

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

**September 16-17, 2010**

**PARIS GIBSON EDUCATION CENTER  
CAFETERIA  
2400 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, MT**

**September 16, 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 Tim Seery. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Patty Myers welcomed guests and made introductions and announcements.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Patty Myers pulled the financials, annual agenda calendar, 2012-2013 BPE schedule, and committee assignments from the consent agenda.

The consent agenda consisting of the July 15-16, 2010 BPE Minutes was approved.

Ms. Patty Myers addressed the Governor's budget cuts and the results of canceling a meeting. There may be a need to conduct conference calls to accomplish the work of the Board of Public Education. Traveling will be curtailed due to budget reductions as well. Mr. Steve Meloy reported that there is a difference in revenue projections between the Office of Budget Programming & Planning (OBPP) and the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) in regard to revenue for the State of Montana.

The Annual Agenda Calendar for September 2010-November 2011 was reviewed. Ms. Patty Myers requested the Board to place the 2012-2013 BPE schedule of meetings on their calendars.

Ms. Patty Myers asked if there were any suggested changes to the 2010-2011 BPE Committee Assignments. Seeing none, the remaining consent agenda items were approved as presented.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

***Mr. Cal Gilbert moved: to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. John Edwards was absent for the vote.***

Those in attendance 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, Ms. Gisele Forrest, and Student Representative Mr. Tim Seery. Staff present 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: Assistant Superintendent Nancy Coopersmith represented State Superintendent Denise Juneau; and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe represented

Commissioner Sheila Stearns. Visitors in attendance included: Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, Accreditation Division Administrator, OPI; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Montana State University-Billings; Ms. Ruth Ueker, Great Falls Public Schools; Ms. Norma Bixby, MACIE; Ms. Beck McLaughlin, Montana Arts Council; Mr. A.J. Walsh, Great Falls Public Schools; Ms. Kelly Chapman, Students Assistance Foundation; Ms. Karin Billings, Health Enhancement Division, OPI; Mr. Brian Patrick, School Administrators of Montana; Mr. Drew Ueker, Principal, Parish Gibson Education Center; Ms. Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools; Ms. Mandy Smoker Broaddus, Indian Education Division Administrator, OPI; Mr. Chris Martineau, Superintendent, Valley Christian School; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Human Resource Manager, Great Falls Public Schools; and the following Paris Gibson Education Center Students: Mr. Saban Trujillo, Ms. Nicole Brubaker, Ms. Samantha Jarrett, Ms. Amanda Redding, Mr. Mark Vance, Ms. Shelby Matye, Ms. Haylee Ennis, Ms. Ashley Kleinnans, Mr. Abe Werner, Mr. Logan Kuhr, Mr. Christian Hammonds, and Mr. Cody Gudonundsen.

## **INFORMATION**

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

- July 19-20, 2010 Chapter 55 – Helena, MT
- August 16, 2010 Welcome MSDB Staff – Great Falls, MT
- August 17, 2010 Education Local Government Interim Committee – Helena, MT
- August 24, 2010 SAS Meeting – Helena, MT
- August 24, 2010 Chapter 55 Meeting w/Sue Buswell – Helena, MT
- August 26, 2010 Digital Learning Academy Kick-off – Missoula, MT
- September 7, 2010 MSDB Committee Conference Call
- September 13, 2010 Chapter 55 Leadership Team – Helena, MT

Ms. Patty Myers reported on Chapter 55, 2011 Teacher of the Year, Montana Meth Project, Mr. Tim Seery being a student advisor to the Great Falls Public School Board of Trustees, Montana Education Forum and the Montana Educator's Conference.

### **LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DANCERS**

Mr. Cal Gilbert introduced Ms. Sandy Houle and her students involved in the Longfellow Indian Culture Club at Longfellow Elementary School in Great Falls, MT. Ms. Houle reported that the urban Indian population in Great Falls is extremely large and this club is supported primarily through Title VII. Many of the students make their own native dress and distribute them through the generations. The regalia worn were jingle, traditional, and fancy dance. The students performed a couple of dances, including Go My Son along with sign language.

