

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

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Montana State Capitol, Room 152  
Helena, MT

**Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The Board observed a moment of silence in commemoration of the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 attacks. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Stockton took roll call.

Board members present: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Mr. Paul Andersen, Vice-Chair; Dr. Darlene Schottle; Ms. Greta Gustafson; Ms. Erin Williams; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner. Ex Officio members: Superintendent of Public Instruction Ms. Denise Juneau; Dr. John Cech, Associate Commissioner of Higher Education. Staff members present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests present included: Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Mr. TJ Eyer, OPI; Ms. Kelly Cresswell, Student Assistance Foundation; Ms. Sarah Pierce, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Cory Roundtree, College Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda was adopted as presented.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

**Ms. Erin Williams moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Paul Andersen seconded the motion.**

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

**Item 1                      CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**  
**Sharon Carroll**

- **Election of Board Officers**

Mr. Donovan opened the floor for nominations.

**Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to re-elect Ms. Sharon Carroll as the Chair of the Board of Public Education. Ms. Erin Williams seconded the motion.**

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

Ms. Carroll opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

**Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to re-elect Mr. Paul Andersen as Vice Chair.**

*Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT  
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan noted he will be attending the Board of Regents meeting in Butte the following week. Mr. Donovan briefly reviewed the upcoming meeting of the School Funding Interim Commission, what they are charged with, and asked if any Board members would like to attend the meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner stated she could attend the meeting. Mr. Donovan also noted that the Education and Local Government Interim Committee meeting will follow on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Also coming up on September 30<sup>th</sup> is the first negotiated rulemaking meeting for the Health Standards Review. Mr. Donovan also noted that the CSPAC will be meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> jointly with the Council of Deans in Missoula at the University of Montana. Other upcoming meetings in October were discussed.

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

Superintendent Juneau reviewed her "Back to School" travels around the state, noting a speech she attended given by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner at Browning High School. Other back to school activities the Superintendent has been involved with include: "Attendance Matters", Governor Bullocks' "Back to School Tour in Great Falls and Rocky Boy, and a Graduation Matters kick off in Harlem. The Superintendent also discussed TEAMS, the data collection system for schools as required by the 2013 Legislature. The Superintendent reviewed the new Negotiated Rulemaking Process for reviewing new standards per SB 345. Both the Arts and Health are currently under review.

**Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT  
Deputy Commissioner Dr. John Cech**

Dr. Cech updated the Board on new activities at the Commissioner's Office including retreats for Big Sky Pathways and the Carl Perkins Grant, and then focused on the Math Summit that started the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Cech then presented a slideshow on the Math Pathways Taskforce through the Commissioner's Office. The Taskforce is reviewing appropriate math requirements for non-STEM majors and STEM majors and restructuring math courses for appropriateness of the degree. The Taskforce hopes to have recommendations to the Board of Regents in spring of 2016. Dr. Cech fielded questions from the Board.

**Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT  
Siri Smillie**

No one from the Governor's office was available.

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

Ms. Gustafson reviewed for the Board her summer activities including college tours at Dartmouth and Harvard, and several weeks spent touring in France. Ms. Gustafson also discussed activities she is involved with at Cut Bank High School this fall and upcoming activities her student council has planned for the year.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

❖ **MSDB LIAISON Mary Jo Bremner (Item 7)**

**Item 7**                                **MSDB REPORT**  
**Donna Sorensen**

Ms. Donna Sorensen, Superintendent for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind reviewed for the Board the report contained in the agenda packet. One of the biggest projects ongoing at the school right now is the review of school policies. The school also began an Induction program for new teachers which will include follow ups throughout the year, and in addition to Induction activities, the school also held a 4 day orientation for all faculty and staff. Two new committees have been formed at the school: a Leadership Committee, and an Accessibility Committee. Ms. Sorensen updated the Board on the status of her Superintendent Internship program, Foundation activities, school enrollment numbers, and new hires and Human Resources issues. Ms. Sorensen then fielded questions from the Board.

