

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 12, 2020
10:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

Wednesday August 12, 2020
10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schottle called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and Ms. Stockton took roll call.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Mr. Jerry Lynch; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Paige Lepard. Ex-officio members: Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor's Office; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI. Staff present: Mr. Peter Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC; Mr. Duane Schlabach, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MFPE; Mr. Jay Phillips, OPI; Mr. Timothy Johnson, OPI; Ms. Jule Walker, MTSBA; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Mr. Matt Hoffman, Billings Gazette; Ms. Phoebe Williams, OPI; Ms. Laura Sankey-Keip, Legislative Services; Nishala Silva, MSU Billings; Dr. Trent Atkins, UM; Ms. Kris Thatcher, OPI; Dr. Ann Ewbank, MSU; Ms. Jennifer Burns; Ms. Julia Swingley, OPI; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, MSDB; Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE– Tammy Lacey (Item 1)

Item 1

CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL EXTENSION FOR 30 DAYS (ACTION)
Tim Johnson

Chair Schottle reviewed for the Board the initial discussion on this topic which took place at the July 16, 2020 Board of Public Education meeting. Ms. Tammy Lacey, Licensure Committee Chair opened the item and asked the Office of Public Instruction for a review of the request being presented to the Board. Mr. Tim Johnson, Deputy Superintendent at OPI reviewed the need for the extension and explained how the issue of educators still needing to renew their license comes up each year but that it has been amplified this year by Covid. The OPI does not have any current data from school districts but OPI is aware that staffing increases are necessary for districts due to Covid. OPI initially requested a one-year extension at the July BPE meeting, but after input from education advocates around the state, it was determined that a one-year extension was unnecessary and the OPI is now requesting a 30-day extension. Chair Schottle asked for clarification as to whether those who have not renewed can still do so, and Mr. Johnson answered they can through August 31, 2020. The Chair also asked for clarification as to whether teachers have a "grace period" to become certified after being hired. Ms. Lacey responded

that all teachers must be certified in order to begin working but that per MCA 20-4-101 they have 60 days from the start of service to register with the County Superintendent. Ms. Lacey questioned Mr. Johnson about ARM 10.57.215 which states the deadline to recertify is August 31, and what happens if someone does not recertify by August 31, and instead attempts to recertify on September 1? Mr. Johnson answered that the individual would then have to go through the reinstatement process. Board member Lynch asked for clarification on the 60 renewal units needed for recertification. Board member Keith asked what the downsides might be for districts if the Board approves the extension to renew to September 30. Mr. Johnson responded that he does not anticipate any adverse consequences and that anything that may arise could be resolved by a Memo of Understanding with the Union. Board member Quinlan asked about revenues if more people renew in September and Mr. Johnson answered that it is possible there could be an increase in revenues if more individuals certify due to the extension of the deadline.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to extend the deadline for license renewal from August 31, 2020 as set forth in ARM 10.57.215(1) to September 30, 2020, as a one-time only extension. Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.

Ms. Lacey commented that teachers need to be licensed on day 1 of the school year and districts should adhere to the law.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM.

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.