

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

January 15-16, 2026
Montana Heritage Center
Ponderosa Room
225 Roberts St, Helena, MT

January 15, 2026
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Welcome Visitors

PUBLIC COMMENT

This time will be provided for public comment on items not listed on the agenda. This meeting is open to the public both in person and electronically. For those wishing to give virtual public comment, please contact bpe@mt.gov to request the Zoom link for the meeting. Members of the public who have joined virtually on Zoom may “raise their hand” at the appropriate time to participate after being recognized by the Board Chair. Members of the public who wish to share written public comment with the Board members must submit written public comment to the Executive Director at bpe@mt.gov no later than two (2) business days before the start of the meeting. Any written public comment received after this deadline will be shared with the Board members after the meeting. All written public comment will be included as part of the official public record.

Action may be taken on any item listed on the Board agenda. Per §2-3-103, MCA, the Board encourages public comment on any item prior to Board final action.

CONSENT AGENDA – page #9

(Items may be pulled from Consent Agenda upon request)

- A. November 19-21, 2025 and December 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- B. Financials

ADOPT AGENDA

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-6)

- Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #40
Dr. Tim Tharp
- Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #41
McCall Flynn
- Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – 1 Hour, page #42
State Superintendent Susie Hedalen
 - Assessment Update
 - Federal Update
 - Content Standards Update
 - Accreditation Update
 - HiSET Report
 - Transportation Report

- Item 4 **COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #60**
Dr. Angela McLean
- Item 5 **GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #62**
Rachel Green
- Item 6 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #63**
Lydia Comstock
- ❖ **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Item 7)**
- Item 7 **ACTION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION RESOLUTION – 15 Minutes, page #64**
Dr. Hannah Nieskens
- ❖ **CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 8-9)**
- Item 8 **ACTION ON UPDATED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS – 15 Minutes, page #66**
Dr. Ron Slinger
- Item 9 **WORK SESSION ON THE APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS – 1 Hour, page #86**
Dr. Ron Slinger
- *******LUNCH BREAK*******
- **Lunch will be provided for Board Members and Ex-Officio Members****
- ❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 10-15)**
- Item 10 **INFORMATION ON THE TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP GRANT AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – 45 Minutes, page #88**
Commissioner Sarah Swanson and Crystal Armstrong
- Item 11 **INFORMATION ON ANNUAL EDUCATOR LICENSURE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #101**
Crystal Andrews
- Item 12 **INFORMATION ON ABCTE PROGRAM APPROVAL FOR ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALING – 30 Minutes, page #116**
Isabelle Welch, ABCTE and Crystal Andrews
- Item 13 **INFORMATION ON THE SITE VISIT AND JOINT ACCREDITATION STATE EXIT REPORT OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – 15 Minutes, page #135**
Crystal Andrews
- Item 14 **INFORMATION ON THE QUALITY EDUCATOR LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – 15 Minutes, page #191**
Christy Mock-Stutz
- Item 15 **INITIAL REVIEW AND WORK SESSION ON TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57 CLASS 9 SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICIAN LICENSE – 30 Minutes, page #194**
Patrick Cates and Dr. Julie Murgel

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 16-18)

- Item 16 ACTION ON THE TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING PHASE II GRANTS – 15 Minutes, page #197
Krystal Smith
- Item 17 ACTION ON MONTANA ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY GRANTS – 15 Minutes, page #208
Krystal Smith
- ACTION ITEMS:
- Qualify Applications
 - Annual Reports
- Item 18 INFORMATION AND REVIEW OF THE CREATION OF THE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY – 15 Minutes, page #210
Tyler Capece and Chris Averill

❖ MSDB COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Item 19)

- Item 19 MSDB REPORT – 30 Minutes, page #219
Superintendent Paul Furthmyre
- ACTION ITEMS:
- Action on Out of State Travel Requests
 - Action on Personnel Items
 - Action on 2nd Reading Policy 8210

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 20)

- Item 20 MSDB SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – 30 Minutes, page #320
Dr. Tim Tharp

*****OPEN SESSION*****

RECESS

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8:30AM

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❖ CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 21-22)

- Item 21 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS COMMISSION – 15 Minutes, page #322
Cathy Kincheloe
- Item 22 ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS TO APPROVE AND DENY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS – 30 Minutes, page #337
Dr. Ron Slinger

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Julia Maxwell (Item 23)**

Item 23 **MACIE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #338**
Jordann Lankford Forster

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Items 24-25)**

Item 24 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY TARGETED INTERVENTION STANDARDS AND ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 63, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 15 Minutes, page #340**
Renee Rasmussen

Item 25 **INFORMATION ON MAST ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION – 30 Minutes, page #344**
Cedar Rose

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Item 26)**

Item 26 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TIMELINE PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICIAN LICENSE, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 5 Minutes, page #359**
Dr. Ron Slinger

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Item 27)**

Item 27 **INFORMATION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS FOR ACCREDITATION – 30 Minutes, page #365**
Dr. Julie Murgel and Tyler Capece

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 28-30)**

Item 28 **ACTION ON MSDB SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT – 15 Minutes, page #379**
Dr. Tim Tharp

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Action on 2025 Contract**
- **Action on 2026 Contract**

Item 29 **ACTION ON THE CREATION OF THE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY – 5 Minutes, page #380**
Dr. Tim Tharp

Item 30 **RECOGNITION OF EXITING BOARD MEMBER – 15 Minutes, page #381**
Dr. Tim Tharp

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS March 19-20, 2026, Ronan, MT

MACIE Update

Action on MSDB School Calendar

Action on Early Literacy Screening Tools (Odd Years)

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Accreditation Report

Annual School Food Services Report

Review Draft CAEP MOU

Content Standards Revision Update

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ADJOURN

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Professional Development Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting either in person or via Zoom may qualify you to receive professional development units. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet if you are applying for professional development units.

Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed “time certain”. Public comment is welcome on all items listed as “Action” and as noted at the beginning and end of each meeting.

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, kmstockton@mt.gov, 406-444-0302.

❖ BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING – Dr. Tim Tharp

12:00PM	REVIEW OF NASBE DOCUMENTS
12:30PM	REVIEW OF MISSION AND DISCUSSION OF VISION
1:45PM	WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS