

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2018
Montana State Capitol Building
Room 172
Helena, MT

Thursday, July 12, 2018
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and read the Statement of Public Participation and the Board said the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Stockton took roll call.

Board members present: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Dr. Darlene Schottle, Vice Chair; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Tammy Lacey; Mr. Scott Stearns; Ms. Paris Becker, Student Representative. Ex-officio members: Ms. Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ms. Siri Smillie, Governor's Office; Ms. Angela McLean, Commissioner of Higher Education Office. Staff present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director Board of Public Education; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Mr. Frank Podobnik, OPI; Mr. Colter Bethurem, Billings; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Mr. Devin Holmes, Teachers Teaching Tech; Dr. Rob Watson, Superintendent Bozeman Public Schools; Ms. Patty Muir, OPI; Ms. Katie Madsen, OPI; Ms. Susie Hedalen, OPI.

No public comment was made.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was adopted as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mr. Scott Stearns moved to approve the agenda. 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 – 10 minutes**
Sharon Carroll

Chair Carroll thanked the Board staff, in particular Ms. Stockton, for working to stay within the budget given the 10% budget cut the agency incurred during the fiscal year. Mr. Donovan also thanked Ms. Stockton for her work. Chair Carroll reviewed the joint meeting with CSPAC from the previous day, including a discussion about the Class 4 Licenses and the history of the license. Chair Carroll also discussed the Strategic Planning session from the previous day as well.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 15 minutes
Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan distributed the history of the Assessment Rule ARM 10.56.101 and the Accreditation Rule ARM 10.55.603. Mr. Donovan reviewed for the Board his attendance at the Education Commission of the States Conference, all expenses paid, to Washington DC. Mr. Donovan answered questions from Board members. Chair Carroll thanked Mr. Donovan for his attendance at the conference and for keeping the Board informed.

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 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen – 15 minutes

Superintendent Arntzen reported to the Board on her appointment to the national committee on School Safety, an update on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for All Hazard and Emergency Services Training, a partnership with the University of Montana for the “Stop Violence Act”, and Title IV A Funding for a school safety grant. Also discussed was an update on resources for math and reading, 13 applications have been received for the Teacher of the Year Award, and a committee will be reviewing the applicants in August. The Montana Military Children’s Council has met and is working on By-Laws and will be meeting again in the fall. A Data Task Force has also been initiated as mandated by the Legislature to study data collection in the state. The Superintendent also discussed possibly moving the OPI offices and merging them into one building. The Superintendent answered Board questions regarding consolidating offices. The Superintendent then asked for approval of the MACIE Nomination.

- **MACIE Nomination – Kacie Walette**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the nomination of Ms. Kacie Walette to the MACIE Council. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT – 15 minutes
Angela McLean

Ms. McLean updated the Board on recent happenings at the Commissioner’s Office including: discussions on how to increase the number of high school graduates going to college upon high school completion and increase retention rates, the new Deputy Commissioner for Academic Research and Student Affairs, Dr. Brock Tessman will replace Dr. John Cech, Mike Jetty replacing Mandy Smoker Broadus on the American Indian Council through the Commissioner’s Office, a report card being finalized on American Indian students post-secondary successes, an update on the Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force, and work with MEA-MFT on the educator recruitment session for high school students at the MEA Conference this fall. Ms. McLean fielded Board member questions.

Item 5 GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT – 15 minutes
Siri Smillie

Ms. Siri Smillie thanked Mr. Donovan for his overview of the ECS Conference and noted that the ECS website also has all the sessions recorded and available to the public. Ms. Smillie noted how education is shifting towards a lifelong learning model as well as a focus on early childhood learning and social and

emotional development. The Future Ready Montana Cabinet, and Executive Order signed by Governor Bullock in June was discussed, to prepare Montanans for jobs for the future and creating a prepared workforce. Members include Governor Cabinet members, as well as Superintendent Arntzen and Commissioner Christian. The goal is to increase the number of Montanans with a degree preparing them for the workforce to 65%. A website is currently under design for the project. STARS preschool has added Wibaux Public Schools to the list of public preschools in that program. The data report for the STARS program will be available in September and Ms. Smillie will present the data at the September meeting. Board member Stearns asked if a member of the BPE will be on the cabinet, and Ms. Smillie answered she will be in touch with Mr. Donovan to include him on the cabinet. Dr. Schottle noted that she has visited several preschools in the STARS program and how successful those programs are for the students and community.

