

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

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
OPI Conference Room  
1300 11<sup>th</sup> AVE  
Helena MT 59601

**Friday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Carroll convened the meeting at 8:34 AM and welcomed everyone joining via conference and those present in Helena. The Board cited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken by Ms. Stockton.

Board of Public Education members present via conference: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Mr. Paul Andersen, Vice-Chair; Mr. John Edwards, Ms. Erin Williams, Dr. Darlene Schottle, Ms. Mary Jo Bremner, Ms. Greta Gustafson, Student Representative. Absent: Mr. Jesse Bremner. Staff present on site: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director Board of Public Education; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant Board of Public Education. Ex-Officio members present on site: Superintendent of Public Instruction Ms. Denise Juneau; Ms. Siri Smillie, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Bullock; Ms. Angela McLean, Director of American Indian and Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships for Commissioner of Higher Education. Guests present included: Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI, Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Dr. Linda Petersen, OPI; Ms. Donna Sorensen, Superintendent MSDB; Ms. Donna Schmidt, MSDB; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Mr. Jim Fryor, Hobson, MT; Mr. Matt Hoffman, Billings Gazette; Representative Debra Lamm, Livingston;

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda approved as presented

**ADOPT AGENDA**

**Mr. Paul Andersen moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

Chair Carroll opened her report by thanking Ms. Mary Jo Bremner for her upcoming attendance at the Assessment Conference in February, and also mentioned that Ms. Bremner was present in Washington DC for the signing of the "Every Student Succeeds Act". Chair Carroll also discussed conversations she and Mr. Donovan have had with Superintendent Sorensen regarding several licensure issues at the school. Chair Carroll noted that this is Board member Edwards last meeting and asked that he attend the March meeting for recognition.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT  
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan reviewed the meeting of the School Funding Interim Commission earlier in the week and their discussions regarding educator mentoring programs, as well as a presentation from Mr. Parman regarding pathways to licensure and a diagram of how individuals reach licensure in Montana. Also presented to the commission were how individuals apply for licensure from outside of Montana. Mr. Donovan encouraged Board members to review the recording archives to hear that particular section of the meeting.

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

Superintendent Juneau reviewed the news regarding the release of the graduation rates, which increased again this year. The Superintendent announced that she will bring the revisions to the Health and Art Standards to the Board in March, and that Ms. Quinlan is preparing the Economic Impact Statement for each of those standards. The Superintendent also reported on a project between OPI and OCHE to assist students and school counselors in completing the FAFSA. The Superintendent thanked Board member Edwards for his service to the Board.

**Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT  
Angela McLean**

Ms. Angela McLean represented the Commissioner's Office and reported also on the partnership between OPI and OCHE and their service to Montana's students, and thanked all Board members for their service, specifically Board member Edwards and his service to the Board. Ms. McLean briefly discussed her new role at the Commissioner of Higher Education's Office and reviewed projects she will be working on. Ms. McLean reviewed the renewal application for Talent Search that OCHE is working on, GEAR UP work, and Big Sky Pathways. All these projects will be under Ms. McLean's purview. Ms. McLean also reviewed Dual Enrollment and her past and current work with that program.

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

Ms. Smillie discussed the Mainstreet Montana project. Three to five key recommendations will be presented to the Governor from the project and will be posted on the Mainstreet Montana website for public comment. Education is expected to be forefront of those issues. A grant has been received for 18 months by the National Governor's Association to provide opportunities in the workplace for students to receive exposure to the workforce. An update on the Education Superhighway as reported at the November meeting was also given. Currently work is ongoing with approximately 30 school districts to offer connectivity to districts. A report to the Board can be expected in March.

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

Ms. Gustafson gave a brief report on her activities in Cut Bank since the November meeting. Ms. Gustafson and her school held a food drive to provide food to the "backpack program" which provides lunches to students over the holiday break and non-school time. Ms. Gustafson was elected as president of her 4-H for her senior year. Ms. Gustafson announced that the new student representative will be selected at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Student Council meeting. A call for nominations for the position has gone out and if anyone knows of a student who may be interested in the position please let her know. Ms. Gustafson also has added to the "acronym list" which she will share with the Board members. The Student Council District 2 spring meeting will be held in Cut Bank. Ms. McLean thanked Ms. Gustafson for her and her schools' work on the Food Drive.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

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

Ms. Sorensen reviewed the report contained in the agenda packet for the Board members including open positions at the school, enrollment, the installation of video phones across campus and hopefully in homes of some of the deaf and hard of hearing students through Sorensen. iPads will also be provided to the students as well, which will be paid for by the Sorensen program for the students and families at no cost to the school. Ms. Donna Schmidt reviewed the safety program at the school. A few slips in the parking lot have been reported but other claims. Safety protocols are being updated to align with the Great Falls Public Schools system. Ms. Schmidt is working with the safety coordinator at Great Falls High to spearhead that effort. New windows have been installed on campus and completion is expected in a couple weeks. The gym floor was resurfaced over the Christmas break, and Ms. Schmidt then discussed the budget for the school and the foundation. Ms. Sorensen also updated the Board on licensure discussions ongoing at the school and obtaining a Montana teaching license. Ms. Sorensen discussed one teacher who is having trouble taking the PRAXIS because she is blind and the PRAXIS is not offered in Braille. A discussion needs to be held to determine where to go and how to assist this teacher.

