

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES

Friday January 20, 2017
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Carroll welcomed Superintendent Arntzen who addressed the Board and introduced her staff. Ms. Stockton took roll call and Chair Carroll read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests and called for any public comment.

Board members present: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Dr. Darlene Schottle, Vice Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Erin Williams; Ms. Molly DeMarco. Ex-Officio members present included: Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Ms. Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ms. Siri Smillie, Governor's Office. Guests present included: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Mr. Steve Meloy, MTSBA; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Ms. BJ Granbery, OPI; Mr. Nathan Miller, OPI; Mr. Kyle Moen, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Jessica Eilertsen, OPI; Mr. Dylan Klappmeir, OPI; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM;

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Sharon Carroll

• **Exiting Board Member Recognition**

Chair Carroll, Board members, and guests all thanked Ms. Williams for her service to the Board. Chair Carroll thanked the Accreditation Committee for their work in December with revisions to the Intensive Assistance Process, and to Ms. Lacey for her work on the revisions to the Bus Standards.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan updated the Board on the ongoing work of the agency's Legislative Audit, the budget hearing before the joint sub-committee on Appropriations, and thanked the Education partners for their public comment at the hearing offering support for the agency budget. Mr. Donovan also announced that new Board members since the 2015 Legislative session will have their appointment before the Senate Education Committee for approval. Mr. Donovan updated the board on bills before the Legislature, including HB 119 regarding changes to the Critical Quality Educator Loan Repayment program, HB 191 for Inflationary Increase to the ANB funding. Superintendent Arntzen also spoke to the bill. Also discussed was SB 103 regarding proficiency based advancement in schools, SB 114 Montana START Scholarship for student teaching, and SB 115 to increase stipends for National Board Certified Teachers. Mr. Donovan also mentioned the meetings and conversations he and Chair Carroll have had with Superintendent Arntzen and Deputy Superintendent Tharp.

**Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen**

Superintendent Arntzen introduced Dr. Tharp to the Board who introduced himself to the Board and discussed his background in education. Superintendent Arntzen also referenced other new members to her staff who will be coming into the administration. Superintendent Arntzen reviewed her educational background for the Board and happenings at the OPI since her administration has taken over in particular the legislative issues the office is supporting and following. The OPI budget will go before the sub-committee January 24 -25. The Superintendent discussed the ACT test for high school juniors and her concerns over its compliance with federal reporting standards. She has concerns that the test is not compliant in 2 areas with state standards or with federal standards. Although she knows there is a history with the ACT between the BPE and the previous OPI Administration she cannot find any documentation from the previous administration regarding the test. She stated that she will be working on a solution going forward for Assessment and that the OPI will be working with the Board on this issue. She promised that the ACT will remain the test for high school juniors for the next two years. Superintendent Arntzen also discussed the Education Caucus she is holding for the Legislature, the Native American Council held this week, and answered questions from the Board and then also discussed issues with military families the office is supporting. The Troops to Teachers program was discussed and although the Department of Defense is not funding the program it appears that a private funding source is being secured to bring the program back.

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

Ms. McLean welcomed Superintendent Arntzen to her new role and looking forward to working with her. Ms. McLean also thanked Ms. Williams for her service to the Board. Ms. McLean updated the Board on the Recruitment and Retention Task Force recent work, including a scholarship to incentivize student teachers to go to rural communities for their student teaching opportunity. Also being worked on is a dual enrollment opportunity for high school students for an introductory education course, and the Educators Rising program designed to help students take steps to become future educators. Board members made comments and asked questions of Ms. McLean. Ms. McLean also discussed ongoing work with the American Indian and Minority Achievement Council mostly surrounding American Indian education, graduation, and college retention, and also looking at strengthening student support. Ms. Amy Williams, Dual Enrollment Coordinator, discussed a new Dual Credit Tuition Free pilot program in Billings. Ms. Williams fielded questions from the Board. Dr. Schottle discussed how Dual Enrollment works at the Community College level, and Ms. Lacey added that it adds a level of opportunity for students.