Item 6 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT – 15 minutes**
Paris Becker

Ms. Paris Becker reported on end of the year activities at Fairfield High School and that a large freshman class of 38 students is expected and new classes are being offered at the high school. Ms. Becker also discussed her work getting Education 101 to be offered in Fairfield and in Choteau. Ms. Becker thanked Superintendent Arntzen for her work on school safety. Ms. Becker reviewed her recent attendance at the National Student Council Conference in Minnesota in June and discussed her experience there in talking with other student representatives to state boards. Chair Carroll asked if she was staying in contact with any of those other students and Ms. Becker noted that she has been in touch with those other representatives via social media. Ms. Becker answered questions from Board members.

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.

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

Item 7 **MSDB REPORT – 20 minutes**
Donna Sorensen

Ms. Sorensen discussed a partnership with the Deaf Blind Project to reach out to other states to have access to training of Intervener’s who work with Deaf Blind students. Intervener’s will be trained on things such as transition to life for Deaf Blind students. The project will be working with surrounding states on this project. Ms. Sorensen reviewed items on her report including a “Request to Bargain” from the union to review staff salaries, which resulted in an increase to staff salaries to be on par with Great Falls Public Schools staff salaries. Work is underway with the UFC union to see if salaries can also be increased for Cottage workers, and other staff. Staffing updates included a newly created Supervising Teacher in the Deaf and VI Department to work with the Principal. Ms. Sorensen thanked Principal Furthmyer for his work with the MHSA for the sports agreements so that students from MSDB who take classes at Great Falls High will be able to participate in sports offered at Great Falls High.

- **Approve MHSA Agreements**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the MHSA Agreements with Great Falls Public Schools for: boys golf, boys swimming, boys tennis, girls golf, girls swimming, girls tennis, softball, volleyball, and wrestling. Motion seconded by Mr. Scott Stearns

Ms. McLean noted that she recently ran into a former student whose son attends MSDB and participates in Wrestling at Great Falls High.

Ms. Lacey noted that GFPS is also pleased with this agreement.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Board member Lacey abstaining.

Ms. Sorensen continued her report noting the successful graduation ceremony of 9 graduates, and thanked Board member Bremner for her attendance and for passing out diplomas to the students. A new cottage counselor position has been filled, and 89 referrals were received by the MSDB this year by the Outreach division. Ms. Sorensen distributed the financials and discussed the year end budget of the school.

- **Approve Out of State Travel Requests**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Out of State Travel Requests for the MSDB as noted in the report. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Dr. Schottle noted that in the future it would be helpful for the Board to have a copy of the Out of State Travel Request form to see who is traveling out of state and the reasons for the request. Ms. Sorensen detailed some of the requests.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jesse Barnhart asked about the negotiations for the salary increase and possibility of eliminating positions. Mr. Donovan and Ms. Sorensen explained the budget and that in working with the Budget Director and Ms. Nancy Hall it is believed that no positions will be eliminated. Mr. Donovan noted the importance of bringing salaries at the school to par with GFPS. Ms. Bremner also thanked everyone involved with the negotiations as well. Ms. Lacey noted the Advanced Ed review and partnership with the Lion's Club and congratulated the school on their new magnified readers the school will be receiving via a grant from the Lion's Club. Dr. Schottle also thanked everyone who was involved in the negotiations and encouraged Ms. Sorensen to continue working with the Governor's Budget Office.

DISCUSSION

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 8-10)

Item 8 HiSET ANNUAL REPORT – 15 minutes Katie Madsen

Ms. Katie Madsen updated the Board on the HiSet Annual Report, reviewing the summary and highlighting the HiSet details section and sharing Montana specific information. Test results have increased to 71.4% completion rate for the state. Ms. Madsen highlighted additional details of the report with the Board.

Item 9 SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT – 15 minutes Frank Podobnik

Mr. Frank Podobnik reviewed the Special Education Report with the Board highlighting specific sections of the report with the Board including funding, where the state of Montana is compared to national trends, and changes since the report was completed. Mr. Podobnik answered questions from the Board.

Item 10 **FEDERAL UPDATE – 15 minutes**
Susie Hedalen

Ms. Hedalen discussed the prototype of the “report card” she has that will be emailed to the BPE staff to make available to the BPE members. Ms. Hedalen discussed the report card and how it differs from report cards for other states, and how other states use their report cards that differ from the manner which it is used in Montana. Ms. Hedalen discussed the comparison model the state opted to use rather than a report that gives a specific “letter grade” for how a school is performing. Also discussed is the ESSA requirement to define “ineffective teacher” and how the OPI is looking at defining the term and proposals they have created in order to make that determination. The OPI will define what the term “ineffective teacher” means and create a manner for schools to report the data via TEAMS. It is expected that will be a field in which the school will list the number of “ineffective teacher(s)”, but no name(s) will be associated with the number. Ms. Hedalen shared some of the proposals under consideration. Ms. Hedalen also discussed School Improvement and progress on that project and reported on Title IV Part A funding.

