

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

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Montana School for the Deaf and Blind  
3911 Central AVE  
Great Falls, MT

**Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chair Carroll. Students from the MSDB led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance with sign language.

Board members present included: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Mr. Paul Andersen, Vice-Chair; Mr. John Edwards; Dr. Darlene Schottle; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Erin Williams; Ms. Greta Gustafson. Staff present included: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Ex-Officio members: Mr. Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent Office of Public Instruction; Ms. Brandi Foster, Commissioner of Higher Education Office; Dr. Shannon O'Brien, Education Policy Advisor for Governor Bullock called in via conference call. Guests present included: Ms. Donna Sorensen, Superintendent MSDB; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools; Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Shannon Koenig, OPI; Ms. Susan Harper-Whalen, University of Montana; Ms. Kristi Murphy, University of Montana; Ms. Kelly Chapman, Student Assistance Foundation; Ms. Kari Zeier, Concerned Women of America, Billings; Ms. Karen Cox, Billings; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Superintendent Great Falls Public Schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** 3:05  
No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA** 3:42  
Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

**ADOPT AGENDA** 4:09  
Item #12 will be done at 1:00. Item #4 will be conference call with Dr. O'Brien.

**Ms. Erin Williams moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. John Edwards seconded the motion.**

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

❖ **REPORTS – Sharon Carroll (Items 1-6)**

**Item 1** **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** 6:28  
Sharon Carroll

Chair Carroll announced that she will be representing the Board at the Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG) conference in Billings May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.***

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT 8:16**  
**Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan briefly reviewed the 2015 Legislative session and bills passed that will affect the Board. Mr. Donovan also highlighted bills which were introduced but not passed that would have affected the Board. Mr. Donovan noted that the Board's budget was approved to include budget for legal services for the next biennium. Mr. Donovan reviewed his attendance at the Montana Mathematics Teaching Summit May 1-2.

- **Approve CSPAC Applications**

Ms. Lacey briefly reviewed the CSPAC council and their duties. Ms. Schottle asked how many members were on the Council and Mr. Donovan reviewed the council membership, and reviewed the appointments to the Council and requested the Board's approval of the appointments.

**Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to appoint Kelly Elder, Debbie Hendricks, and Sabrina Steketee as appointments to the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council. Ms. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.**

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

## DISCUSSION

**Item 3 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT 27:58**  
**Dr. Neil Moisey**

Ms. Brandi Foster gave the report on behalf of Dr. Moisey for the Commissioner of Higher Education's Office. Ms. Foster passed out a brief report which included updates on College Application Week, and Dual Credit Expansion.

**Item 5 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT 36:46**  
**Greta Gustafson**

Ms. Gustafson updated the Board on her recent activities which included High School Rodeo, prom, her participation on the Steering committee for the 2016 State Student Council Report, attendance at the National Student Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in June, and the District 2 Student Council Conference in Great Falls. Ms. Gustafson noted that her school had 100% participation in the ACT test. Ms. Gustafson is excited to have completed her first term on the Board, and is looking forward to wrapping up the school year.

**Item 4 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT 42:37**  
**Dr. Shannon O'Brien**

Dr. Shannon O'Brien was conferenced in via phone for her report to the Board. Dr. O'Brien briefly updated the Board on the Governor's work in education and reviewed the 2015 Legislative Session. Dr. O'Brien reviewed bills the Governor supported and signed regarding education including the Bully Free bill, Tribal Language Preservation, STEM Scholarship, funding for Career and Technical Training, and Montana Digital Academy funding. A tuition freeze was also supported and passed for higher education,

as well as funding for research and commercialization for Universities. Dr. O'Brien also discussed the failure to fund Preschool programs, though the \$10 million grant received by the OPI will help. Dual enrollment was also highlighted and Medicaid expansion among others.