### **BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION APPEARANCES**

#### **Bernie Olson**

- August 12, 2010 Governor's Forum on Adult Credentialing – Kalispell, MT
- September 7, 2010 MSDB Committee Conference Call

#### **Erin Williams**

- August 26, 2010 Digital Learning Academy Kick-off – Missoula, MT

#### **Gisele Forrest**

- August 26, 2010 Digital Learning Academy Kick-off – Missoula, MT

### **9:36 AM Mr. John Edwards Arrived**

### **Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT - Steve Meloy**

Mr. Steve Meloy provided the new Board of Public Education members with a brief overview of the Board's scope and responsibilities. He reported that the Legislative Audit Division recommended that the

Board of Public Education spend appropriated non-General Fund money before General Fund as required by state law MCA §17-2-108. By complying, the Board of Public Education along with the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will deplete the Special Revenue (generated by licensure fees) account by 2014. Mr. Meloy acknowledged that Montana has not adopted the National Common Core Standards and the states who received Race to the Tops funds had them as a common denominator.

Mr. Meloy stated that the Legislative Fiscal Division made the following K-12 budget cut proposals on August 17, 2010:

- Eliminate HB 124 Block Grants to K-12 Funds other than the General Fund
- Lower Direct State Aid to K-12 from 44.7% to 30%
- Reduce Basic and per-ANB entitlements to K-12 by 10%
- Eliminate District Flex Fund – Transfer Balances to State
- Eliminate Full-Time Kindergarten; Restore Half-Day Kindergarten
- Require High Schools to Consolidate under conditions

The question remains if the Legislative Fiscal Division and the Education and Local Government are in agreement of the Shared Policy Goals document that was signed by the Board of Public Education, the State Superintendent, and representatives of the Education and Local Government.

Other points contained in Mr. Meloy's report included the Digital Learning Academy exceeding expectations; a draft bill by the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee that would initiate body mass index monitoring among school children enrolled in the third grade; three pending legal issues concerning an appeal from the district court, a denial hearing, and a pending revocation; a letter to Tim Harris the Special Education Division Administrator requesting a response in regard to the scarcity of qualified individuals for hearing and visually impaired students; and the SMARTER(Summative Multi-state Assessment Resources for Teachers and Educational Researchers)/Balanced Assessment Consortium.

#### **NASBE ELECTIONS (ACTION)**

Mr. Steve Meloy presented and recommended the NASBE Western Area Director candidate, Carol Murphy from the Utah State Board of Education and the NASBE President-Elect candidate, Gayle C. Manchin, First Lady of West Virginia.

**Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to cast the Montana Board of Public Education's vote for Carol Murphy as the Western Area Director for NASBE. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Cal Gilbert moved: to cast the Montana Board of Public Education's vote for Gayle C. Manchin as President-Elect for NASBE. Ms. Gisele Forrest seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK – Brian Patrick, Karin Billings, Bob Vogel and Steve Meloy**

The Montana Healthy Schools Network (MTHSN) and the Montana Team Asthma (MTTA) reported to the Board of Public Education with the following presenters: Mr. Brian Patrick, Superintendent, Townsend (MTTA); Ms. Karin Billings, Office of Public Instruction (MTTA & MTHSN); Mr. Steve Meloy, Board of Public Education (MTTA & MTHSN); and Mr. Bob Vogel, MT School Boards Association (MTTA & MTHSN). The presenters provided an update from the Interim Committee on Children, Families, and Health – Childhood Obesity and What is Being Done in Montana; Montana Summit to End Childhood Hunger; Montana Team Asthma Update – Asthma Leadership Forum, September 12-14, 2010 in Missoula, Montana; update on Title IV; and the Child Nutrition Act update. The *Creating Asthma Friendly Schools in Montana* Resource Guide was provided to the Board. The resource guide provided a spreadsheet for the school board and principal/administrators in regard to the roles and responsibilities

for creating asthma friendly schools. A video was presented in regard to Carlene Gandara, from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, who has asthma. Discussion ensued about schools becoming fragrance free, Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization, vending machines, and healthy food options.

**Item 10           ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AT ITS BEST - Students from Paris Gibson Education Center**

Principal Drew Uecker stated that the Paris Gibson Education Center is the alternative high school of Great Falls and offers an instructional/learning program which is supported by the following philosophical principles created by J. Lloyd Trump in *A School for Everyone*, published in 1977:

- Supported, Self-Directed Learning - an active process which occurs when students think and do for themselves. Learning Guides are the students' primary learning tool, with support as needed provided by teacher-experts
- Continuous Progress - ensures that students have access to their learning continually, via progress reports which are updated daily. Courses are divided into 30 units which equal a semester's credit. Each student has the freedom to set his/her schedule each day, and pursue learning in the areas of study where their interest lies. Students must meet the Great Falls Public School requirements for graduation, and are expected to earn 10 units per week
- Teacher Advisor Assignments - Each student is assigned, upon enrollment, to a teacher-advisor, who helps the student advance his/her learning until they graduate or move to the next phase of education. The advisor keeps track of the student's daily plan and progress, advocates for the student if conflict arises, and supports the student's efforts toward graduation and beyond. Each teacher is assigned ten to fifteen advisees, and meets with them every day at check-in times to verify plan and progress. The bond formed in these relationships are lasting, and are done to ensure a successful completion of high school, or other graduation alternative
- Differentiated Staffing - Each adult in the program is part of a Learning Community which promotes the best educational program for our students. Teacher-experts frequently work together to create learning opportunities that are not confined by traditional departmental lines
- Individualized Scheduling - Each student schedules him/herself for each school day based on his/her needs and interests. Our master schedule changes daily, and allows students the flexibility they need to pursue their requirements in a fashion that best suits them

Mr. Uecker stressed that an alternative school is not where bad kids go. Not every student is successful at Paris Gibson, but Mr. Uecker and the staff encourage the students who do not succeed to obtain a GED.

Ms. Samantha Jarrett, Mr. Saban Trujillo, and Ms. Nicole Brubaker shared their personal experiences with

the Board of Public Education in regard to being a student at the Paris Gibson Education Center.

- Ms. Samantha Jarrett was significantly behind in the regular school system because she felt like a square peg trying to fit in a round hole. Ms. Jarrett stated that she will graduate early, works at her own pace, felt held back in the regular school system, currently has a 4.0 GPA, and will go to college in Missoula. Ms. Samantha Jarrett said, "I love it here."
- Mr. Saban Trujillo came from Los Angeles and Denver as a former gang member who felt disrespected his whole life. Mr. Trujillo reported that he was shot, stabbed, and gang beaten. Mr. Saban Trujillo said, "This is my heaven. Uecker is like a father figure for me. My story is this school. This school has a heart and soul." Mr. Drew Uecker stated that Mr. Saban Trujillo is a professional risk for him, doesn't know if this is the right place for Mr. Trujillo, but realizes that Paris Gibson is his only opportunity.
- Ms. Nicole Brubaker is the Vice-President of Student Council and could graduate early but will stay longer because she is needed at Paris Gibson and will complete her work with the Student Council. Ms. Brubaker was homeschooled by her mother until the 8<sup>th</sup> grade; her father teaches in the Great Falls Public School System, but Ms. Brubaker feels that Paris Gibson is just like homeschooling with 250 other students. Ms. Nicole Brubaker said, "I could have made it in the Great Falls Public School System, but I love it here."

**Item 3 CSPAC REPORT - Peter Donovan**

Mr. Peter Donovan provided the Board of Public Education with the highlights of the July 14, 2010 Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council. Mr. Donovan reported that Ms. Ann Gilkey, along with CSPAC, is reviewing the other state's code of ethics. The Licensure and Endorsement Committee of CSPAC was assigned to the review process and will report to the Council at the October 14-15, 2010 meeting. The October meeting is a joint meeting with the Council of Deans in Missoula.

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

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Coopersmith provided the Board of Public Education with the Summary of the Office of Public Instruction's Activities for September and it is available on the OPI website. Ms. Coopersmith reported that the State Superintendent Denise Juneau is making Graduation Matters Montana a top priority and will focus her legislative goals for the 2011 Legislative Session on ensuring that more Montana students graduate from high school and are ready for college and careers. As part of Graduation Matters Montana, a student summit will meet on November 12, 2010 with 40 high school students from varied backgrounds to act as State Superintendent Juneau's first student advisory board. Additional activities addressed were: Full-featured e-mail communications, Montana summit to end childhood hunger, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Winners for School Year 2010-2011, U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program, and the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Project. Ms. Patty Myers requested that the Office of Public Instruction provide the Board of Public Education an organization chart of its agency.

**NOMINATION TO THE MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION (ACTION)**

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Coopersmith reported that Ms. Penny Kipp was nominated to the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education. State Superintendent Denise Juneau wrote a letter of support to the Board of Public Education recommending that the BPE accept and approve Ms. Penny Kipp as a MACIE member.

***Mr. Cal Gilbert moved: to approve Penny Kipp as a member of the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education. Mr. John Edwards seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

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

Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe reported to the Board of Public Education that the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education partnered with the Office of Public Instruction's Career Technical Division to connect the high schools with the development of Big Sky Pathways along with Montana two year colleges. Big Sky Pathways is a program of study that begins in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and goes throughout high school into a two or four year college. It makes use of the Career Information System, an advising tool that allows the student to look at different areas of career interest. This leads the students into the curriculum of the high school and different course work options to achieve their career goals and expedite a college degree. It identifies AP classes, dual enrollment classes, and career technical statewide articulation classes. The technical statewide articulation classes are like AP classes, but focus on career tech. Approximately sixty high schools have been involved in Big Sky Pathways. Other topics presented were: Changes in the allocation of Perkins' funds; public hearings regarding the financial allocations beginning in October 2010; Tech Prep funding will be distributed by formula to regional consortia led by two-year colleges with the major emphasis on articulating programs of study (Big Sky Pathways); proposed operational guidelines of regional hubs and a tuition and funding model that ensures affordable options for dual enrollment and other secondary-postsecondary credit opportunities; Montana Digital Academy; admission standards policy being streamlined; Graduation Matters; and Dr. Mary Sheehy Moe's retirement.

**Item 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - Dan Villa**

No report was provided.

**Item 7            STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - Tim Seery**

On May 24, 2010 the Great Falls Tribune published an article written by Mr. Timothy Seery titled *Alternative High School Not an Alternative to Learning*. Mr. Seery attended a seminar at the Paris Gibson Education Center taught by Ms. Janell Johns, English Teacher, who taught The Odyssey to a small group of students, building their skills, confidence and education with the support of direct attention and peer encouragement. Ms. Johns reported to Mr. Seery that she is teaching the same honors curriculum to the alternative high school students that she used in a public high school and they are meeting the same standards. The school consists of 236 students and maintains a graphic design business, a coffee shop, sewing and quilting business, a thrift store, and a printing company. In conclusion, Mr. Seery reported that the personal connections and relationships that are built at the Paris Gibson Education Center are what make this alternative high school successful.

**DISCUSSION**

**Item 8            MACIE REPORT - Norma Bixby**

MACIE met on July 14-15, 2010 for a quarterly meeting and strategic planning session. The following topics were discussed: Funding for Indian Education for All – approximately half of the funding allocated from 2007-2009 has been spent by school districts. Indian Education for All materials – the Blackfeet Tribal History was sent to all school libraries in May. The Crow History was sent to all schools in August. The Little Shell History will be published in the fall. Four school districts will be participating in the School Improvement Grant – Lodge Grass, Pryor, Lame Deer, and Frazer. Four staff members will be hired through the grant at each site. Full-time are the transformation leaders and the instructional leaders; part-time are the Community Liaisons and School Board Coaches. The grant provides an exciting opportunity to improve achievement for students in these districts. The GEAR UP Program will be submitting a proposal for a new five-year grant and requested MACIE's input. The latest Dropout and Graduation Report was disseminated. It is available on the OPI website at: [http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Measurement/DropoutReportFY08\\_09.pdf](http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Measurement/DropoutReportFY08_09.pdf). Update on the Common Core State Standards Project was presented. The OPI Indian Education Division has been involved in incorporating Indian Education for All into the standards. A presentation and discussion of the effects of trauma in schools and communities was made by Marilyn Zimmerman. A strategic planning session took place on the second day. There will be further discussion of the strategic plan at the next meeting in October. Discussion ensued about the allocation of funds for Indian Education for All.

