

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

Greg Gianforte
GOVERNOR



Kristen Juras
LT. GOVERNOR

State Board of Education Meeting

November 22, 2024 · 1:00 p.m.
Montana State University- Bozeman, Strand Union Building

- 1:00 Call to order and attendance
Governor Greg Gianforte
- 1:05 Approval of 2023 State Board of Education Minutes - **ACTION**
- 1:07 Motion to adopt the agenda - **ACTION**
- 1:10 Governor's Education Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session
Governor Greg Gianforte
- 1:20 Montana University System Legislative Priorities
Chair Todd Buchanan
- 1:30 K-12 Legislative Priorities
Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and Chair Tim Tharp
- 1:40 Introduction of the 2025 Montana Teacher of the Year Dawn Sievers
Superintendent Elsie Arntzen
- 1:45 2025 Executive Unified Education Budget - **ACTION**
Office of Budget & Program Planning
- 2:05 Board of Public Education and Board of Regents Joint Resolution Supporting
Mathematics Attainment and Proficiency - **ACTION**
- 2:15 Public Comment
Limited to 3 minutes. Comments may also be emailed to dylan.klapmeier@mt.gov.

Adjourn after public comment

Minutes
Montana Board of Education
November 17, 2023

Friday, November 17, 2023

Members present: Chair Dombrowski, Regent Buchanan, Regent Rogers, Regent Lozar was excused, Regent Southworth, Regent Yeager, Board Chair Tharp, Board Member Hedalan, Board Member Slinger, Board Member Keith, Board Member Hammond, Board Member Quinlin, Board Member Rassmussen, Student Representative Mow was excused. Ex Officio members Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier, Superintendent Arntzen, Commissioner Christian.

Remarks by Chair Dombrowski | 00:01:27

Chair Dombrowski welcomed everyone and shared that this group is responsible for long range education planning, coordinating, and evaluating policies and programs. She shared a few highlights from the Board of Regents meeting including Montana's designation as a Regional Tech Hub, overall enrollment increases, and the continued partnership with the tribal colleges. She gave a brief overview of shared policy goals between the MUS and the Board of Education. She spoke about sprint degrees, the learning management system, and the collaboration across the MUS.

Remarks by Chair Tharp | 00:06:36

Chair Tim Tharp gave a brief explanation of the Board of Public Education (BPE), the work they do, and their partnership with OPI. He shared a new teacher licensure program has been approved at Salish Kootenai College. He noted they toured a few different schools, talking to students and teachers, and getting to see the great work being done. He shared a major project in the works currently is Charter Schools with the recent passing of two charter school bills by the legislature. He highlighted some of the committees and the information they provide along with the work they do. He expressed his gratitude to be able to work together with the Board of Regents, the State Superintendent, legislators, and local school board members. He recognized how important student mental health is and that it is a top priority for the BPE.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 00:12:19

Superintendent Arntzen spoke on the growth of teacher recruitment and retention in Montana communities, the focus on parents, and the Perkins survey. She talked about the new assessment system. She shared that there are employment opportunities for people who want to serve in their schools. She shared how federal Covid money is being used for teacher development. She acknowledged new graduation requirements that will get our schools up to date, and special education needs to reach students of all abilities. Lastly, she introduced the 2024 Montana Teacher of the Year, Mr. Kevin Kicking Woman.

Mr. Kevin Kicking Woman shared his focus is on students and the social problems they face every day. He shared his desire to do his best to represent all of Montana as Teacher of the Year. He spoke to the importance of language as a defining characteristic and his continued fight for all endangered languages. He closed by singing a song in his native language.

Remarks by Governors Designee | 00:21:15

Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor, congratulated Kevin Kicking Woman. He expressed his gratitude for this joint meeting and seeing the progress made over the last year, highlighting the Tech Hub designation and the Education Design Labs initiatives. He talked about the coordinated effort of K12 and post-secondary education. He shared the Governor's focus is on proficiency in work-based learning, public and private partnerships, and innovative approaches to deliver education to advance student success. Lastly, he highlighted some of the accomplishments over the last year in K12 and post-secondary education.

- Dual Enrollment Update | 00:24:36

Deputy Commissioner Thiel said the focus this year is growing the high school to career pathways, increasing industry support to align with workforce needs through sprint degrees, and building long term infrastructure for high quality flexible learning pathways. He talked about different populations of people that will be better supported by these flexible learning pathways. He shared a presentation on dual enrollment showing the opportunities it provides, the growth in enrollment over the years, the types of credits being taken, the increase in high schools participating, enrollment statistics by region, matriculation rates into college, and shared some of the different programs and opportunities being offered.

- Montana Digital Academy Update | 00:31:05

Assistant Director of the Digital Academy, Mike Agostinelli, gave a presentation on the work being done at the digital academy, the variety of programs being offered, an enrollment update, student satisfaction survey statistics, the Learning Management System, the passage of House Bill 749, the framework of the Clearing House concept, and shared who the new board members are. Discussion followed.

- Public Comment | 00:56:53

Lauren Fern, Math Discipline Lead, Missoula College, Student Success Coordinator Gen Ed Math, University of Montana, shared her concern that Montana only requires two years of mathematics which are some of the lowest standards in the country resulting in students being underprepared. She shared her desire to help build a bridge program in the high schools to help students be successful and college ready.



Montana Board of Education

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Regents and the Montana Board of Public Education are committed to increasing K-12 mathematics proficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education sets high school graduation requirements as part of its Accreditation Standards, which currently require two units of mathematics to graduate; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Instruction reports that 78% of high schools already require three units or more of mathematics to graduate; and

WHEREAS, the 2023-24 Statewide Assessment shows that only 30.7% of 11th graders are at or above proficiency in mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education reports that 19% of all first-time freshman in the Montana University System do not meet mathematics proficiency standards. Of Montana University System students taking a mathematics course in their first year, 40% need additional remedial support; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to the K-12 Mathematics Content Standards outline Core Standards and Core Plus Standards that adequately prepare students for any postsecondary pathway including career, trades, certificate, two-year or four-year degree programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana Board of Regents and the Montana Board of Public Education encourage Montana school districts to require a third unit of mathematics as a high school graduation requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Montana Board of Regents and the Montana Board of Public Education encourage the Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to create a collaborative process to identify comprehensive strategies to increase mathematics proficiency in support of college and career attainment, including strengthening the ability for Montana high schools to offer a third year of mathematics.

RESOLVED BY THE MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS AND THE MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ON NOVEMBER 22, 2024.

Todd Buchanan
Chairperson
Board of Regents

Dr. Tim Tharp
Chairperson
Board of Public Education