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 8)**

**Item 8**                                **MACIE REPORT**  
**Norma Bixby**

Ms. Sarah Pierce from OPI presented the MACIE report on behalf of Ms. Bixby. Ms. Pierce reviewed for the Board the MACIE meeting from the previous day, new activities with Indian Education for All, including a request from high school culinary teachers to incorporate IEFA practices and foods into the curriculum.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Paul Andersen (Item 9)**

**Item 9**                                **ASSESSMENT UPDATE**  
**Paul Andersen**

Mr. Andersen gave a short update on the status of this item as a carryover from the July meeting. Superintendent Juneau briefed the Board on the status of the Smarter Balanced Assessments since the Board last met. Test results are still not available and OPI is communicating with schools about what to expect. OPI has developed a Q & A's for schools about Smarter Balanced and a review sheet of what has occurred over the last six months. Superintendent Juneau announced that schools have been told results could be available by November, but she no longer believes that to be the case. Superintendent Juneau fielded questions from the Board. Discussion ensued around how to best handle this testing issue. OPI cannot afford to change vendors due to budget restrictions. Superintendent Juneau noted that any communication regarding this topic will be sent to Mr. Donovan as well to update the Board.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 10-12)**

**Item 10**                                **FEDERAL UPDATE**  
**Nancy Coopersmith**

Ms. Coopersmith updated the Board on the status of the Reauthorization of the ESEA which is still not complete. Some action in Washington DC has taken place and there are 2 bills, one from the House and one from the Senate, each with different proposals for reauthorization. Neither bill contains anything regarding Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), but leaving accountability up to the state, not through the Federal Government. Ms. Coopersmith discussed several options the Federal Government may have in regards to the budget, which most likely will result in a Continuing Resolution. Ms. Coopersmith also reviewed for the Board the status of the Equity Plan as proposed to the Board in May. The plan was submitted to the Department of Education, revisions were requested and made, and final approval is pending.

**Item 11**                                **ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY REPORT**  
**Margaret Bowles**

Mr. TJ Eyer gave the Annual HiSet report on behalf of Ms. Bowles. Mr. Eyer reviewed that HiSet was implemented in 2014 so the report has only one year of data. Mr. Eyer pointed out to the Board that all reports, HiSet, GED, and McGraw, are all trending downward since they are new reports, but new data predicted for this year shows an increase again.

## **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 12                      RECOMMEND CONCURRENCE WITH STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S  
SUGGESTED INCREASE OF TEST CENTER FEES FOR HISET  
Margaret Bowles**

Mr. TJ Eyer also presented this item on behalf of Ms. Bowles. Mr. Eyer explained that in moving to the HiSet it was unknown how the new testing fees would be handled. Currently there is a \$15 fee for the full test, \$6 for retake, or \$2 for one section. The recommendation is for a flat fee of \$5 per test battery. Mr. Eyer fielded questions from the Board clarifying the recommendation.

***Ms. Erin Williams recommended an optional text battery fee, not to exceed \$5 per test battery, as opposed to assessing various fees for the reason for the test being taken. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion.***

***Questions were answered for the Board.***

***Motion passed unanimously.***

## **INFORMATION**

**❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 13-14)**

**Item 13                      UPDATE ON THE MONTANA ASSESSMENT FOR CONTENT KNOWLEDGE  
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson presented a review on the Assessment for Content Knowledge as a follow up item from the July meeting. Dr. Peterson reviewed the history for the Board of moving the licensure test for Montana students seeking Montana licensure from the OPI to the Educator Preparation programs in 2001. This new rule up for approval now pertains to individuals seeking Montana licensure who were not educated in a Montana Educator Preparation Program. This process uses the PRAXIS II test results of the candidate to score them for licensure. This will be an Action item for the Board's consideration at the November BPE meeting.

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

**Ann Gilkey**

Ms. Gilkey reviewed the amendments for the Chapter 57 revisions and requested approval of the Notice of Public Hearing.

**Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing to amend ARM 10.57.412, 10.57.425, and 10.57.426 and authorize publication of Notice of Public Hearing. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion.**

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

**Item 15                      DISMISSAL OF BPE CASE #2015-02  
Rob Stutz**

Mr. Stutz reviewed the background of the appeal and why the appellant has withdrawn the appeal.

**Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to dismiss BPE Case #2015-02. Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.**

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS November 12-13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

- BPE Goal Review
- Committee Appointments – C
- Exiting Board Member Recognition
- Digital Academy Update
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report
- Assessment Update
- Federal Update
- Alternative to Standards Requests & Renewals
- Accreditation Report
- Update on Revisions to Health and Art Standards
- Annual Renewal Unit Providers List - C

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**ADJOURN**

**Mr. Paul Andersen moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion.**

***Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.***

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