**Item 9            MONTANA URBAN INDIAN REPORT - Mandy Smoker Broaddus**

This report included data gathered by the Office of Public Instruction regarding Indian student performance in urban school districts in Montana. The data outlines the current and historic American Indian achievement gap both from a statewide perspective and from an individual urban school district perspective. Ms. Mandy Smoker Broaddus addressed the following issues and factors to be considered: Complex historic and cultural issues and a general lack of awareness and understanding; lack of academic challenge, rigor and high expectations; urban versus rural schools issues; high student mobility rates and retainment issues; a need to focus efforts on key transition points; need for greater parent/family/community outreach and involvement; lack of mental and emotional health supports; generational, concentrated, isolated and deep poverty; school climate; participation in special or categorical programs; class size; family/parent interactions; nature and frequency of disciplinary action; attendance, tardy and mobility rates; community well-being; and college-going graduate and employment information. Many graphs and facts were presented containing: Population; CRT trends; dropout trends; discipline/suspension and expulsion rates; special education rates; Youth Risk Behavior Survey data; advanced placement and ACT data; and research and best practices for Urban American Indian education. Discussion ensued about mobility; Missoula's success; Graduation Matters; escalated dropout rates at 9<sup>th</sup> grade; Gear Up Program; homerooms; connectivity; mentor programs; and trauma.

**Item 11                    CHAPTER 55 JOINT TASK FORCE PROGRESS UPDATE - Patty Myers and Dennis Parman**

The next meeting of the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction Chapter 55 Joint Task Force will be September 29-30, 2010 at the Gateway Center in Helena, MT. The August meeting of the task force was cancelled due to the Education and Local Government Subcommittee of the Legislative Finance Committee meeting on August 16-18, 2010. For several Chapter 55 Joint Task Force members, participation in the meetings of the Education and Local Government Subcommittee is essential and, therefore, these members had a conflict with the August 18 task force meeting date.

The purpose of the three meetings of the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force has been to establish for each task force member a general understanding of: 1) Standards of Accreditation, Chapter 55; 2) Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) rulemaking process; and 3) implications to the accreditation process to provide innovation and flexibility while ensuring quality and accountability. The agenda will be posted on the Chapter 55 Task Force Webpage located at [http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/index.html#gpm#1\\_3](http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/index.html#gpm#1_3). The September meeting will focus on three main topics: 1) complete specific work on Standards of Accreditation, Chapter 55; 2) receive presentations from constituent groups not represented on the task force; and 3) making decisions to move forward toward an accreditation process in Montana to provide innovation and flexibility while ensuring quality and accountability.

A sub-committee of the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force was formed to develop a recommendation for a framework for teacher and school leader evaluations to become part of Chapter 55. Ms. Patty Myers and Mr. Dennis Parman have named the following people to this sub-committee, but are requesting for four more participants: Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Darrell Rud, SAM; Lance Melton, MTSBA; Dave Puyear, MREA; Bill McCaw, University System; and Sharon Applegate, Teacher/CSPAC. The four additional participants that are preferred for this sub-committee include a principal, a superintendent, an elementary teacher, and a high school teacher. The OPI Assistant Superintendent, Steve York will be added to the staff list of Chapter 55 to provide additional support. There will be two more Chapter 55 meetings before the 2013 Legislature convenes in January, will break during the legislative session, and will reconvene late in the spring.

**Item 12                    ASSESSMENT UPDATE - Judy Snow**

A summary of the 2010 assessment results for the statewide Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) was presented. The data was aggregated by content, grade, and student groups. The data included 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning in 2006 who were tested in math and reading and 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning in 2008 who were tested in science. Discussion ensued about the changes in calculation of AYP, changes in content standards, credit recovery, number of students who take the ACT and the SAT, and limited English proficiency.

