

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

**May 13-14, 2010**

**MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND**  
**3911 Central Avenue**  
**Great Falls, MT**

**May 13, 2010 - Thursday**

**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Gail Bechard's preschool students from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Ms. Kim Schwabe and students demonstrated the Edmark Reading Program. Ms. Patty Myers welcomed new Board Member Erin Williams and introduced Ms. Sandra Boham, Director, Indian Education for Great Falls Public School District. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Patty Myers pulled the Executive Secretary's report from the consent agenda to discuss the Shared Policy Goals Process with Ms. Kris Wilkinson. The remaining items were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

**SHARED POLICY GOALS**

Ms. Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, LFD presented the following: timeline for the shared policy goals process that was approved by the Education and Local Government (ELG) Committee on December 11, 2009; draft K-12 shared policy goals and proposed objectives dated May 7, 2010; shared policy goals and accountability measures for the K-12 public education system for the 2013 Biennium; draft K-20 shared policy goals dated May 10, 2010; and the draft shared policy goals and accountability measures for the K-20 public education system for the 2013 Biennium. An agreement will be signed by Representative Wanda Grinde, Senator Kelly Gebhardt, Representative Bob Lake, Board of Public Education Chair Patty Myers, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau by August 17, 2010. Ms. Kris Wilkinson reviewed the draft documents and explained some specifics from the quadrants. Quadrant 4 of goal 1, objective 1.1 from the K-12 shared policy goals stated, "By June 30, 2013, increase by 2 percent the number of students who meet graduation requirements within 4 years." State Superintendent Denise Juneau expressed concern that since the Chapter 55 revision is occurring currently, schools will be measured on different standards and recommended that a new baseline be set with the first year of the revision. Ms. Patty Myers requested further review of this particular goal and objective in regard to dates and timeline. State Superintendent Denise Juneau said the only thing being measured is school accreditation and not other areas such as the PEPPS standards and licensure. Ms. Kris Wilkinson stated that State Superintendent Denise Juneau's staff believes that objective 4.2 is extremely similar to objective 2.2 and proposed to use objective 2.2 and eliminate objective 4.2.

Ms. Kris Wilkinson stated that the shared policy goals and accountability measures for the K-12 public education system for the 2013 Biennium is a "statement of public policy goals for public education in Montana, and it is important this document reflects that the ELG is committed to free quality public elementary and secondary education system such that funding high quality education is a critical goal of the State of Montana. It is intended that this document will provide the policy direction from which a quality free elementary and secondary education system in Montana will be maintained. It is the intent that the ELG will then use this document to move forward with budget initiatives for the 2013 Biennium

budget, into the 2011 Legislative Session, and other policy recommendations during the 2013 Biennium interim.” Ms. Kris Wilkinson said that the appropriations committee will have this document before them. State Superintendent Denise Juneau expressed her concern that the appropriations committee has a definition of a quality education and it should not be based solely on this document. State Superintendent Denise Juneau does not want it simply narrowed down to this particular document, but to acknowledge the definition of a quality education and address all issues that exists. This document should be used for the purpose of the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Education and Local Government Interim Committee Subcommittee to come together on shared policy goals. Ms. Kris Wilkinson agreed.

Others questions raised by State Superintendent Denise Juneau were: 1) What is the need to sign the agreement? and 2) Who represents the legislature? Superintendent Juneau continued to point out that the Representative Grinde and Senator Gebhardt represent the Education and Local Government Committee, but they do not speak for the entire legislature. State Superintendent Denise Juneau requested more discussion before she would be convinced to sign this document. The date of the agreement expires January 1, 2013 and Superintendent Juneau pointed out that according to this agreement the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction will be held accountable for something at the conclusion of this particular agreement. Ms. Kris Wilkinson acknowledged that the measurement date is six months after the expiration of the agreement and agreed to work toward a resolution. Mr. Bernie Olson expressed his concern that if the goal is to promote coordination and collaboration with the legislature than this small group of the Legislative Interim Committee may or may not exist in the future. The future Education and Local Government Committee may not have any further interest in continuing with these shared goals. Mr. Bernie Olson asked, “How do we collaborate with a group that is here now, but may not be there in the future?”

Ms. Kris Wilkinson continued to review the draft K-20 shared policy goals dated May 10, 2010. Ms. Sharon Carroll asked about the continued funding for distance learning opportunities according to baseline enrollment as referred to goal 3 in quadrant 4 that states, “High School baseline distance learning enrollment not currently available, but will be collected starting Fall 2010.” Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman responded that the Montana Digital Academy is fully funded until 2013 and then the academy will need to consider operational funding based on continued interest and cost sharing to limit and reduce the financial burden on the district. This will be dependent on the enrollment numbers.