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

Ms. Smillie welcomed the new Superintendent and thanked the OCHE staff for their update on recruitment and retention and dual enrollment. Ms. Smillie updated the Board on happenings in the Governor's office this Legislative session including public preschool expansion, and infrastructure. Ms. Smillie discussed the Equal Pay for Equal Work Task Force and that the office applied for and received a

VISTA position in the Governor's office for a STEM coordinator. The position will create a survey regarding women in STEM jobs to assist the state in working towards increasing the capacity of women in STEM careers. Ms. Smillie also discussed a Work-Based Learning Data Analysis. The State of the State address will be Tuesday January 24 and Ms. Smillie invited folks to attend or listen in. Ms. Lacey offered her time to the Work Based Learning project as well.

Item 6 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**
Molly DeMarco

Ms. DeMarco also welcomed Superintendent Arntzen and discussed groups she is involved in at school, her work with teacher recruitment and retention in organizing a student group for round table discussion on the topic and what students think about it, and how to engage high school students in becoming future educators. A concern with her teacher is the EDU202 course is not common course numbered and may not transfer to all MUS campuses because of that.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 7)**

Item 7 **MACIE UPDATE**
Mandy Smoker-Broadus

Ms. Mandy Smoker-Broadus gave the MACIE update from the November 14, 2016 meeting in Helena. The meeting contained the first Tribal Consultation meeting between the Council and the OPI as newly required in the ESSA regulations. Highlights from the MACIE meeting included: The American Indian Achievement Data Report, new curriculum to align with the new Health Standards, the Best Practices Conference upcoming in 2017, a Title 3 update, an update on American Indian Task Force, Governor's Office update, and an update from the Department of. GEAR UP also made a presentation.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 8-9)**

Item 8 **FEDERAL REPORT**
BJ Granbery

Ms. Granbery reported to the Board on the new ESSA requirements and how the OPI is working on the new regulations and the guidance documents disseminated to states on implementation. The state has submitted their ESSA plan but changes may need to be made by the new Superintendent and the Department of Education may request tweaks to the plan. The new Education Secretary may also make changes to the ESSA which would require updates to the state plan. OPI has still not received any allocation of money from the Department yet for Federal FY17 which funds the 2017-18 school year in Montana. The Striving Readers grant ended September 30, 2017, and the Preschool grant is still ongoing and successful.

Item 9 **SCHOOL NUTRITION ANNUAL REPORT**
Christine Emerson

Ms. Christine Emerson gave the School Nutrition Report to the Board. Ms. Emerson fielded questions from Board members. Chair Carroll commented that the breakfast program in her district is very successful. Ms. Lacey added that is the same in Great Falls, and that the summer lunch program was also very successful, coupled with their city parks department and the library.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Erin Williams (Items 16-18)**

Item 16 **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REVISIONS TO INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS**
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson reviewed the current process and the changes that are being considered to the process.

Ms Erin Williams moved to approve the revisions to the Intensive Assistance Process as presented. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 17 **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE TIMELINE**
Nathan Miller

Mr. Miller reviewed the document which was presented to the Board in September and is now up for approval by the Board.

Ms. Erin Williams moved to approve the Intensive Assistance Process as presented. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Item 18 **VERIFICATION OF STEP 2 INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION LETTER TEMPLATE**
Patty Muir

Ms. Patty Muir presented a template to the Board for schools to use for the Parental Notification process when in the Intensive Assistance Process and their appearance before the BPE. Board members made comments and suggestions to the form. Ms. Muir will make the requested changes to the form and present it at the March BPE meeting.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Item 10)**

Item 10 **ASSESSMENT UPDATE**
Jessica Eilertson

Chair Carroll asked the Superintendent for clarification on her previous statement that the ACT was not in compliance with ESSA as an assessment tool. As Chair Carroll noted, the ACT is the test in BPE rule for high school junior's assessment. The Superintendent stated that the ACT is still the test in place for 2017 and 2018. Chair Carroll asked for clarification on the statement made during Item 3 that the ACT is not compatible with state and federal standards. The Superintendent noted that she was not notified by the Department of Education that the ACT did not align with the Montana Standards, but that it was brought to her attention in her first week in the office that the submission of the ACT did not hit 2 points. She noted that the Federal government is giving the office time to reconcile the scores and comply with federal requirements. The OPI is moving towards reconciliation, however, because the ACT is the test in rule right now, it will continue to be used per the funding from the GEAR UP Grant which pays for the test for all high school juniors. Ms. Lacey asked what the reference to the 2 points meant. Superintendent Arntzen stated that the test did not fit (sic) the Montana state standards. Ms. Lacey again asked for clarification on that point, and Superintendent Arntzen stated that the ACT test is not aligned with state standards and also was not used with the Federal requirement for assessment levels. Ms. Lacey again asked for clarification. The Superintendent answered that there was not any norm referencing. Ms. Lacey asked if that meant that there were not cut scores aligned to the ACT scores to meet proficiency levels. Superintendent Arntzen stated that was correct. Ms. McLean stated that other states also use the ACT and asked if the Superintendent thought there would be a national conversation around using the

