of Public Education Chair (Task Force Co-Chair); Mr. John Edwards, Board of Public Education Accreditation Committee Chair; Mr. Dennis Parman, Office of Public Instruction Deputy Superintendent (Task Force Co-Chair); and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Office of Public Instruction Assistant Superintendent.

The task force membership will include the following with a suggested number of seats represented in parenthesis:

1. **Organization: School Administrators of Montana (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team
2. **Superintendents (5)** Open nominations from the field
3. **High School Principals (2)** Open nominations from the field
4. **Middle School/7-8 Principal (1)** Open nominations from the field
5. **Elementary Principals (2)** Open nominations from the field
6. **Organization: MEA-MFT (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team
7. **Elementary Teachers (2)** Open nominations from the field
8. **Middle School/7-8 Teacher (1)** Open nominations from the field
9. **High School Teachers (2)** Open nominations from the field
10. **Organization: Montana School Boards Associations (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team
11. **Trustees (2)** Open nominations from the field
12. **Organization: Montana Association of County Superintendents (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team
13. **County Superintendent (1)** Open nominations from the field
14. **Organization: Montana Rural Education Association (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team

15. **Organization: Montana Small School Alliance (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team
16. **Organization: Montana Indian Education Alliance (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team
17. **Organization: Montana PTA (1)** Nominees from Organization's Leadership Team
18. **Certifications Standards and Practices Advisory Council (1)** Nomination of a teacher from the council
19. **Postsecondary – Montana Council of Deans (1)** Nomination of a Dean from the council
20. **Montana Virtual Academy (1)** Nomination from the MTVA Leadership Team

Final selection will occur by March 26, 2010. Some are concerned that the group is too large. Discussion on the general parameters and primary focus for the task force will occur on March 30, 2010. The following is the general process time line:

- **April – November 2010:** Task Force Meetings
- **April 16, 2010:** Proposed first meeting date
- **January 2011:** Initiate consideration of task force recommendations by the Board of Public Education
- **February – March 2011:** Outreach for public comment
- **May – November 2011:** Rule making process completed

Ms. Sue Buswell, President of the Montana Association of School Nurses, came before the Board of Public Education to express her concern and disappointment that school nurses are not represented on the Chapter 55 Task Force. Counselors, nurses, and librarians are small groups with not much representation, but they need to be involved in this process. Ms. Buswell hopes that these small groups will have an opportunity to present to the task force and assist in writing the standards. Ms. Buswell requested to receive all of the information that the Chapter 55 Task Force receives. She reiterated that in 2008, the Montana Association of School Nurses (MASN) began a campaign to establish a ratio of one registered, professional school nurse to every 750 students in Montana. MASN met with the Board of Public Education in January 2009, the Board requested current demographics related to school nursing practice in Montana so MASN embarked on a historic, in depth study of school health services in the state. The findings of MASN were presented to the Board in March 2009. The Board expressed its intention at the March 2009 meeting to move forward by identifying concerns; raising issues surrounding the standards; examining the ability of districts to meet such a standard; raising awareness with state officials, federal officials, and local communities; and ultimately considering the best way to promote and implement the forthcoming standard and/or resolution. Ms. Sue Buswell requested to present again to the Board of Public Education since there are new Board members since her last presentation. An updated handout in regard to the student-to-school nurse ratios for 2009 was distributed and Montana is ranked 44th.

Ms. Patty Myers and Mr. John Edwards assured Ms. Sue Buswell that the nurses, librarians, and counselors will be included in the process and kept informed. They added that many of the materials will be available online through the Office of Public Instruction's website.

Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve the State Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force configuration and selection procedures with the membership not to exceed 34 people. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 18 ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARD REQUESTS - Al McMilin

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education for consideration of Initial Alternative Standard and/or Five-Year Renewal Alternative Standard Requests recommended either for approval or for disapproval by State Superintendent Denise Juneau. The report was attached. In addition, Mr. Al McMilin provided a brief overview and history of the alternative to the standard rule prior to the action

items as well as the Variance Update report.