### **❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – John Edwards (Item 8)**

#### **Item 8                      CAEP/MONTANA JOINT SITE VISITS: UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA -                                  WESTERN AND MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY – BOZEMAN                                  Dr. Linda Peterson**

Dr. Linda Peterson presented the item to the Board but noted to Superintendent Sorensen that she will contact ETS, who provides the testing for PRAXIS, to see about an accommodation for the teacher mentioned in Item 7 to be able to take the PRAXIS for licensure. Dr. Peterson then discussed the timeline for the CAEP/Montana accreditation visits to MSU-Bozeman and UM Western. This is a three step process which will be brought before the Board, per the Board rules. Each schools accreditation is then approved by the Board, per Chapter 58 Educator Preparation Program rules. The purpose of the joint visit is to ensure that the EPP has met their claims and are meeting their accreditation requirements. An update will be given to the Board in March and the Board will review the CAEP reports for each EPP and the Exit report from each EPP. Dr. Peterson thanked Board members Edwards for his service and wished him well.

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

#### **Item 9                      2014-15, 2015-16 ASSESSMENT                                  Paul Andersen**

Mr. Andersen gave a brief review of Assessment issues since the last BPE meeting. Mr. Andersen asked the Superintendent two specific questions: 1) why the Board wasn't brought into the decision to move away from the SBAC for high school Juniors and 2) why the choice of the ACT as it is not aligned with SBAC. The Superintendent answered that it was simply a timing issue. The Superintendent reviewed the past year with the SBAC test and the testing issues, as well as SBAC consortia decisions that have been made. The Superintendent discussed her decision to use the ACT for high school juniors and the alignment of ACT and SBAC. ACT has taken the position that if a student is college ready they are prepared in the standards. An alignment study is planned for Spring 2016 to see if there are areas that need to be augmented with the ACT to ensure alignment is provided. The Superintendent noted that the Board has already approved ACT in 10.56.101(3)(e). Dr. Schottle asked the Superintendent to share with the Board how many, if all, high school juniors are taking the ACT. The Superintendent replied that the percentage of students who take the ACT is in the high 90 percentile. Dr. Schottle asked if students are unable to take the ACT due to disabilities, they would then take the SBAC. The Superintendent replied

that is correct and that schools can still choose, on their own, to administer the SBAC to their high school juniors. Ms. Bremner asked if more juniors took the ACT than SBAC last year and the answer was "yes". Chair Carroll asked about the alignment study and peer review and asked if they were separate. The Superintendent answered that the study is part of the peer review and if the test would need to be augmented. The Superintendent noted, upon question, that what that augmentation might look like is unknown at this time because the study is incomplete. Chair Carroll asked who the members of the peer review team are, and the Superintendent noted that the TAC committee is reviewing and that she will send the Chair a list of those people. The Chair requested that the BPE Assessment Chair and maybe one other member be part of those discussions. The Chair asked if there needed to be approval from the Board on the ACT being administered as the test for juniors. Mr. Stutz reviewed the rule and that ACT is already written in rule as the test being offered for high school juniors. Board member discussion ensued regarding ACT, alignment with Common Core, concerns regarding those issues, and whether the Board needs to formally approve the ACT as the Assessment test for juniors for 2016. Ms. Smillie noted that the ACT is the formal test used by the Montana University System for college acceptance. Ms. McLean commented that in Anaconda the first year of ACT rolled out easily with no complications, and noted that it seems like the appropriate time to move to ACT as the testing measure for high school juniors. Ms. McLean also discussed some of her concerns. Discussion took place surrounding whether or not ACT is a good measure of skill based upon the fact that Common Core is what is being taught in class, but ACT does not necessarily test those skills. Ms. Williams asked that the Board be notified of decisions being made about assessment. The Superintendent said that she would do so if the Board outlined a process for notification. Dr. Schottle noted that schools are already preparing for the ACT as the assessment this spring and making a change to that process at this point may be detrimental. Mr. Andersen asked the Superintendent if moving to the ACT is her decision to make or should she have brought the recommendation to the Board. The Superintendent answered that she did not know, but that her decision was made based upon the issues in the past year and in moving to the new Every Student Succeeds Act, approved by Congress, which allows for the ACT to be used as the assessment tool for the high school level. Chair Carroll noted that although she has been teaching to the standards, she agreed with Dr. Schottle that to make another change to the high school assessment at this time is not agreeable. Mr. Donovan noted that the Board may want to review the Assessment rule 10.56.101, to ensure that the process is clear. Dr. Schottle agreed. Next steps: item is a discussion item, no action will be taken at this meeting. Topic again listed for March agenda. Mr. Stutz noted 10.56.101(3)(a) which notes high school testing 10.56.101(c) which notes the ACT test. Chair Carroll noted that she believes the Board needs to take action on the Superintendent's recommendation to use the ACT as the high school assessment. Mr. Stutz noted that the Board can call a meeting with sufficient public notice to take action, but that decision is up to the Board. Chair Carroll polled Board members to see if a meeting between now and March is necessary. Discussion ensued surrounding this topic. Decision was made to hold a conference meeting to take action on the Superintendent's recommendation to use ACT as the high school assessment test for juniors.

**Mr. Paul Andersen moved to schedule a special meeting to take action on the Superintendent's decision to use the ACT as the assessment for high school juniors in place of the SBAC for the 2015-16 school year. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with all members voting yes. Members voting "yes" included: Chair Sharon Carroll, Vice Chair Paul Andersen, Ms. Erin Williams, Mr. John Edwards, Ms. Mary Jo Bremner, Dr. Darlene Schottle.***

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS March 17-18<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Assessment Update  
Federal Update  
Accreditation Report  
MACIE Update  
Transportation Report  
Annual School Nutrition Report  
Initial Information Presentation of Proposed Art Standards  
Initial Information Presentation of Proposed Health Standards  
Request for New Curricular Program P-3, MSU Billings

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jim Fryor, Hobson. Written version of comments attached to this document.

#### **ADJOURN**

**Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.**

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