**9:50 AM Mr. Dan Villa arrived**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Sandra Boham, Director, Indian Education for Great Falls Public School District presented the following documents to the Board of Public Education: Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) Resolutions 2010 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Urban Indian Education Forum. Ms. Boham reported that the MIEA wants to promote continued funding for Indian Education for All. The Urban Indian Education Forum had the following keynote speakers: Dr. Iris Heavy Runner-Pretty Paint; Ms. Mandy Smoker-Broadus; and Mr. Bill Hayne. Mr. Cal Gilbert encouraged the Montana Urban Indian Education Forum to move to different locations to reach more people. Further discussion ensued about the high school completion rate data, students attending alternative high schools, graduation rates, on-time calculations, and identifying what successful schools are doing that works.

#### **ADOPT AGENDA**

***Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. John Edwards seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chair Ms. Patty Myers, Vice-

Chair Ms. Sharon Carroll, Mr. Cal Gilbert, Mr. Bernie Olson, Mr. John Edwards, Ms. Erin Williams, and Student Representative Mr. Tim Seery. Staff present at the meeting included: 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. Mary Sheehy Moe represented Commissioner Sheila Stearns; and Mr. Dan Villa 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; Mr. Al McMilin, Accreditation Unit Manager, OPI; Ms. Stacey Howell, Field Representative, Office of Senator Max Baucus; Ms. Norma Bixby, MACIE; Mr. Pat Schlaugh, SAF & MHSAC; Ms. Kelly Glass, Accreditation Accountability Specialist, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Ms. Sandra Boham, Director, Indian Education for Great Falls Public School District; Ms. Jean Howard, Math Curriculum Specialist, OPI; Dr. Joseph Callahan, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Montana State University-Northern; Ms. Audrey Peterson, Team Chairperson, Montana State University-Northern; Ms. Pamela Wilson, Director of Clinical and Field Experiences, Montana State University-Northern; Ms. Carol Reifschneider, General Science and Biology, Montana State University-Northern; and Mr. Chris Martineau, Valley Christian School.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Item 1

#### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Patty Myers

- March 22, 2010 Chapter 55 Conference Call
- March 24, 2010 MMSTI Meeting – Helena, MT
- March 30, 2010 Chapter 55 Meeting – Helena, MT
- April 14, 2010 MSDB Spring Program – Great Falls, MT
- April 15, 2010 MEA-MFT Work that Matters Tour – Great Falls
- April 16, 2010 Chapter 55 Task Force – Helena, MT
- May 4, 2010 MSDB Committee Meeting – Great Falls, MT
- May 5, 2010 RTTT Q/A Session Conference Call with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
- May 6, 2010 Safety in High Risk Areas Focus Group – Great Falls, MT

Ms. Patty Myers reported that the Board of Public Education will present at the 2010 Montana Educator's Conference in Helena on October 21-22, 2010. The title of the sectional is: *Who Makes the Rules in Montana Public Education? Too many Montana educators do not know who makes the rules that govern public schools and teacher and administrator licensure. This sectional specifically addresses that lack of knowledge. It should be required of all who work in our public schools...but is limited to the first 50 participants.*

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (ACTION)

Ms. Patty Myers asked Mr. Bernie Olson if he would be on the Accreditation Committee to provide an educator's perspective. Ms. Erin Williams was uncertain to the future plan of the K-College Workgroup. Ms. Patty Myers and Ms. Sharon Carroll stated that they need to be more involved in the Education and Local Government Interim K-12 Subcommittee and Mr. Steve Meloy's name was added to that particular committee.

***Mr. Bernie Olson moved: to accept the proposed committee assignments. Ms. Erin Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION APPEARANCES

##### Sharon Carroll

- March 10, 2010 Southeast Administrator's Meeting – Miles City, MT

Ms. Sharon Carroll is a member of the NASBE's 2010 Task Force on Rural/Frontier Education. The task

force is charged with addressing and providing specific policy recommendations and legislative language to Congress and the Department of Education to help rural and frontier states turnaround their low-performing schools. It is NASBE's goal for the task force to complete its work by the end of May.

**Cal Gilbert**

- May 4, 2010 MSDB Committee Meeting – Great Falls, MT
- May 6, 2010 Safety in High Risk Areas Focus Group – Great Falls, MT

**Bernie Olson**

- May 4, 2010 MSDB Committee Meeting Conference Call

**John Edwards**

- March 22, 2010 Chapter 55 Conference Call
- March 30, 2010 Chapter 55 Conference Call
- April 15, 2010 Chapter 55 Conference Call

**10:35 Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe departed**

Ms. Patty Myers expressed her disdain concerning the Board of Regents reducing \$600,000 from the Quality Loan Forgiveness Program and \$90,000 from the Montana Digital Academy because they directly affect the work of K-12 education. Regent Angela McLean was the only one to vote against these reductions. Discussion ensued about the authority of the Board of Regents and the proposal of a bill by Senator Gary Branae to move the appropriation authority from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to the Office of Public Instruction.

**Item 2 CSPAC REPORT - Peter Donovan**

Mr. Peter Donovan reported that he participated in a video conference in regard to licensing Chinese/Arabic Teachers. Ms. Elizabeth Keller, Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman, and Mr. Peter Donovan are in the process of considering recommendations if any are needed. The joint BPE/CSPAC meeting will occur in Helena on July 15, 2010. The meetings attended by Mr. Peter Donovan for March 15 – May 13, 2010 and the highlights of the March 10, 2010 CSPAC meeting were provided.

**CSPAC APPOINTMENTS (ACTION)**

Mr. Donovan reported that CSPAC has the school administrator and trustee positions open. There were no applicants for the trustee position by the deadline. CSPAC will continue to advertise for the trustee position and bring a recommendation to the Board of Public Education at its July 2010 meeting. CSPAC received the following five applications for the school administrator position: Teresa A. Burson; Robert J. Watson, Ed.D; Todd Fiske; Paul Furthmyre; and Tammy L. Lacey. Mr. Peter Donovan stated that this was a strong pool of applicants and the staff at the Board of Public Education evaluated each candidate on a rubric based on the following criteria: Level of education/commitment to professional development; administrative/leadership experience; K-12 classroom experience; education policy development experience; quality of professional references; and community service. Mr. Donovan recommended Tammy L. Lacey for the school administrator position on CSPAC.

**Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to appoint Tammy L. Lacey to the school administrator position on CSPAC. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - State Superintendent Denise Juneau**

State Superintendent Denise Juneau announced that she received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Carroll College. The Office of Public Instruction submitted 25 budget requests through the Executive Planning Process (EPP) for the 2013 Biennium. These requests for Distributions to Schools and State Level Activities are proposed to be funded from the state general fund, state special revenue

(or earmarked) funds, and federal grants. One request in particular was for \$260,000 from state special revenue in the 2013 biennium to support the personal services and operating budget for 1.5 FTE to oversee program implementation of and provide assistance to Montana Schools of Education at nine higher education institutions. The OPI proposes to increase the annual license fee for educators from \$6 to \$11 to fund these activities. The fee increase is anticipated to generate \$141,000 annually. Discussion ensued about the following: Restoring the At-risk Student Payment; Governor's 5% general fund reduction; ACT Plus Writing Assessment; graduation policy; balanced assessment system; compulsory education; SMARTER/Balanced Assessment Consortium; and school improvement grants.

#### **Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - Dan Villa**

Mr. Dan Villa reported that the Otter Creek Coal Lease was approved. That represents \$85 million in one-time-only bonus bid and a \$7.2 billion in state lease revenues, severance tax, etc... The state can look forward to several proposals of expending those funds next session. The Quality Schools Facility Grants recently announced the awards of the \$10 million that was appropriated. House Bill 152 funds were also appropriated. The Quality Schools Grant Program provides a competitive grant program for (1) school facility and technology grants; (2) matching planning grants; and (3) emergency grants for public school districts in Montana (elementary districts and high school districts as defined in 20-6-101, MCA, or a K-12 school district as defined in 20-6-701, MCA). The Governor's office is looking into how much money school districts are carrying over each year to determine why these funds are not being expended for facilities. Eleanor's Garden, Farm to Table, and Farm to School projects are being implemented across the state to ratchet up vocational agricultural programs. The Woman's Solar Program will be promoted by Governor Brian Schweitzer and he announced at the Otter Creek sale that he intends to promote a wind tower or solar panel on every school across the state. The Governor's Office will work with the Chapter 55 workgroup to prepare curriculum to come before the Board of Public Education for approval. The Executive Planning Process (EPP) submissions are completed by agencies and the reductions occurred. In conclusion, Mr. Dan Villa reminded the Board of Public Education the authority it has to deny accreditation of schools that are being flagrant.

#### **Item 6 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - Tim Seery**

Mr. Tim Seery met with the Executive Committee of the Montana Association of Student Councils (MASC) and they requested that a Board of Public Education member attend the meeting in March to screen applicants for the Board of Public Education's Student Representative. Mr. Seery reported on his trip to Washington DC. He was privileged and honored to meet with President Obama for 30 minutes, toured the Pentagon, spoke with Kathleen Sebelius the Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services, met James Steinberg the Deputy Secretary of State, and met Senate Parliamentarian Alan Frumin. The Montana Meth Project, Paint the State Contest registration closes on June 30, 2010. Mr. Tim Seery provided the Board of Public Education with information concerning the judging criteria and entering the contest. Montana State University and the University of Montana will sponsor a Black Saturday in which the football players will wear black socks, the end zones will be black, and the "M" in Missoula will be blackened out. In conclusion, Mr. Seery encouraged the Board to vote for Belgrade High School's Renewable Energy Club who was competing for the Solar Energy Photovoltaic (PV) Grant.

#### **Item 7 MACIE UPDATE - Norma Bixby**

Ms. Norma Bixby provided the Board of Public education with a report on the Montana Indian Education Listening Session that was in Billings, MT on April 8, 2010. The purpose of the listening session was to allow conference participants and others a time to provide their input into what is making Indian Education successful in Montana and what their recommendations are for strengthening Indian education. The questions used to guide the testimony were:

- What is keeping Indian students in school and graduating?
- What makes a quality teacher?
- How are parents making a positive difference?
- What defines effective school leadership by our school boards and administrators?
- How is instruction that includes American Indian content helping American Indian students

succeed in school?

The full testimony of some participants and a summary of many other participants were included in the report. Ms. Norma Bixby will continue to be the chair for Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE). State Superintendent Denise Juneau requested the Board of Public Education accept the nomination of Ms. Kassandra Murphy-Brazill by the Commissioner of Higher Education to represent the Montana University System on the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education.

**Mr. Cal Gilbert moved: to accept the nomination of Kassandra Murphy-Brazill to represent the Montana University System on the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education.**  
**Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 8                    REPORT OF THE ACCREDITATION ON-SITE REVIEW OF THE PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATION UNIT AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - NORTHERN  
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, Audrey Peterson, and Joseph Callahan**

From November 15-18, 2009, a seven-person team conducted an on-site accreditation review of the Professional Education Unit (Unit) at MSU-Northern. The purpose of the on-site team's visit was to verify the Unit's Institutional Report as meeting the 2007-2014 Montana Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS). Audrey Peterson served as chairperson of the regularly scheduled review. The attached exit report and narrative provided results to the Board of Public Education of the review.

The team recommended provisional approval of the Unit at MSU-Northern. Provisional approval requires action by the Professional Education Unit at MSU-Northern. Dr. Joseph Callahan, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, met with the Board of Public Education in May 2010, to describe the plan and progress on meeting the standards that are marked with "Met with Weakness" and "Note Met." The BPE will take action on the MSU-Northern plan at the July meeting. The standards listed below were determined by the team as "Met with Weakness" and "Not Met."

10.58.210	Conceptual Framework (Met with Weakness)
10.58.305	Assessment System and Unit Evaluation (Not Met)
10.58.308	Faculty Qualifications (Met with Weakness)
10.58.512	School Counseling (Met with Weakness)
10.58.521	Reading Specialist K-12 (Met with Weakness)
10.58.601	Program Planning (Met with Weakness)
10.58.602	Teaching Areas – Advanced (Met with Weakness)
10.58.603	Assessment – Advanced (Met with Weakness)
10.58.705	School Principals, Superintendents, Supervisors and Curriculum Directors (Not Met)

The Office of Public Instruction will continue to monitor the Unit's progress. Dr. Joseph Callahan, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Ms. Pamela Wilson, Director of Clinical and Field Experiences; and Ms. Carol Reifschneider, General Science and Biology expressed the professionalism of the Office of Public Instruction's Accreditation Team and appreciated the valuable experience and intends to address every corrective measure.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Tammy L. Lacey the new council member of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council representing school administrators was introduced to the Board of Public Education.

**1:00 PM Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe returned**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

## **Item 9 RACE TO THE TOP - Dennis Parman and Dan Villa**

This presentation included information concerning the following:

1. Montana's application process for federal funding includes a grant writer, a leadership team, and communication with Montana stakeholders;
2. School district superintendents, boards of trustees chairpersons and union presidents were asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding as part of the application process;
3. Office of Public Instruction Curriculum Specialists Kristine Goyins and Jean Howard reviewed the content of the latest draft document of the National Common Core State Standards Project. They provided a comparison of the National Common Core K-12 Mathematics and English/language arts draft standards to the Board of Public Education Content and Performance Standards in Mathematics and Communication Arts; and
4. The Montana Plan for a teacher and principal evaluation system was presented.

Mr. Dan Villa reported that applying for the Race to the Top has established a new level of coordination and cooperation that was demanded of the Governor's Office, the Office of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, and other educational partners. Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman stated that there has been plenty of press, but it has not been very positive. He stressed none of the 16 states that were finalists in phase I hit the bull's-eye every time. Montana will not hit the bull's-eye in its application neither because it is not going to propose charter schools, nor is Montana proposing to adopt the four possible reform models of the Department of Education. Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman reported that school boards across the state have been meeting to determine if they will sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that affixes the signature of the LEA Superintendent, President of the Local School Board of Trustees, and the Local Teachers' Union Leader. Local school districts may opt out, but they do not have the opportunity to opt back in to the MOU. Exhibit I is an agreement to participate in implementing the Montana State Plan in each area identified. If Montana secures funding from Race to the Top, then Exhibit II will be created giving the districts that initially signed the MOU another opportunity to opt out of the agreement or describe their reform plans. As of May 13, 2010 during the time of this report there are 419 MOU's possible and 122 MOU's were submitted. This constitutes approximately 50,000 students or 38% of Montana's school districts that indicate the intent to participate. The MOU's are due by May 19, 2010 with the exception of Anaconda, MT because its school board does not meet until May 19, 2010. This is an important component because it demonstrates the level of impact on Montana students if funded. The MOU is short to provide Montana with some direction and flexibility to provide data to direct instruction. Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman continued to state that if the Board of Public Education adopts the National Common Core Standards, local districts will not have to adopt the National Common Core Standards, but each district must align its curriculum to the standards set by the Board of Public Education. The Secretary of Education centered the RTTT initiatives on four priority assurance areas:

1. Standards and assessments
2. Data system of support instruction
3. Great teachers and leaders – A recommendation to the Montana Board of Public Education will be developed with input from all stakeholders that will provide a clear direction that all school systems in Montana will use to ensure that there is a minimum of consistency and expectation in the performance of those who lead and teach in Montana's schools. It should be noted that Montana is a collective bargaining state and no tool or process will be provided because that would be in disregard to collective bargaining
4. Turning around the lowest-achieving schools – There must be a balance found and maintained to protect the interests of local control, but when local control has not worked for too long there must be a path that will allow others outside the local community to temporarily intervene, provide assistance, and give responsibility and authority back to the community once the learning and supporting environments are back in place

The grant period is 4 years, so of a total state award of \$75,000,000 (maximum allowable award for Montana in Phase II), at least \$37,500,000 (a minimum of half according to the RTTT guidelines) would

go directly to participating Title I eligible LEAs to carry out the Scope of Work over the 4 years. If all 338 Title I eligible LEAs participated, the largest annual allocation would be about \$610,200, the smallest would be \$318, the median would be \$9,260, and the mean would be \$27,740. If 20% of the Title I eligible LEAs did not participate, the largest annual allocation would be about \$762,800, the smallest would be \$2,100, the median would be \$12,000, and the mean would be \$34,850. Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman was questioned concerning what the state would do with its \$37,500,000. He responded to the question by addressing the Governor's initiative of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Education, teacher and principal prep program revisions, distance learning and dual enrollment projects, College Now Initiative, and the SMARTER/Balanced Assessment Consortium would probably go to state level activities. The Office of Public Instruction does not want to manage the state's share, but certainly would be interested in accessing the \$37,500,000 to assist school districts. Discussion ensued about what would happen in the event that Montana does not receive the RTTT funds. Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman stated that Montana's Congregational Delegates asked the educational partners of Montana to write this application as the country moves into the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to represent the educational interest of Montana. All states have rural areas, but not all states are rural. The Office of Public Instruction is building a case that Montana is truly a rural state and this information is being shared with Ms. Sharon Carroll who is serving on the Rural/Frontier Education Task Force. Whether or not Montana receives this funding the OPI will bring forth recommendations for teacher and principal evaluation, National Common Core, and will address turning around the lowest-achieving schools.

Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman also reported that another requirement of the Race to the Top application is to adopt internationally benchmarked standards. The RTTT program states that a consortium of at least 25 states develops internationally benchmarked standards, and Montana needs to be a member of the consortium. At this point only Texas and Alaska are not members of the Common Core Standard Initiative. The final version of the National Common Core Standards will be available June 2, 2010. The Race to the Top Assessment Program will provide funding to the consortia of states to develop assessments that are valid, support and inform instruction, provide accurate information about what students know and can do, and measure student achievement against standards designed to ensure that all students gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and the workplace for state to state comparability. Mr. Parman stated that Montana should not be alarmed about the RTTT Assessment Program because Montana continues to perform exceptionally well with the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). He recommended that Montana should become a member of the SMARTER(Summative Multi-state Assessment Resources for Teachers and Educational Researchers)/Balanced Assessment Consortium as part of its RTTT application and signatures are required of the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chair of the Board of Public Education.

The Board of Public Education drafted a letter of support to Joanne Weiss, the Program Director of Race to the Top from the U.S. Department of Education. Chair Patty Myers requested approval from the BPE to affix her signature to the letter.

**Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve the draft letter of support to Joanne Weiss the Program Director of Race to the Top as written. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded.**

Mr. Bernie Olson asked if all members of the Board of Public Education are in support of applying to Race to the Top. Ms. Patty Myers stated that there have been concerns expressed by her and several BPE members, but believes that the application is better with the modifications. Ms. Sharon Carroll shared her concern about teacher evaluations but acknowledged that the modifications have pacified her fears. Mr. Bernie Olson expressed his caution in regard to federal issues. State Superintendent Denise Juneau said that Montana is being cautiously pessimistic and is being protective of collective bargaining and local control. Everything will come before the Board of Public Education.

***Motion passed 5 to 1.***

**Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to have the Chair of the Montana Board of Public Education sign the memorandum of understanding, along with the Governor and the State Superintendent, to be a partner state in the SMARTER/Balanced Assessment Consortium.**

***Ms. Erin Williams seconded. Motion passed 5 to 1.***

**Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to have the Chair of the Montana Board of Public Education sign the Race to the Top Application along with the Governor and the State Superintendent. *Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion passed 5 to 1.***

Assistant State Superintendent Nancy Coopersmith, Ms. Kris Goyins, and Ms. Jean Howard compared the appearance of the National Common Core Standards to Montana's Standards. Montana's students live in a global society and the K-12 National Common Core Standards will be fewer, clearer, and more rigorous than the state standards. Examples of each were provided. The National Common Core Standards will be aligned with college and work expectations, internationally benchmarked, and evidence- or research-based. The Board of Public Education's role is to decide whether or not to adopt the National Common Core Standards based on the State Superintendent's recommendation after the alignment study has been completed.

#### **2:00 PM Mr. Dan Villa departed**

Discussion ensued about whether or not the National Common Core Standards are too specific and detailed. It was noted that the National Common Core Standards are written very differently than Montana's standards and they could be viewed as being too specific and prescriptive, but the key to success is professional development. Another issue discussed was whether career ready is synonymous with college ready and if the nuances of career ready are addressed by the National Common Core Standards. Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe believes that this sweeping approach of career ready and college ready does not serve students or teachers well. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith pointed out that every time the Office of Public Instruction reviewed the draft standards it was stressed that elementary teachers will use both the English/Language Arts as well as the Mathematics standards and they should be more consistent in format. State Superintendent Denise Juneau reiterated that there will probably be a national assessment tied to the National Common Core Standards and we need to give Montana students and teachers every opportunity to be successful. In conclusion, Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman distributed some models of teacher/principal evaluations from New Haven Public Schools, North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process, and the Delaware Performance Appraisal System for the Board of Public Education to review and consider different options.

#### **Item 4      COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT Deputy Commissioner Academic & Student Affairs - Dr. Sylvia Moore or Deputy Commissioner for Two-Year Education – Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe**

Ms. Patty Myers expressed great unhappiness that the Board of Regents decided to reduce \$600,000 from the Quality Loan Forgiveness Program and \$90,000 from the Montana Digital Academy because of the impact these programs have on K-12 education. Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe expressed that the Board of Regents also decided to cut \$200,000 in higher education's equivalent to the Montana Digital Academy titled College!Now Online. Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe said, "Yes, it hurts."

The Writing Proficiency in the Montana University System (MUS) May 2010 newsletter was distributed to the Board. The average MUS Writing Assessment (MUSWA) score was 3.8, the same as in 2009. However, the percentage of students earning scores of 5.5 and 6 increased to 5.2% from 4.6% in 2009 and the percentage of students scoring at the novice levels of 2 and below declined, from 6.5% in 2009 to

5.4% in 2010. In 2010, 7,581 students earned MSUWA scores and 135 high schools voluntarily participated in this testing program. A record number of 355 scorers convened in eight regional writing workshops.

In connection with the COLLEGE!Now Initiative from the Lumina Funded Grant is the goal to increase higher education retention levels in Montana and provide more access to students without raising the cost. The success of this initiative is directly linked to the partnering with K-12 education. In the career technical programs at the two-year colleges we are aligning the academic foundations. Another area addressed is developmental education to reduce remediation because of the varying levels of preparation needed upon high school graduation. More conversation needs to occur regarding math requirements. Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe met with the Adult Basic & Literacy Education (ABLE) Workgroup with the purpose of getting adult basic literacy education on the two-year campuses. A list of programs was sent out to the high schools identifying what specific areas of study two-year colleges would like to develop that are required by the Perkins law. A smaller group of educators have been gathered to continue dual enrollment work that begun 5 years ago. Two particular areas that are particularly complicated in dual enrollment include: 1) concurrent enrollment; and 2) getting all campuses on Banner, a comprehensive computer information system that contains information on courses, students, faculty, staff, financial aid, finance, human resources, and alumni. The COLLEGE!Now Online flyer was distributed to the Board and will be sent to high schools and counselors next week to provide Montana high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to jump start on college without leaving their hometown.

**Item 10            CHAPTER 55 JOINT TASK FORCE PROGRESS UPDATE - Dennis Parman and Patty Myers**

The first meeting of the Chapter 55 Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction Joint Task Force was conducted in Helena on April 16, 2010. Information was presented concerning the task force membership, meeting schedule, and the vision for the task force work. In addition, the agenda for the first meeting, as well as assigned homework, was reviewed. The purpose of the task force is to review and revise Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM)10.55 Standards of Accreditation to align standards with current innovative practice providing flexibility and ensuring quality education and accountability. The Chapter 55 Joint Task Force shall provide to the State Superintendent and the Board of Public Education recommendations for amendments to ARM 10.55. Recommended amendments to ARM will comply with MAPA rules for public hearing. The next meeting is June 18, 2010 and the task force will review Colorado and Kansas models; determine elements of Montana's innovative, accountable accreditation system; and identify recommendations to amend ARM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Item 11            RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BASE AID PAYMENT SCHEDULE – Nancy Coopersmith**

As required by MCA 20-9-344, the Board of Public Education must approve the distribution of K-12 BASE aid for public education. The schedule is the same as past years, approximately the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, with adjustment for weekends and holidays. It has been reviewed by the Board of Investments. The Board of Public Education was presented with the proposed payment schedule for fiscal year 2010-11 BASE aid payments to K-12 schools.

**Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve the BASE aid payment schedule to K-12 schools for fiscal year 2010-11. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 12            ADDENDUM FOR THE 2009-2010 MONTANA ACCREDITATION STATUS  
RECOMMENDATIONS - AI McMilin**

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education (BPE) for consideration an addendum to the 2009-2010 accreditation determinations for all schools as recommended by State Superintendent Denise Juneau. These changes are due to errors or needed changes identified by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) after the accreditation determinations were acted on during the March BPE meeting and the districts were notified of those determinations. The report was included. Note that Valley Christian High School is being moved to advice status. They are currently in the last year of provisional accreditation status. Attached are the protocols and procedures under Initial Accreditation Application Procedure. Since 2007, the OPI has been working with the school to insure the curriculum is aligned to the standards. The school has failed to accomplish that alignment and has stated that due to the school's values and mission no further changes are possible. In accordance with the procedures, if the school falls to advice or deficiency status during the provisional period the school will lose accreditation status. The State Superintendent outlined the following next steps for the Board of Public Education.

Mr. AI McMilin noted the following changes in the 2009-2010 Accreditation Addendum:

- Lustre Christian High School is a nonpublic school accredited by the Board of Public Education. It failed to provide the required report (Five Year Comprehensive Education Plan). Since this accreditation addendum was distributed, the school provided the completed report and the school should be removed from the list because it is in compliance.
- Valley Christian High School is a nonpublic school accredited by the Board of Public Education. The Basic Education Plan was not met and the curriculum was not aligned with the standards. Since this accreditation addendum was distributed, the school has been reengaged with the Accreditation Division at the Office of Public Instruction and is working together on these alignment issues. The State Superintendent recommended postponing action until July 2010.

**Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve the addendum for the 2009-2010 Montana Accreditation Status Recommendations as recommended by the State Superintendent. The addendum was amended to remove the change recommended for Lustre Christian High School and to postpone action on the change recommended for Valley Christian High School. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 13            RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2008-2009 RESUBMITTED CORRECTIVE  
PLANS - AI McMilin**

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education recommendations for the resubmitted 2008-2009 corrective plans for schools receiving Advice or Deficiency Status. The original plans were disapproved at the January BPE meeting. The report was included. In addition, a copy of the protocols and procedures under Response Options for Continuing or Serious Deviations was included. Mr. AI McMilin reviewed the schools provided in the 2008-09 May update.

**Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve the State Superintendent's recommendations for the 2008-2009 resubmitted corrective plan. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

This was Mr. AI McMilin's last Board of Public Education meeting since he will retire June 1, 2010. He stressed that things can never go wrong as long as decisions are made based on the kids.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Marco Ferro reminded the Board of Public Education to save the date for Friday, October 8, 2010 to attend and participate in the 2010 Educator Forum sponsored by the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

**Item 14            INDEPENDENT LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM (Presentation to be held in the Geyser Cottage along with Dinner)  
Visually Impaired High School Students  
Monica Sayler, Orientation and Mobility Specialist  
Richard Aguon, Lead Cottage Life Attendant  
Dorothy Nutter, Obsidian Lead Attendant**

The Board of Public Education and guests participated in the "Dinner in the Dark" that was hosted by the students and staff at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Through the use of visual impairment simulators and blind folds the "Dinner in the Dark" allowed participants to experience some of the challenges faced by students with visual impairments and to use techniques to promote independence.

---

**May 14, 2010 – Friday**  
**8:30 AM**

**8:40 AM Meeting Reconvened**

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Coopersmith represented Ex-officio State Superintendent Denise Juneau. There was no representation on behalf of Ex-officio members Governor Schweitzer or Commissioner Sheila Stearns. Board member Mr. Cal Gilbert did not return to the meeting on Friday.

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

Ms. Patty Myers shared with the Board of Public Education the concerns of a MSDB parent in regard to the cottage program and praised the staff for their response to the issues raised. Discussion ensued about the expertise of the staff, standards, and right to privacy. The MSDB Parent Survey from the spring of 2010 was reviewed. The response rate was 66% in 2010 compared to 23% in 2009. It reflected that MSDB is doing a better job educating its parents but needs to increase the communication with the public schools.

Mr. Steve Gettel reported the Ms. Gail Bechard, a preschool teacher, resigned effective May 28, 2010. There were four applicants for the principal position and the position was offered to Mr. Kim Schwabe. Mr. Bill Sykes, MSDB Business Manager, moved to Memphis, Tennessee and is under an "Alternate Worksite Agreement" as a telework employee. Ms. Carol Will, BPE Administrative Assistant, met with Ms. Shirley Wermling to examine the MSDB's internal financial controls to comply with the recommendation of the Legislative Auditor.