Mr. Al McMilin reported the following 3 initial alternative standard requests representing 3 districts and 4 schools have been received and evaluated in accordance with ARM 10.55.604:

Missoula County (Standard: 10.55.709 – Library Media Services)

- Swan Valley School
- Swan Valley 7-8

The district will be using the Montana Small Schools Alliance (MSSA) model for this alternative standard. The necessary letter of agreement with MSSA was provided. This model provides for measurable objectives corresponding formative assessment. The district also has provided the necessary mission statement, description of the alternative and summative measure to be used. In addition to maintaining a small library with electronic cataloguing at the school, students will visit the local community library which is a satellite of the Missoula Public Library two times per year. The State Superintendent recommended approval of the alternative standard request.

Sanders County (Standard: 10.55.709 Library Media Services)

- Paradise Elementary School

The district will be using the MSSA model for this alternative standard. The necessary letter of agreement with MSSA was provided. This model provides for measurable objectives and corresponding formative assessment. The district also has provided the necessary mission statement, description of the alternative and summative measure to be used. In addition to maintaining a small library on-site, students will visit the Plains school Library three times per year. The State Superintendent recommended approval of the alternative standard request.

Yellowstone County (Standard: 10.55.705 1 (b) (ii) – Administrative Personnel: Assignment of School Administrators/Principals)

- Independent Elementary

This rule states that when a school has either 18-29 FTE licensed staff or 250-550 students the school needs to have a full-time principal. In addition, the Independent School District would be required to have at least a part-time superintendent as well. Currently the Independent District/School is served by one administrator who serves both as the superintendent and as the principal.

The current staffing met the standards while the school remained below the 18 FTE and 250 student enrollment thresholds. This alternative standard is in response to the required corrective plan as the school was in Advice status last year for this deviation.

The district wants to be allowed to continue to use the 1 FTE administrator staffing, citing that both staffing and enrollment are so close and that the current model is working. The State Superintendent recommended disapproval of the alternative standard request.

Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve the State Superintendent's recommendations as presented. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 19 2009-2010 MONTANA ACCREDITATION STATUS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS (EMBARGOED) - Al McMilin and Kelly Glass

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education for consideration the final 2009-2010 accreditation determinations for all schools as recommended by State Superintendent Denise Juneau. The following documents were included in support of this item: Annual Montana Accreditation Report, presentation PowerPoint handout, Annual Accreditation Process Calendar, and Montana Regional

Service Areas Map. Replacement pages were provided to the Board of Public Education with corrections.

Ms. Kelly Glass reviewed some highlighted districts and schools from the Annual Montana Accreditation Report that contains the following:

- Accreditation history graphs
- Accreditation status recommendations
- Deviation summary by accreditations status
- Advice status summary
- Library and counseling summary
- Misassignment summary
- Non-licensed teacher summary

Mr. Al McMilin introduced Ms. Colleen Hamer, Accreditation Unit Program Officer, from the Office of Public Instruction. He stated that this report continues to improve because of her efforts. Mr. Al McMilin reported that in 2009-10 the All Schools chart represents an 8% increase in regular accreditation, a 2% decrease in regular accreditation with deviations, a 2% decrease in advice, and a 4% decrease in deficiency. This data is reflected with only one less school in 2009-10. The following chart in regard to student enrollment by accreditation status as of February 5, 2010 was reviewed:

	Regular	Regular w/ Deviations	Advice	Deficiency
Total Count of Schools (822)	570	134	41	77
Category Count % of Total	69%	16%	5%	10%
Total Enrollment (141,420)	90,906	28,200	8,128	14,186
Category Enrollment % of Total	64%	20%	6%	10%

Mr. Al McMilin reported that of 161 schools in Advice or Deficiency in 2008-09, 77 or 48% moved to Regular or Regular with Deviations in 2009-10. Discussion ensued about misassigned teachers; misassigned and non-licensed teachers by regions; submission of corrective plans; intensive assistance cycle; and class size deviations.

Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve the State Superintendent's 2009-2010 final accreditation recommendations for all schools as presented. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division, distributed to the Board of Public Education a handout that was provided by the LFD to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee in regard to state and local partnerships; including property taxes, entitlements, K-12 education funding from the state, K-12 education at the district level, and pensions. The purpose of this document was to provide the interim committee with a perspective of what a 10% structural balance in government expenditure means. The report contains some of the following information:

- Over 82% of K-12 educational funding is appropriated as part of BASE Aid
- To effect a reduction of 10% in K-12 education may necessitate changes in school funding methodology due the significance of BASE Aid
- Equal reductions of general fund without changing BASE Aid is equivalent to reducing 87% of

- general fund support in the 2013 biennium for all other components listed
- As many of the programs use general fund support for maintenance of effort for federal funds, reductions in general fund may result in federal special revenues reductions
- A 10% reduction in general fund spending in BASE Aid (82%) in the 2013 biennium, requires a larger percentage reduction, 12.2%
- Reductions to the state components of BASE Aid can result in increases in property taxes within local school districts
- In FY 2010 the state contributed 65.7% of the average district's general fund budget. This was lower than usual because of federal stabilization dollars supplanting state dollars
- Districts may respond to state cuts by cutting back spending. Under the State Constitution, the supervision and control of schools in each school district is vested in a board of trustees. It is this body that will make decisions regarding the type of cuts in school spending or property tax increases if the legislature reduces state support for school districts

Item 20 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EVALUATION (CLOSED) - Patty Myers and Steve Meloy

This item was pulled from the agenda.

Item 21 MSDB SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION (CLOSED) - Patty Myers and Steve Gettel

This item was pulled from the agenda.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 22 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT - Steve Gettel

(Action – Legal agreement – Handout)

Ms. Patty Myers reported on behalf of Mr. Steve Gettel. The Legislative Audit Division is currently on campus conducting the biannual audit of the school's budget. The School for the Deaf and Blind is exempt from the mandatory spending reductions required of the Executive under MCA 17-7-140, the Office of the Governor of Budget and Program Planning asked MSDB to consider joining the Executive in implementing voluntary reductions. MSDB submitted a proposal to reduce spending the operating budgets of the four program areas by \$64,675 in FY 2010. MSDB will submit a request to the Request to Long Range Building program for the 2011 legislature for consideration of repair or replacement of the roof on the cottage complex. Ms. Patty Myers reported about the personnel search for a new principal, outreach surveys being sent out, Arbor Day and Music Program, MSDB graduation, and the strategic plan.

The interagency agreement between MSDB and the Great Falls Public School (GFPS) was distributed. The GFPS Board approved it on Monday, March 8, 2010. Ms. Patty Myers noted the following amendments to the agreement:

1. **DURATION.**
~~This agreement shall run such time as one or both parties terminates the agreement.~~
The term of this agreement shall be five (5) years or until such time as one or both parties terminate the agreement.
3. **PURPOSE.**
~~and appropriately meets the needs of students as identified in their Individual Education Plans.~~
7. **INDEMNITY AND LIABILITY.**
Each party agrees to be responsible and assume all liability for its own wrongful or negligent acts, omissions, breach of student confidentiality, or other misconduct and those of its officers, agent and employees and to hold the other harmless therefore and shall defend and indemnify the other for any and all liability arising from such conduct. This holds harmless and indemnification shall survive any termination of this agreement.

8. **TERMINATION.**

This agreement will be terminated by mutual agreement or by one party providing ~~30~~ 180 days written notice to the other party that it no longer intends to participate in the agreement.

Mr. Cal Gilbert moved: to approve the agreement between the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind and the Great Falls Public School with amendments. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – May 13-14, 2010

Student Representative Survey Report
CSPAC Appointments
BASE Aid Payment Schedule
Assessment Update
Alternative Standards Request & Renewals
MACIE Update
Federal Update
Establish Executive Salaries
Material and Non-Performance Case
Race to the Top

Mr. John Edwards moved: to adjourn the Board of Public Education Meeting. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

12:10 PM Meeting adjourned

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