*******TIME CERTAIN AT 11:00 AM*******

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.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 11-17)**

Item 11 **HEARING IN BPE CASE #2018-01 SPENCER JOHNSON – 20 minutes**
Rob Stutz

Appellant has withdrawn his appeal.

Item 12 **HEARING IN BPE CASE #2018-02 GENEVIEVE THOMAS - 20 minutes**
Rob Stutz

Appellant has requested this hearing to be continued to the September BPE Meeting.

Item 13 **HEARING IN BPE CASE #2018-03 COLTER BETHUREM – 20 minutes**
Rob Stutz

Mr. Stutz noted that it has been brought to the attention of the OPI legal department that the appellant has applied for the wrong license, and he has withdrawn his appeal. He will apply for the correct license and the OPI will review that application.

*******LUNCH BREAK*******

DISCUSSION

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 14-17)**

Item 14 **INITIAL PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS AND TIMELINE FOR
THE AMENDMENT OF ARM 10.57.421 CLASS 4 ENDORSEMENT BY
ADDING EMT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TO THE LIST OF CLASS 4
ENDORSABLE AREAS**
Kristine Thatcher – 15 minutes

Ms. Kristine Thatcher presented the initial presentation to add EMT and Emergency Services to the list of Class 4 Endorsable areas to the licensure rules of ARM 10.57.421. Ms. Thatcher reviewed the proposed revisions for the Board for each of the proposed areas: 1) EMT and 2) Emergency Services. Ms. Renee’

Erlandsen, OPI, discussed the pathway for teachers pursuing these endorsements and Dr. Rob Watson reviewed the work that CSPAC has done over the past 8 months regarding this proposed rule revision.

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 15 REQUEST APPROVAL FOR A CLASS 5 PROVISIONAL LICENSE ONE-YEAR
EXTENSION FOR ANDREW ROBERTSON – 15 minutes
Kristine Thatcher**

Ms. Kristine Thatcher presented this case to the Board reviewing the reasons for the request and the progress the applicant is making towards full licensure.

Mr. Scott Stearns moved to approve the request for a one-year extension for a Class 5 Provisional License. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.

Comment from Chair Lacey regarding some of the reasons behind the request.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Board member Lacey dissenting.

**Item 16 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF ADOPTION
FOR THE AMENDMENT TO ARM 10.55.701, SUICIDE PREVENTION IN
SCHOOLS – 15 minutes
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan presented the item to the Board reviewing the reasons behind the proposal from the 2017 Legislative Session and a request from Senator Edie McClafferty for the Board to consider the rule amendment.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Proposed Notice of Adoption for the Amendment to ARM 10.55.701, Suicide Prevention. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 17 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF ADOPTION
FOR THE AMENDMENT TO ARM 10.57.421, TEACHER LICENSURE – 15
minutes
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan reviewed the proposed rule change for the amendment to ARM 10.57.421, Teacher Licensure, reviewing the proposed language and the public comment received at the public hearing. Mr. Barnhart reviewed some comments and opinions from teachers at his school.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Proposed Notice of Adoption for the Amendment to ARM 10.57.421, Teacher Licensure

for Computer Coding and Teacher Education. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.

Public comment from Mr. Devin Holmes, Teachers Teaching Tech, spoke in support of the rule amendment.

Public comment from Dr. Rob Watson, Superintendent Bozeman Public Schools, and CSPAC representative spoke in support of the proposed rule amendment.

Comment from Board member Lacey addressing some of the concerns in the letters of opposition noting that she believes this language strengthens the rule and creates opportunity for teachers. Chair Carroll asked a licensure question regarding how an existing math teacher could obtain this endorsement. Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI, reviewed how a teacher would obtain the Class 4A license to then teach the Computer Coding CTE course.

Dr. Schottle noted that this first was discussed nearly one year ago, so this process has been fully vetted, and much discussion has been had to create the proposed rule amendment, and thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

Ms. Lacey addressed the phrase in one opposition letter that the change “weakens the license” and that she does not agree.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Item 19 UPDATE: NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING FOR ALL HAZARD EMERGENCY AND RESPONSE PLANS – 15 minutes Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson reviewed the Negotiated Rulemaking process for the All Hazard Emergency and Response Plans. Dr. Peterson distributed an updated copy of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Information Document to the Board. Dr. Peterson answered Board member questions. Discussion was had surrounding the timeline and clarification of the timeline and the MAPA process for rulemaking.

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.

*****TIME CERTAIN AT 2:00 PM*****

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Darlene Schottle (Item 18 - 21)

Item 18 **PRESENTATION OF THE 2017-2018 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN STEP 2 OF THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS – 45 minutes**

Patty Muir

• **Winifred Public Schools**

Mr. Chad Fordyce, Superintendent Winifred Public Schools, appeared before the Board with an update on the misassigned Music Education teacher in his district and how he plans to remedy the situation. Since there is a current licensed music education teacher in the elementary school, that teacher will handle the music education for high school students, and an instructional aide, who is a certified elementary teacher, will be the teacher of record in the classroom during the time the music teacher is teaching class in the high school. Dr. Schottle asked for clarification and for Mr. Fordyce to submit a written plan for the record. Ms. Muir asked questions for clarification to Mr. Fordyce and noted that this plan will resolve the accreditation issues. Chair Carroll requested that Mr. Fordyce submit a written corrective plan via email to herself, Ms. Muir, and Mr. Donovan within 1 week. Mr. Fordyce agreed, and Ms. Muir noted that the OPI Accreditation Department will follow up with the school in the fall and report to the board on their progress.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the 2017-2018 Corrective Action Plan for Winifred 6-8 and Winifred High School pending submission of a written plan by July 20, 2018. Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.

Mr. Fordyce asked if the Board is addressing the Music Education Teacher shortage and the Chair responded by noting the ongoing work in Teacher Recruitment and Retention.

• **Northern Cheyenne Tribal Schools**

Ms. Teresa McMakin joined the meeting via conference call. Ms. Patty Muir reviewed the Student Performance Issue that has landed Northern Cheyenne Tribal Schools in the Step 2 of the Intensive Assistance Process. Ms. McMakin has already submitted her Corrective Plan and reviewed for the Board how she plans to correct the problem.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the 2017-2018 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Northern Cheyenne Tribal Elementary Schools. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

• **Libby Public Schools**

Mr. Craig Barringer joined the meeting via conference call. Ms. Patty Muir reviewed the deviations that have resulted in the district being in Step 2 and Mr. Barringer addressed the plan he submitted. Ms. Muir will follow up with the district in the fall.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the 2017-2018 Corrective Plans for Libby Elementary and Libby Middle School. Motion seconded by Mr. Scott Stearns.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

A general discussion was had between the Board and OPI staff regarding following up with the districts, parental notifications, and requirement of local school board chairs also attending the meeting with the district Superintendent.

Item 20 **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2017-2018 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN ADVISE OR DEFICIENCY STATUS** – 15 minutes
Patty Muir

Ms. Muir reviewed the request for approval of Corrective Plans and timelines for schools in Advice or Deficiency. The Accreditation staff at OPI have reviewed all the plans and are requesting the school's plans be approved.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the 2017-2018 Corrective Plans and Timelines of Accredited Schools in Advice or Deficiency Status. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Item 21 **DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2017-2018 FINAL MONTANA ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT WITH ADDENDUM** – 10 minutes
Patty Muir

The Final Accreditation Report with Addendum was distributed to the Board. The report is posted on the OPI website under the Accreditation Department.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 22)**

Item 22 **ASSESSMENT REPORT** – 20 minutes
Ken Bailey

Mr. Bailey was not available for the Assessment report. Dr. Linda Peterson briefly reviewed some Assessment information for the Board and answered questions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS September 13-14, 2018

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

Additionally, Mr. Rob Stutz reviewed for the Board a letter received by the Board staff from the US Department of Education regarding a Federal law prohibiting SEA's and LEA's in the aiding and abetting of educators who have engaged in sexual misconduct in seeking new employment. Mr. Stutz noted that the current licensure rules in Chapter 57 concerning Immoral Conduct covers this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM.

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Renewal Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting may qualify you to receive renewal units. One hour of contact time = 1 renewal unit up to 8 renewal units per day. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet if you are applying for renewal units.

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.

The Board of Public Education will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate in the meeting. Individuals who require such accommodations should make requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible prior to the meeting start date. You may write to: Kris Stockton, PO Box 200601, Helena MT, 59620, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 444-0302.