

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
**CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 26, 2020  
11:00 AM  
406-444-4647  
1-833-505-4104 (long distance)  
Conference ID: 1039083

**Thursday, March 26, 2020**  
**11:00 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Schottle called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. Ms. Stockton took roll call and the Chair welcomed guests on the call. Chair Schottle thanked everyone for attending the meeting today during these trying times both professionally and personally, and thanked everyone for taking part in the process for

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Paris Becker, Student Representative. Ex-officio members: Ms. Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor Bullock'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 Specialist. Guests: Mr. Rob Stutz, Attorney, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Ashley McGrath; OPI; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, MSDB Interim Superintendent; Sharyl Allen, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MFPE; Dr. Brock Tessman, OCHE; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Ms. Nancy Hall, OBPP; Ms. Laura Sankey-Keip, Attorney, Legislative Services; Mr. Matt Hoffman, Billings Gazette.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Sharyl Allen at OPI thanked the Board for their responsiveness and cooperation in working through the issues surrounding the affects of Covid-19 and schools.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan seconded the motion.**

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

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE– Anne Keith (Items 1-2)**

**Item 1                                      REQUEST FOR SPRING 2020 ASSESSMENT WAIVER - (ACTION) -15**

*Minutes*

**Ashley McGrath**

Ms. Anne Keith opened the item up for an update from Ms. Ashley McGrath and request. Ms. McGrath reviewed the request from the Superintendent for Board action to approve a waiver of the 2020 Spring Assessments due to Covid-19. Ms. McGrath reviewed the waiver approved by the US Department of Education from the ESSA Assessment requirements. Current high school juniors will be allowed to take the ACT free of charge in the Fall of 2020 during their senior year. Ms. McGrath answered Board member questions. Ms. McGrath noted that the Superintendent requested a waiver from the USDE on

March 19, on March 20<sup>th</sup> the Department issued their letter with a form for states to complete, which Montana will do at the conclusion of this meeting.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to waive all 2020 Spring Assessments in rule or in statute, (list test names). Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

***Comment from Ms. Angela McLean on behalf of the Commissioner expressed thanks for the Board's action.***

***Mr. Rob Stutz commented that the Board's constitutional authority allows this action without going through the rulemaking process.***

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

**Item 2                                      SCIENCE FIELD TEST – (INFORMATION ONLY) - 15 Minutes  
Ashely McGrath**

Ms. McGrath thanked the Board for their action on the first item, then discussed possible alternative options for the Science Field test for the Montana Science Assessment, an alternative timeline is being developed for next spring due to the school closures from the Covid-19 outbreak. Ms. McGrath outlined how this will look for the process next spring. Ms. McGrath answered Board member questions.

**❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Item 3)**

**Item 3                                      LEGAL UPDATE (INFORMATION) – 15 Minutes  
Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services**

Mr. Stutz gave a brief overview of the Board's constitutional authority, and that in a normal situation the Board uses the MAPA process, but that the Board is not required to use MAPA and that the Board can act when necessary, using their constitutional authority. Chair Schottle thanked Mr. Stutz for his update.

**❖ MSDB LIAISON– Mary Jo Bremner (Item 4)**

**Item 4                                      REQUEST APPROVAL OF MSDB REMOTE LEARNING PLAN – 15 Minutes  
Paul Furthmyre**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner turned the item over to Interim MSDB Superintendent Paul Furthmyre to review the Remote Learning Plan for the MSDB as required by the Governor's Office per the Executive Order for school closures related to the Covid-19 Outbreak. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the plan for the Board and answered questions.

**Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the remote learning plan submitted by the MSDB, and approve the MSDB to submit the plan to the Governor. Ms. Tammy Lacey seconded the motion.**

***Mr. Jesse Barnhart expressed his appreciation for the thought and consideration Mr. Furthmyre has put into the plan.***

***Ms. Madalyn Quinlan also thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his work.***

***Ms. McCall Flynn thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his flexibility in working with the Governor's Office and answering their questions for him.***

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment provided.

Chair Schottle thanked everyone for their participation on the call.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM.

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APPROVED