**Item 6 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 56:00**  
**Deputy State Superintendent Dennis Parman**

Mr. Parman updated the Board on the status of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing since the April 27<sup>th</sup> vendor related issues. Mr. Parman updated the Board with averages of test takers and that the testing window does not close until June 7<sup>th</sup>. The OPI expects at least 82% of students to test in Montana though the number could be as high as 92%. Final numbers will not be available until after the testing window closes. Mr. Parman gave a brief review of the 2015 Legislative process from the OPI perspective and bills affecting OPI and bills they supported in particular how SB 345 will be implemented. Mr. Parman fielded questions from the Board.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Paul Andersen (Item 7)**

**Item 7 BOARD DISCUSSION OF ARM 10.56.101 – ASSESSMENT 1:17:27**  
**Sharon Carroll**

Mr. Andersen and Mr. Parman reviewed for the Board the delays with the Smarter Balanced testing and the “glitches” experienced by the vendor which created problems for schools in the middle of testing. Mr. Andersen then opened up the item to discussion and questions from the Board. Board members discussed how to handle the issue of the violation of the Boards rule (ARM 10.56.101(3)) requiring testing to take place and OPI's decision to let schools opt out of the testing due to testing issues. The Board requested a list of schools that opted out of the testing and a resolution to remedy the situation from the Superintendent upon which the Board will take action in July. The Board also requested a joint statement from the BPE and OPI to be released within one week.

**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 - Sharon Carroll (Item 8)**

**Item 8 MSDB REPORT 2:13:30**  
**Donna Sorensen**

Ms. Sorensen highlighted items on the MSDB report for the Board and happenings around the school since the update given at the March meeting. Dr. Schottle requested more information on staffing and personnel openings.

**DISCUSSION**

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 9)**

**Item 9 MACIE REPORT 2:35:30**  
**Norma Bixby**

Ms. Bixby gave the MACIE report to the Board. Two MACIE meetings have taken place since the last update to the Board last September. Ms. Bixby gave a brief overview of the makeup of MACIE and current openings on the council. Ms. Bixby then reported on updates to MACIE regarding dual enrollment numbers for tribal students, a request by MACIE for Major Robinson to give an update at their next meeting. MACIE received a report from Ms. Coopersmith on the Equity Plan and provided their input and

comments. Updates on current and new Schools of Promise were given to MACIE by the Superintendent and a Legislative update from Mr. Parman. The evaluation of Montana Indian Education for All program is nearly complete.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 10-11)**

**Item 10 MONTANA STATE EDUCATOR EQUITY PLAN 2:55:04**  
**Nancy Coopersmith**

Ms. Coopersmith updated the Board on the State Educator Equity plan, the federal requirement for each state to have an equity plan, and how the plan is taking shape. A plan was created in 2006 and Ms. Coopersmith updated the Board on the history of the plan and how it has changed since 2006. Data was not collected from schools but from data that the OPI already has and compiled by the OPI Leadership team. Ms. Coopersmith answered questions from the Board.

**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.*

**Item 11 APPROVAL OF BASE AID PAYMENT SCHEDULE 3:05:00**  
**Nancy Coopersmith**

MCA requires the Board to approve the distribution of the BASE Aid payment schedule. Ms. Coopersmith reviewed this year's report and requested the Board's approval. Ms. Coopersmith noted the payment schedule was reviewed by the Board of Investments.

**Mr. John Edwards moved to Approve the Distribution of K-12 Base Aid for Public Education. Motion seconded by Ms. Erin Williams.**

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**DISCUSSION**

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – John Edwards (Items 12-13) :31 (PM session)**

**Item 12 NEW CURRICULAR PROGRAMS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS**  
**Dr. Linda Peterson**

- **University of Montana – ECE Minor Endorsement. Susan Harper-Whalen, Associate Dean, and Kristine Murphy, Licensure Official, UMT**
- **University of Montana - Master of Curriculum and Instruction in ECE Endorsement. Susan Harper-Whalen, Associate Dean, UMT**
- **University of Montana – Western – ECE Major Stand-Alone Endorsement. Julie Bullard, Western**
- **Salish Kootenai College – ECE Major Stand-Alone Endorsement. Cindy O'Dell, Dean of Education, SKC**

Dr. Linda Peterson and representatives from the University of Montana-Missoula, Salish Kootenai College, and University of Montana Western presented their new programs in Early Childhood to the Board. These programs will align with the new Chapter 63 Program Standards for Preschool.