**Item 13                    COMMON CORE STANDARDS REPORT - Nancy Coopersmith**

The current national and state activities concerning the Common Core State Standards Project were discussed. In addition, information concerning the timeline for a potential recommendation concerning adoption of the standards by the Montana Board of Public Education was included. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith reported that the Office of Public Instruction is not bringing a recommendation at this time because the National Common Core Standards need to be reviewed more thoroughly by Montanans, develop a plan of implementation, develop a plan for professional development, and review assessments. Ms. Coopersmith reported that 35 states adopted the National Common Core Standards to-date. The OPI plans to bring a recommendation to the Board of Public Education in May 2011 with the potential adoption in December 2011 following MAPA. This would provide school districts the opportunity to implement the standards and professional development prior to the official assessment to be conducted

in school year 2014-2015.

**Item 14 FEDERAL UPDATE - Nancy Coopersmith**

This report included results of the 2010 determinations for Montana schools and districts of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In addition, information was presented concerning the federal budget process for funding education programs. The state can point to gaps between low-income students and higher-income students that are among the smallest in the nation and ACT scores that are higher than the national average. Schools are required to meet 41 benchmarks on the state test to meet AYP under No Child Left Behind. A school's adequate yearly progress is calculated based on test participation, academic achievement, graduation rate and other statistics. But every few years, the percentage of students who must pass state tests increase. "Rising targets for AYP make it appear that schools are not performing as well when test scores are improving," said Denise Juneau as reported in the Adequate Yearly Progress Report Released on Montana Schools on August 6, 2010. Nationwide, millions of children are still a long way from reaching the law's ambitious goal – that every student, 100%, be able to read and do math at their grade level by the year 2014. Montana standards have also increased. State Superintendent Denise Juneau said that the Office of Public Instruction now requires that 85% of students graduate from each high school in order to make AYP, up from 80% last year. The agency also changed the formula this year to require that more schools participate in the tests. The "AYP status of each Montana school and district is summarized on the OPI's web site at: [http://opi.mt.gov/Reports&Data/Index.html/gpm=1\\_3](http://opi.mt.gov/Reports&Data/Index.html/gpm=1_3). Ms. Nancy Coopersmith noted that it is not uncommon for a school to make AYP, but the district does not make it. This is true for the state too. Many districts will make AYP, but when all the data rolls up the State of Montana has never met AYP. The summary of 2010 Final AYP Determinations that was current as of July 30, 2010 was provided. Discussion ensued about sanctions between Title I schools and non-Title I schools. The main difference noted was that Title I schools must do plans of improvement and if a school is not Title I they are not put into corrective action

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

Mr. Steve Gettel reported on the following items: Student enrollment/evaluation; personnel actions; accreditation report; update on strategic plan; update on in-service training; fall conferences; MSDB Foundation activities; finance and facilities; school calendar; and student news. The letter written to Mr. Tim Harris from Mr. Steve Meloy, dated August 11, 2010 and Mr. Tim Harris' e-mail response were distributed and reviewed. Ms. Patty Myers noted that Mr. Harris' response returned the issue back to the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Ms. Myers stressed that MSDB would not have raised this issue to the Board of Public Education if they were able to resolve it independently. Mr. Steve Gettel stressed that the problem surrounding this issue is paying for and setting up effective training for qualified teachers of hearing and visually impaired students. In the letter Mr. Steve Meloy suggested convening a meeting of select members of the recent Interpreter Standards Task Force. Mr. Harris responded in the e-mail stating that the entire task force should be given the opportunity to participate. Mr. John Edwards stated that this issue may need to be addressed in a court of law. Ms. Nancy Coopersmith questioned if the legislature reviewed the language interpreter rules for fiscal impact. Ms. Steve Meloy reported that the Board of Public Education complied with MCA 20-7-101(2) which states, "Prior to adoption or amendment of any accreditation standard, the board shall submit each proposal to the education and local government interim committee for review." [Submitted July 28, 2009]

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**September 17, 2010 – Friday**