statewide ACT for juniors as a meaningful assessment. The Superintendent stated that the manner in which Montana uses the ACT is non-compliant with federal standards. Wyoming uses ACT Aspire in addition to the ACT to comply with standards to meet the proficiency benchmarks. The Superintendent again noted that the ACT will remain the state assessment for high school juniors for the 2017 and 2018 school years.

Ms. Eilertson reported to the Board on the Assessment Conference held earlier this month. A needs analysis was done with input from the field on what schools and districts need regarding administering assessment. An upcoming Assessment Conference in Billings will happen in February with Ms. Lacey as the keynote speaker.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 11-15)**

Item 13 **PROPOSED NEW CURRICULUM PROGRAM IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 3 – COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOZEMAN (MSU)**
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI
Dr. Christine Lux, MSU
Dr. Alison Harmon, MSU

Dr. Peterson and Dr. Harmon, via phone, presented the new proposed program for MSU Bozeman in Early Childhood Education. Dr. Peterson stressed how hard the Universities have worked to address the needs of Early Childhood Education in Montana. Dr. Harmon and Dr. Lux both discussed the program and detailed how the program will run. This is an initial presentation to the Board, with the second presentation for March and the request for approval in May.

Item 12 **PROPOSED NEW CURRICULUM PROGRAM IN COMPUTER SCIENCE PHYLLIS J. WASHINGTON (PJW) COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI
Dr. Lisa Blank, University of Montana

Dr. Peterson, OPI, Dr. Lisa Blank, UM, and Ms. Susan Harper Whalen UM, updated the Board on the proposed program which had its first presentation to the Board in November. This is the second presentation to the Board and will be brought back in March for approval.

Item 11 **EDUCATOR LICENSURE REPORT**
Kristine Thatcher

Ms. Kristine Thatcher presented this new report to the Board, as required by the new Chapter 57 Educator Licensure Rules. The Board offered suggestions to improve upon the report which will be implemented by OPI. This is an annual report to the Board to be presented each January.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Item 14 **APPROVAL OF FORM: VERIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**
Kristine Thatcher

Ms. Thatcher presented the Verification of Administrative Experience form to the Board as required in the newly adopted ARM 10.57.413(4). The Board of Public Education must approve this form for use per rule. Suggestions for changes to the form were discussed. The form was not approved as written but will be brought back at the March meeting for approval with suggested changes to the form completed.

Item 15

BPE CASE #2016-08 – REQUEST FOR LICENSE SUSPENSION

Kristine Thatcher, Rob Stutz

Ms. Thatcher gave a background of the case as it was investigated by the Office of Public Instruction in December 2016. Mr. Stutz briefed the Board on what their options are – they can accept the suspension as requested, or continue with their own investigation and move to a hearing.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to not accept the stipulated agreement and conduct an investigation to consider revocation and to amend the stipulated agreement to include the teaching license. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion.

Comment from Dr. Schottle.

Question from Ms. Lacey regarding a temporary suspension of the license while conducting an investigation. Mr. Stutz explained that OPI can request a temporary suspension while the Board conducts an investigation.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

❖ MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Items 19-20)

Item 19

MSDB REPORT

Donna Sorensen

Ms. Sorensen gave the MSDB report to the Board. The Listening Sessions are ongoing and have been going well. Updates are given after BPE meetings, Legislative hearings, and any other meetings that is pertinent for the staff at the school to be informed about. Ms. Sorensen updated the Board on activities at the school, enrollment numbers, and staffing issues.

Item 20

MSDB Superintendent Contract Extension

Sharon Carroll

Superintendent Sorensen was not able to attend the meeting in person – this item has been tabled until the March 2017 BPE meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS March 12-13, 2017

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Accreditation Report

Transportation Report

MACIE Update

Initial Presentation of MSDB School Calendar

Tentative Licensure Hearings

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM

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