

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 13, 2017
Holiday Inn Express Conference Room
3170 N Sanders
Helena, MT

Thursday July 13, 2017
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Stockton took roll call. Chair Carroll introduced new member Mr. Scott Stearns who introduced himself to the Board. Chair Carroll welcomed guests to the meeting and read the Statement of Public Participation.

Board members present included: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Dr. Darlene Schottle, Vice Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Anne Keith; Mr. Scott Stearns; Ms. Molly DeMarco, Student Representative. Ex-Officio members present: Ms. Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ms. Elizabeth Ternes, Commissioner of Higher Education Office; Staff present included: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests present included: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services Bureau; Dr. Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI; Mr. Frank Podobnik, OPI; Mr. Kyle Moen, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Suzie Hedalen, OPI; Ms. Katie Spalinger, OPI; Senator Edie McClafferty, Butte; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Ms. Kara Sperle, OPI; Ms. Jessica Eilertson, OPI; Ms. Sue Mohr, OPI; Ms. Donna Sorensen, MSDB Superintendent; Dr. Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana; Ms. Kelly Chapman, Reach Higher Montana; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, MSU Billings; Dr. Tim Sharp, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, MSU Billings; Stevie Schmitz, Rocky Mountain College.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

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	8:30 AM	CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT Sharon Carroll
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Ms. Carroll thanked Ms. Stockton for her work and assistance on setting the agenda. Ms. Carroll shared with the Board her attendance at the CSPAC meeting the previous day and reviewed the Board's Strategic Planning Session from the previous day. Dr. Schottle thanked Ms. Carroll for her work on the Strategic Planning Session.

Item 2 8:40 AM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan reviewed the recent Interim Education Committee Meeting in June and the follow up meeting scheduled for July 25, to discuss funding the gifted and talented programs in K-12 schools. Mr. Donovan also discussed the Evening of Excellence put on by the School Administrators of Montana. Other meetings reviewed included: the hearing before the Legislative Audit committee to present the agency's final audit report, MSDB Collective Bargaining calls, and the upcoming joint meeting between CSPAC and the Council of Deans October 5th and 6th at MSU Bozeman.

Item 3 8:50 AM STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen presented her report to the Board, briefly reviewing the 4 listed items the office is working on: Math Task Force, Innovative Learning, Mental Health, and Partnerships. The Superintendent asked Dr. Tharp to discuss each of these items briefly including a new Math Specialist in the hiring process, alternative education and working with current alternative education schools, suicide prevention, micro credentials and how those might work for teachers and for students, and guidance on SB 261 as it looks like level 4 will be hit and that means funding cuts to schools. Dr. Tharp fielded questions from Board members.

Item 4 9:00 AM COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT
Elizabeth Ternes

Ms. Elizabeth Ternes introduced herself to the Board, commented on her appreciation for the Innovative Learning discussion under the Superintendent's report. Ms. Ternes then updated the Board on the American Indian and Minority Achievement Council and recommendations forthcoming to the Board of Regents to ensure system wide recommendations on campuses to increase American Indian success in post-secondary education. Ms. Ternes also discussed the Rural Educator Task Force which has wrapped up the first year of work which produced the Educator Rising program that will have 9 teachers instructing EDU 101 courses for high school students. Ms. Ternes distributed the Executive Summary for the Task Force which the Commissioner has confirmed to continue for another year.

Item 5 9:10 AM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT
Siri Smillie

No report.

Item 6 9:20 AM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
Molly DeMarco

Ms. Molly DeMarco updated the Board on the year end wrap up of her junior year at CMR and activities at the school including senior send off, homecoming planning activities, and an update on a group of 10 Montana high school students who attended a student government conference in New Hampshire. Ms. Lacey thanked Ms. DeMarco for her work with students at CMR and with the state student council.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 7-11)**
❖

**Item 7 9:30 AM ACCREDITATION STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE EDUCATOR
PREPARATION PROVIDER AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-
NORTHERN (MSUN) FROM SITE REVIEW ON APRIL 9-11, 2017
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson; Dr. Carol Reifschneider, Interim Dean,
College of Education, Arts and Science, and Nursing, MSUN**

Dr. Peterson presented the Exit Report to the Board and introduced Dr. Carol Reifschneider, Dr. Virginia Braithwaite, and Dr. Stevie Schmidt. Dr. Peterson reviewed the report with the Board and briefly reviewed the accreditation review process. Dr. Stevie Schmidt highlighted the report for the Board members noting the commendations the school received, areas of weakness they will be working on, and the overall program successes. Dr. Reifschneider reviewed changes coming for the program and new programs they will be rolling out in the coming academic year. Dr. Peterson reviewed next steps which will be action at the September Board of Public Education to approve the State Exit Report and approve the MSUN programs. Dr. Peterson answered Board questions.

**Item 8 9:50 AM ACCREDITATION STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BILLINGS (MSUB) FROM SITE REVIEW ON APRIL 23-25, 2017
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean, MSUB; Dr. Jeremiah Gee, Accreditation Coordinator, College of Education, MSUB**

Dr. Peterson presented the Exit Report for MSU Billings along with Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean at MSU Billings. Dr. Peterson briefly covered the accreditation review process the school went through in April as well as the national accreditation process which MSUB chooses to maintain. Dr. Peterson noted that Dr. Delana Norris-Tull from UM Western was also on the review team that participated in the school's review process. Dr. Peterson highlighted some of the commendations the school received including the Reading Program, Broadfield Science Program, and the programs commitment to Montana's rural schools. Dr. Fishbaugh addressed the Board and discussed work the school is doing as well as statewide work going on between all the Educator Preparation Programs to unify forms used for field experience in an effort to streamline the process. Dr. Fishbaugh fielded questions and comments from the Board. Dr. Peterson reviewed the next steps in the accreditation process for MSU Billings: the CAEP Accreditation Council will review the Exit report in October so the State Exit Report and CAEP Decision will be before the Board in November for approval.

*******BREAK 10:10 – 10:25*******

Chair Carroll called for any public comment. Mr. Marco Ferro MEA-MFT addressed the Board and discussed the new Educator Rising Program and how it's being rolled out in Montana to get high school students interested in teaching. This is a national program with standards set by the National Board and students can also earn micro credentials. Mr. Ferro encouraged the Board to look at the website at www.educatorsrising.org to learn more.

Dr. Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana, discussed systems coming into place to encourage students into the teaching professions, personalized learning – which was discussed earlier by Dr. Tharp, and the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program which is developing cohorts of educators working on personalized learning. Dr. Miller also discussed another cohort working on Trusted Learning Environment and keeping student data secure.

Dr. Stevie Schmitz, MSU Northern, thanked the Board for their work and stated that she is also the Co-Chair of the Council of Deans and they will be having representation at the Board meetings to learn about the Board's work.

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.

HEARING

**Item 9 10:25 AM HEARING ON BPE CASE #2016-08, SHELDON
Rob Stutz**

Mr. Rob Stutz introduced the case that is a recommendation from the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a license suspension which the Board reviewed in May. Mr. Stutz confirmed that Ms. Sheldon was not present at the hearing. Mr. Kyle Moen, Chief Legal Counsel for OPI presented his case. Mr. Moen called Ms. Kristine Thatcher, Educator Licensure Manager, OPI, for testimony and Mr. Stutz swore in Ms. Thatcher. Ms. Thatcher addressed the Board with the history of this case which was first presented to the previous Superintendent and Chief Legal Counsel. The Board and Mr. Stutz asked questions of Ms. Thatcher. Mr. Moen stated that the request from the Office of Public Instruction is to suspend the license for 3 years with stipulations that Ms. Sheldon have a recommendation from a licensed therapist that it is safe for her to return to the classroom. Ms. Sheldon will have to reapply for her license in 3 years in which time her license suspension will have been reported to NASTEC and flagged on her electronic file at OPI.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to suspend the Class 1 and Class 3 educator licenses of Ms. Sarah Sheldon for 3 years with the stipulation that a recommendation from a licensed counselor that it is safe for her to return to the classroom. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

INVESTIGATION REVIEW

**Item 10 10:55 AM REVIEW OF BPE CASE #2017-03, MCLAREN
Rob Stutz**

Mr. Stutz reviewed the investigative review process as outlined in rule. Mr. Stutz discussed with the Board that Mr. McLaren does not dispute the facts but wants to address the board with his case. Mr. McLaren has retained counsel and has requested the hearing be held in November rather than September. The OPI has used their ability to suspend his teaching license temporarily so he will not be employed as an educator this fall. Mr. Stutz recommends the hearing be held in November. Board members asked questions of Mr. Stutz. Concerns were raised about the possibility of students testifying at the hearing and protecting their privacy.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved that the Board conduct a hearing in the matter of BPE Case #2017-03 McLaren at the November 2017 Board of Public Education meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Scott Stearns.

Comment from Mr. Barnhart. No additional discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

**Item 11 11:20 AM REVIEW OF BPE CASE #2017-04, LAMM
Rob Stutz**

Mr. Stutz reviewed with the Board that the educator has surrendered his license. Mr. Moen addressed the Board that he has received the signed affidavit of surrender from Mr. Lamm and the license surrender has been reported to NASTEC. Mr. Stutz clarified that this item does not require Board action but that OPI is required to report to the Board of the surrender.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 12-17)**

**Item 12 11:30 PM UPDATE ON MONTANA COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN
Superintendent Elsie Arntzen; Tammy Lacey, Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools**

Superintendent Arntzen reviewed the May meeting of the Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in Great Falls. The Superintendent noted that a budget was never established for the Council so that is one of the main tasks. Ms. Lacey reviewed Council members, projects the council is working on, and the work the council is tasked with doing by law. Dr. Tharp also reviewed with the Board that the Troops to Teachers Program has recently been reauthorized by the Department of Education.