Ms. Julie Dee Alt distributed the MSDB Math and Reading Goals for 2009-2010 School Year based on the preliminary spring scores of the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) test. This is the second complete year that it has been administered and the MSDB staff believes the results provide valuable and reliable data. When reviewing the data keep in mind that the data may reflect a very small, discreet group of students or maybe even an individual student.

Mr. Bill Sykes was called on the teleconference to provide the Board with the budget and finance report. A general fund reduction of \$64,675.32 was submitted to the OBPP for FY10 in response to the Governor's January 8, 2010 request to voluntarily reduce 2011 biennial spending. Regarding the current year budget status the Administration Program did not generate vacancy savings. A program transfer of \$20,621 was processed from the Student Services Program budget. Within the General Services Program sufficient budget authority exists for the remainder of the fiscal year. Within the Student Services Program the operating budget will require an operating plan adjustment to be made by transferring funds from the personal services budget. Within the Education Program personal services and operating expenditures are projected to be over-budget. A program transfer from the personal services budget of the Student Services Program will be processed to the Education Program personal

services budget. The operating budget shortage will be covered from the statutory appropriation for out-of-state tuition.

The tri-annual meeting of the MSDB Foundation will be held May 17, 2010. The Board will participate in a visioning/planning session facilitated by Mark Willmarth, to assist in providing guidance for future direction of focus and activities. The calendar of events was reviewed. MSDB was granted accreditation with a corrective plan required in ARM 708 teaching assignments. This will continue to be a problem because of the challenge to find properly trained teachers. Mr. Steve Gettel raised this issue on many occasions and wonders when the state will develop a long-term agreement with a Montana university to properly prepare administrators and teachers in all areas of special education. Mr. Gettel stressed that an Individual Education Plan (IEP) satisfies everyone until the kid fails, then questions are asked about what is being done to provide proper services in the least restrictive environment. Discussion ensued about regional services for early intervention programs, funding, legal action, and providing a quality education. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith stated that this is the same as the school funding lawsuit and Mr. John Edwards stated that the fiscal division of the legislature wants to oversee everything, so this may need to go to the courts to meet the needs of the students. Ms. Patty Myers recommended a meeting with Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Mr. Tim Harris, Mr. Steve Gettel and herself to consider options to address this issue.

***Mr. Bernie Olson moved: to approve the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative (GTCC) agreement. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

In conclusion, discussion ensued about whether or not the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind would be able to receive Race to the Top funds. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith referred Mr. Steve Gettel to ask that question of Mr. Dennis Parman for a complete answer.

**10:43 AM Closed Meeting**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Item 16 MATERIAL AND NON-PERFORMANCE HEARING CASE #2010-01 (CLOSED) – Peter Donovan**

**Item 17 MATERIAL AND NON-PERFORMANCE HEARING CASE #2010-03 (CLOSED) – Peter Donovan**

**11:30 AM Opened Meeting**

**Item 16 MATERIAL AND NON-PERFORMANCE HEARING CASE #2010-01 - Peter Donovan**  
The hearing was conducted in the material and non-performance case #2010-01 before the Board of Public Education. The case was taken under advisement with a possible action occurring during the July 2010 Board of Public Education meeting.

**Item 17 MATERIAL AND NON-PERFORMANCE HEARING CASE #2010-03 - Peter Donovan**  
The hearing was conducted in the material and non-performance case #2010-03 before the Board of Public Education.

***Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to place a letter of reprimand in the licensed staff***

member's public record licensure file pursuant to Montana Code Annotated 20-4-110 (1)(g) and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.57.611 in the BPE case #2010-03. Ms. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11:35 AM Closed Meeting

Item 18 MSDB SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (CLOSED) - Patty Myers

12:00 PM Opened Meeting

**Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to extend the contract of the MSDB Superintendent Steve Gettel until June 30, 2013. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – July 14-16, 2010**

Strategic Planning Meeting – July 14, 2010 PM  
CSPAC/BPE Joint Meeting – July 15, 2010 AM  
Assessment Update  
Federal Update  
MACIE Update  
Annual GED Report  
Special Education Report  
Executive Secretary Performance Evaluation & Establish Salary  
MSDB Superintendent – Establish Salary  
Graduation and Dropout Report 2008-2009

Ms. Sharon Carroll requested to arrange a licensure meeting on July 13, 2010.

**Mr. Bernie Olson moved: to adjourn the Board of Public Education Meeting. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

12:10 PM Meeting Adjourned

---

*The Montana Board of Public Education is a Renewal Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting may qualify you to receive renewal units. One hour of contact time = 1 renewal unit up to 4 renewal units per day. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet if you are applying for renewal units.*