**8:30 AM**

**8:36 AM BPE Meeting Reconvened**

**No Representation from the Commissioner of Higher Education or the Governor's Offices**

## ACTION

### Item 16 VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL ACCREDITATION - Linda Vrooman Peterson

At the May Board of Public Education meeting, the Office of Public Instruction requested to postpone a recommendation to change the accreditation status of Valley Christian High School (VCHS). The VCHS's Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Trustees agreed to the timeline to complete the required alignment of the VCHS curricular areas to the Montana State Content Standards. The timeline was attached. In May 2010, VCHS's Superintendent, Chris Martineau, and teacher, Carol Elsen, worked with the OPI specialists on a process to align the Communication Arts Curriculum to the state content standards. The project was successfully completed and Superintendent Martineau agreed to complete the alignment for the other curricular areas following this process. In July, the OPI received the draft science curriculum for VCHS. Again the OPI content specialist reviewed the science curriculum and provided recommended changes to the document. Superintendent Martineau made the changes to the Science curriculum. The OPI received the remaining VCHS curriculum documents prior to the deadline of August 20, 2010. The OPI Accreditation staff completed a review of the materials and identified changes to ensure the VCHS curricula align to the state content standards as required by the Board of Public Education. Included in the report are two examples of VCHS content area curricula: Health Enhancement and Communication Arts. State Superintendent Denise Juneau recommended to the BPE regular accreditation status for Valley Christian High School.

**Mr. John Edwards moved: to accept State Superintendent Denise Juneau's recommendation to approve regular accreditation status for Valley Christian School. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded.**

Mr. Chris Martineau expressed his appreciation of the perseverance and patience from the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education to support Valley Christian High School obtaining full accreditation status.

***Motion passed unanimously.***

### Item 17 ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARDS REQUESTS - Linda Vrooman Peterson

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education for consideration of the Initial Alternative Standard Requests recommended either for approval or disapproval by State Superintendent Denise Juneau. The report was included. There were 3 initial alternative standard requests representing 3 districts and 33 schools that were evaluated in accordance with ARM 10.55.604.

- Carter County, Alzada Elementary – The proposal meets or exceeds current standards 10.55.709 and 10.55.710. State Superintendent Denise Juneau recommended approval of the alternative standard request.
- Lewis & Clark County, Helena Public Schools – The proposal did not meet or exceed current standard 10.55.710. State Superintendent Denise Juneau recommended disapproval of the alternative standard request.
- Yellowstone County, Billings Public Schools – The proposal did not meet or exceed current standards 10.55.709 and 10.55.710. State Superintendent Denise Juneau recommended disapproval of the alternative standards request.

**Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve State Superintendent Denise Juneau's recommendations for the alternative standards request as reported. Ms. Gisele Forrest seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

### Item 18 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOLS IN INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE CYCLE - Linda Vrooman Peterson

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education a progress report and recommendations for schools that have been identified for the 2010 Intensive Assistance Cycle due to continuing or serious deviations. The Billings School District failed to submit an acceptable corrective plan to address increasing class size, school counseling, and library deficiencies. State Superintendent Denise Juneau recommended placing the Billings Public Schools in step 1 of the Intensive Assistance Cycle. In February 2009 Mr. Dale Kimmet and Mr. Al McMilin met with Kathy Olson, Director of Elementary Education, at the Lincoln Center to discuss the disapproval of the district's improvement plan for Highland, Poly Drive, Boulder and Meadowlark Elementary Schools due to insufficient counseling FTE. This is the fourth year that all four schools have had this deviation. Superintendent Jack Copps intended to be present but was unable to attend. The following points were stressed with Ms. Olson:

1. With the denial of the elementary counseling alternative standard in 2005, it was expected that the district would gradually add FTE to bring all schools up to the required level of counseling FTE required. While the district had been moving in that direction the current improvement plan made the statement that continued addition of FTE would be contingent on additional/available state funding.
2. Ms. Olson was reminded that correcting deviations from the minimum standards in a timely manner cannot be based upon "funding".
3. The purpose of the visit was to work with the district to develop an acceptable improvement plan to address the deficiencies.
4. In addition, the increasing deviation in class overloads and library FTE was noted with Ms. Olson.