*******LUNCH BREAK 11:30-12:40 PM********(lunch was changed due to being ahead of schedule – afternoon times showing are adjusted to reflect change in lunch)*

**Item 13 12:40 PM FEDERAL UPDATE
Dr. Tim Tharp, Suzie Hedalen**

Ms. Suzie Hedalen presented the draft of the state plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) released July 12. Ms. Hedalen distributed the draft plan to the Board and discussed highlights of the plan. Discussion ensued amongst Board members regarding School Accountability and Ms. Hedalen fielded questions from members.

**Item 14 1:30 PM HiSET OPTIONS REPORT
Katie Spalinger**

Ms. Spalinger introduced herself as the new Adult Education Program Manager after the retirement of Ms. Margaret Bowles. Ms. Spalinger reviewed a few highlights of the report with the Board and answered questions.

**Item 15 1:40 PM SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT
Frank Podobnik**

Mr. Podobnik presented the Annual Special Education Report to the Board highlighting several areas of the report for the Board. Superintendent Arntzen recognized Mr. Podobnik as he will be working extensively on a new report on Special Education as requested by the Legislature's Interim Education Committee.

**Item 16 1:40 PM SUICIDE PREVENTION IN ARM
Senator Edie McClafferty**

Senator Edie McClafferty addressed the Board regarding a possible ARM rule change for Suicide Prevention. Senator McClafferty worked with the Education Associations to develop possible language to be added to ARM 10.55.719 new section (6). Discussion ensued over concerns about the wording which will be redrafted and brought back to the Board at a later meeting.

*******BREAK 2:05 – 2:15 PM*******

DISCUSSION

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – (Item 18)**

**Item 18 2:15 PM ASSESSMENT UPDATE
Jessica Eilertson**

Ms. Eilertson presented the Assessment Report to the Board with new data after the testing window has closed and updated the Board with the new data on test scores from the Smarter Balanced testing this spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dennis Parman gave public comment regarding the newly release State ESSA plan.

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 17 2:45 PM NOTICE OF ADOPTION FOR ARM 10.64.301, BUS STANDARDS
Kara Sperle**

Ms. Sperle reviewed the Public Hearing held in May as well as comments received both at the hearing and in writing. OPI has received some concern from the field regarding the installation of the crossing control arm on buses manufactured after 2010, Districts must order the arm and have it installed prior to inspection and have requested a grace period to allow for installation on buses. Discussion ensued on the legality of adding changes to rule on public comment received after the end of the public comment period.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to vote to amend 10.64.301 and authorize filing of the Notice with the Secretary of State for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.

Clarification regarding implementation date and inspections.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Darlene Schottle (Items 19-22)

**Item 19 3:00 PM DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2016-2017 FINAL MONTANA ANNUAL
ACCREDITATION REPORT WITH ADDENDUMS
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson distributed the Final Annual Montana Accreditation Report from the addendums approved by the BPE at the May 2017 meeting.

**Item 20 3:05 PM REPORT ON PARENTAL/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOLS
IN STEP 2 OF THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson presented the Parental Notification Plans to the Board from three districts who were in Step 2 of the Intensive Assistance Process and presented their Corrective Plans to the Board at the May 2017 BPE Meeting.

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 21 3:10 PM RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN ADVICE OR DEFICIENCY STATUS
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson presented to the Board the Corrective plans for approval for the 2016-2017 school year for schools in Advice or Deficiency Status.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the 2016-2017 Corrective Plans and Timelines for schools in Advice or Deficiency status and 156 attached plans.
Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

Public Comment by Mr. Dennis Parman regarding the challenges of small schools.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 22 3:30 PM RECOMMEND DISAPPROVAL OF 2016-2017 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN ADVICE OR DEFICIENCY STATUS
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson presented to the Board the Corrective plans for disapproval for the 2016-2017 school year for schools in Advice or Deficiency Status. Dr. Peterson reviewed the plans with the Board before requesting a vote to disapprove the plans.

Dr. Darlene Schottle recommended disapproval of the 2016-2017 Corrective Plans and Timelines for schools in Advice or Deficiency status. **Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

❖ MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Items 23-24)

Item 23 3:35 PM MSDB REPORT
Donna Sorensen

Ms. Sorensen updated the Board with happenings at the MSDB including the hiring of a new principal, Paul Furthmyre, who has been a principal in the Great Falls Public School District.

MSDB CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financials

B. MSDB/MHSA Agreements

Ms. Sorensen explained the MSDB/MHSA Agreements the school has for sports for MSDB students to partake in while attending the MSDB.

Ms. Sorensen explained the schools' participation in the Golden Triangle Cooperative. Chair Carroll will sign these documents after the meeting.

*******EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED*******

Item 24 4:15 PM MID TERM MSDB SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION REVIEW
Sharon Carroll

*******EXECUTIVE SESSION – OPENED*******

The Board came out of Executive Session at 4:26 PM.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS September 14-15, 2017

Election of Board Officers
Set Yearly Board Meeting Calendar - C
Set Annual Agenda Calendar – C
BPE Goal Review – C
MACIE *Update*
Digital Academy Update
Assessment Update
Federal Update
MACIE *Renewal (Even Years)*
MSDB Superintendent Evaluation - preview

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment from Dr. Peterson regarding the meeting location for the September meeting.

ADJOURN

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Anne Keith seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

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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.

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