

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

January 16th, 2015
Via VisionNet Conference
OPI Conference Room
1300 11th AVE
Helena MT

Friday, January 16th, 2015
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance and Executive Director Pete Donovan read the Statement of Public Participation.

Board members present via VisionNet included: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Mr. Paul Andersen, Vice-Chair; Ms. Erin Williams, Ms. Lila Taylor, Mr. John Edwards, Mr. Bernie Olson. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner – excused. Staff present in Helena included Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Ex-Officio members present in Helena included; Dr. Neil Moisey, OCHE; Dr. Shannon O'Brien, Governor's Office; Superintendent Juneau, OPI. Guests present in Helena included: Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI; Ms. Donna Sorensen, MSDB Superintendent; Ms. Donna Schmidt, MSDB; Ms. Donell Rosenthal, OPI; Mr. Michael Hall, OPI.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda adopted as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mr. John Edwards moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Paul Andersen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

*****Items are listed in the order in which they are presented.*****

❖ REPORTS – Sharon Carroll (Items 1-6)

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Sharon Carroll

Chair Carroll reviewed for the Board her attendance at the HiSet Conference in December 2014. 12 states, including Montana, have adopted the HiSet exam. Chair Carroll also discussed a conference call she had with Executive Director Donovan and CSPAC Chair Tammy Lacey regarding a model for a Professional Educator Code of Ethics. Chair Carroll reviewed the 2015 Legislative process and updates from the office. Chair Carroll stated she plans to attend the State of Education Address given by Superintendent Juneau on February 2nd, 2015, weather permitting.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan reviewed the 2015 Legislature to date. The BPE budget was presented to the House Appropriations Committee on Monday January 12th. Mr. Donovan discussed SB 124 to have audio/video minutes loaded to the Board website within 24 hours and some of the bill drafts that have been proposed.

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

Superintendent Juneau discussed the release of the 2013 graduation rate of 85.4%, and the upcoming State of Education Address on February 2nd, 2015. The Superintendent reviewed some of the bills that the OPI is requesting including increasing the minimum drop out age to 18, or upon graduation, to eliminate winter enrollment count, and to provide ANB funding for 19 year olds.

**Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT
Commissioner Clayton Christian**

Dr. Moisey gave the report for the Commissioner of Higher Education's office. Dr. Moisey discussed some of the bills the Commissioner is watching including supporting the Governor's Early Edge program. Dr. Moisey and Dr. John Cech worked with the Tribal Colleges this fall, touring the colleges and discussing issues of transferring, and common course numbering. The office is also working on prior learning assessments, developmental education, and watching for the Smarter Balanced Assessments results this spring. Chair Carroll discussed that she now has 2 math classes up and running on the Ed Ready site as of this week and discussed how she is using the program in her classroom.

**Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT
Shannon O'Brien**

Dr. O'Brien thanked the Board members, Executive Director Donovan and staff for their support. Dr. O'Brien stated that she has been working with Mr. Donovan on a regular basis. Dr. O'Brien congratulated Superintendent Juneau on the new graduation rates released this week. Dr. O'Brien discussed the Dual Enrollment Initiative and that the Governor's goal is to have 60% of Montanans to have at least a 2 year degree, and how Dual Enrollment complements that initiative. Dr. O'Brien discussed the Governor's priorities for this Legislative session including funding for Early Edge, K-12 Education funding, Indian Education for All, supporting increasing the drop out age, ANB funding for 19 year olds, a tuition freeze for Higher Ed, performance based funding, increasing the number of students in medical exchange program, and research investments for Higher Ed.

**Item 6 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
Greta Gustafson**

Ms. Gustafson reviewed activities at Cut Bank High School with semester testing this week, including the bomb threat the school experienced this week as well as the high schools in Havre and Chinook. Ms. Gustafson reviewed her preparation for the upcoming State Student Council meeting, Student Advisory Board meeting, and organizing for prom this spring. She also discussed the student question of the month she posed at her school which was to ask whether students preferred to have a longer summer break or longer Christmas break. The results will be presented to the School Board. Ms. Gustafson also informed the board of a new social media app causing some bullying issues at Cut Bank High School. She has been invited to attend a Future Physicians conference in Massachusetts this summer and is currently preparing for the ACT test.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

❖ **MSDB LIAISON - Lila Taylor (Item 7)**

Item 7

MSDB REPORT

Donna Sorensen, MSDB Superintendent

Ms. Donna Sorensen gave a brief update on activities at the MSDB including their IT Director having a kidney transplant. Ms. Sorensen stated that she will be asking for the Board to approve the school calendar. The school's enrollment is currently at 51 students with 2 possible new students. A new TVI staff person has been hired as of yesterday and will begin teaching at the school February 1st. A finalist has been chosen for the Accounting Technician position and the school hopes to have that position filled soon. The school had a visitor from Tanzania who works with Deaf and Blind individuals in Tanzania. Ms. Sorensen also discussed the relationship they have with a Deaf and Blind school in Russia and that those folks will be visiting April 27-May 4th. On May 7th and small group from MSDB will be going to Russia. Ongoing sign language training was also discussed, as well as changes in the unified Braille Code System.

Ms. Donna Schmidt discussed Safety and Worker's Comp Claims which are down 50% this year, that First Aid kits have been purchased for the vans used to transport students, and that step ladders will be purchased for staff. Ms. Schmidt gave an update on the cottage that has been remodeled due to a water leak last fall. The MSDB Foundation has donated the funding for a great deal of the project, but the agency has also used some carry forward monies from FY14 they are using to finish the remodel.

Discussion took place regarding the Significant Writing Policy and how many readings of the policy should be completed prior to adoption. It was determined that Action will take place after the 2nd reading which will be at the March 2015 BPE meeting.

Ms. Lila Taylor moved to approve the amended MSDB calendar. Motion seconded by Mr. Bernie Olson.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board members were emailed a budget sheet and Ms. Donna Schmidt discussed the numbers with the Board.

Discussion took place on future updates to the Board from MSDB. Does having an update at each BPE meeting suffice or as the School Board for the MSDB, or should the Board be more involved and resume the monthly MSDB Committee meetings that were occurring under Superintendent Gettel? Ms. Sorensen added that she will comply with whatever the Board wishes to do. The Board asked Mr. Donovan to review statutes regarding the BPE's oversight responsibilities for the MSDB and to have this as a discussion item for the March BPE meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 9-10)**

Item 9

FEDERAL UPDATE

Nancy Coopersmith

Ms. Coopersmith updated the Board on happenings in education at the Federal level including the funding received by the OPI from the Federal government for funding for preschools for high need areas. four areas have been identified and staff is currently being hired. Ms. Coopersmith detailed other funding increases in School Food, IESA, and that there will be no funding for Race to the Top, since Montana does not receive RTT funds. Ms. Coopersmith discussed the Reauthorization of the Elementary and

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bernie Olson moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Erin Williams.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

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 8 renewal units per day. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet if you are applying for renewal units.

Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Action may be taken by the Board on any item listed on the agenda. Public comment is welcome on all items but time limits on public comment may be set at the Chair's discretion.

The Board of Public Education will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate in the meeting. Individuals who require such accommodations should make requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible prior to the meeting start date. You may write to: Kris Stockton, PO Box 200601, Helena MT, 59620, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 444-0302.