The District's basic points:

1. The district stands behind the improvement plan as submitted.
2. The district still believes that the renewal of the counseling alternative standard that was denied by the BPE in July of 2005 should have been approved.
3. The district believes that they need to provide the necessary counseling FTE using the elementary population as a whole not by school. (They have a total of 29 FTE for elementary counseling for the reported 10,201 student enrollment. At a 1 to 400 ratio they do meet their threshold.)
4. The district also employs some social worker FTE in support of the counselors. Ms. Olson also noted that some of the elementary principals also hold counseling endorsements.
5. The district has an effective, highly prescriptive and student-centered counseling program.
6. They have been and remain committed to the staffing counseling FTE based upon need. In some schools this has meant having more FTE than the minimum.
7. The district believes that the three schools in question have a much lower need based upon the higher socio-economic demographics of their respective areas.
8. The district is facing the prospect of additional FTE cuts for next year. Ms. Olson believes some of those cuts will come in the counseling area.

Recommended next steps:

- It has been the practice to allow the large districts three to five years to accomplish the needed addition of FTE when alternative standard such as this one comes to an end. This is the fourth year for Billings in such a cycle.
- They have added total counseling FTE as follows:

2005-2006	24.4 FTE
2006-2007	25.6 FTE
2007-2008	26 FTE
2008-2009	29 FTE
- The issue still remains of the schools in question and adding addition FTE being based on available funding.

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson reported that Ms. Kelly Glass and Mr. Al McMilin met with Dr. Keith Beeman, new Billings School District Superintendent, and believed that Dr. Beeman was willing to work with the

Office of Public Instruction to take action to rectify the situation. Step 1 of the Intensive Assistance for Continuing or Serious Deviations requires the OPI representatives to conduct an on-site visit and conduct a conference with the chairperson of the local board of trustees and the district administrator to review the history of the school's issues and the steps that make up the intensive assistance process.

**Mr. John Edwards moved: to approve State Superintendent Denise Juneau's recommendation to place Billings Public Schools in step 1 of the Intensive Assistance for Continuing or Serious Deviations Cycle. Ms. Erin Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 19 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF STATE ACCREDITATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BILLINGS - Linda Vrooman Peterson**

At the July meeting of the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction provided the report on the Accreditation Review of the Professional Education Unit at Montana State University – Billings. This joint Montana/National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) visit followed the established state and NCATE/Montana protocol. The on-site review specifically examined the teaching areas program standards as established by the BPE. It was the consensus of the state team that overall the unit has strong programs that meet the standards. The joint team examined the NCATE Unit Standards. Montana's PEPPS incorporate NCATE Unit Standards. The joint team found all unit standards were met for both initial and advanced programs. State Superintendent Juneau recommends to the BPE full state approval of the accreditation status of the Professional Education Unit at Montana State University-Billings. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson stated that MSU-Billings is expected to receive NCATE approval as well.

**Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to accept State Superintendent Denise Juneau's recommendation to approve full state accreditation status of the Professional Education Unit at Montana State University-Billings. Mr. John Edwards seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Interim Dean of the College of Education at MSU Billings, thanked the Board of Public Education and reported that MSU-Billings made the *U.S. News World Report* Best Colleges ranking list.

**Item 20 ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS - Steve Meloy**

Ms. Patty Myers passed the chairmanship to Mr. Steve Meloy to open nominations for the Board of Public Education's chair. Mr. Steve Meloy called for nominations for the BPE's chair. Ms. Sharon Carroll nominated Ms. Patty Myers. No other nominations were made.

**Ms. Sharon Carroll moved: to elect Ms. Patty Myers as the Board of Public Education's chair for 2010-2011. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Steve Meloy passed the chairmanship to Ms. Patty Myers to open nominations for the election of the BPE's vice chair. Mr. Bernie Olson nominated Ms. Sharon Carroll. No other nominations were made.

**Mr. Bernie Olson moved: to elect Ms. Sharon Carroll as the Board of Public Education's vice chair for 2010-2011. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Board of Education – September 23, 2010 – Cancelled  
Montana Tech University of Montana, Butte, MT**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – December 2-3, 2010, Helena, MT  
MACIE Annual Report**

Joint MACIE/BPE/OPI meeting  
Assessment Update  
Federal Update  
Alternative Standards Request  
Transportation Report – Research provided to the BPE in regard to seatbelts on buses  
Accreditation Report  
Chapter 55  
Revocation Hearing  
Legislative Update with proposed bills

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

#### **9:45 AM Meeting Adjourned**

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