*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Item 16

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE VARIANCES TO STANDARDS REQUESTS BASED ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT JUNEAU**

**Dennis Parman**

**53:05**

Mr. Parman reviewed each of the Variance to Standards requests with the Board and discussed the rule for which each school is requesting the variance. Mr. Parman answered questions from Board members. Mr. Stutz asked if the rule may be changed based upon the number of requests for a particular rule. Mr. Parman answered "yes" it could.

**Ms. Erin Williams moved to approve the Variances to Standards Requests Based Upon the Conclusions of Superintendent Juneau. Mr. John Edwards seconded the motion.**

***Mr. Donovan noted that he attended the Variances to Standards Review Council meeting and was impressed with how thorough they are with the requests.***

***Motion passed unanimously.***

Item 17

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 63**

**Dennis Parman**

**1:20:06**

**Ms. Erin Williams moved to approve the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing to Amend ARM Title 10, Chapter 63. Ms. Darlene Shottle seconded the motion.**

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – John Edwards (Items 18-20)**

Item 18

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57**

**Shannon Koenig**

**1:23:33**

Ms. Shannon Koenig addressed the Board with the request to approve the Publication of the Notice of Public Hearing on the Amendments to Chapter 57 which the Board reviewed in March and noted four additional amendments since March. Ms. Koenig reviewed the four revisions. The Board members discussed the four new revisions and the fact that CSPAC has not reviewed those new changes. Dr. Schottle has concerns if the changes are not approved for Public Hearing that some individuals could be approved for Class 5 that should not be approved.

***Mr. John Edwards moved to deny the approval of the Publication of the Notice of Public Hearing to Amend ARM Title 10, Chapter 57. Ms. Erin Williams seconded the motion.***

***Board member discussion.***

**Mr. John Edwards amended the motion to suspend the approval of the approval of the publication of the notice of public hearing to amend ARM title 10 Chapter 57 until CSPAC has had the opportunity to meet and approve the changes. Motion seconded by Ms. Erin Williams.**

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Item 19                   DISMISSAL OF BPE CASE #2012-03 SUA SPONTE                   1:49:43  
Rob Stutz

*Mr. John Edwards moved to dismiss BPE Case #2012-03. Motion seconded by Mr. Paul Andersen.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Item 20                   CONTINUATION OF BPE CASE #2014-06                   1:52:38  
Rob Stutz

*Mr. John Edwards moved to uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent to deny the educator license in BPE Case #2014-06. Ms. Erin Williams seconded the motion.*

*Discussion amongst the Board members regarding the Licensure Rules.*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

Session closed for Executive Session at 2:58 PM.

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 21-22)

Item 21                   EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE  
DEAF AND BLIND  
Sharon Carroll

The Board concluded Executive Session at 3:48 PM

**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.*

*Mr. John Edwards moved to renew Superintendent Sorensen's contract for 1 more year. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board discussed a salary increase to align with what the state pay plan increase is for \$.50/hour.

*Mr. John Edwards moved to increase the salary of the Superintendent to align with the increase in HB 2 for the state pay plan of \$.50/hour effective January 2016. Motion seconded by Ms. Erin Williams.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board closed for Executive session at 3:54 PM.

**Item 22**

**EVALUATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC  
EDUCATION  
Sharon Carroll**

The Board concluded Executive Session at 4:15 PM.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS July 16-17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**closing session**

*Strategic Planning meeting  
CSPAC/BPE Joint Meeting  
Annual CSPAC Report  
MACIE Update  
Annual HiSET Update  
Special Education report  
Assessment Update  
Federal Update*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**ADJOURN**

**Mr. John Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

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