

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

July 22-24, 2026
Montana School Boards Association, First Floor Boardroom
863 Great Northern Blvd
Helena, MT

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

10:00AM

The meeting will not be streamed on YouTube on Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

CALL TO ORDER

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

❖ STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION – Dr. Tim Tharp

10:00AM

STRATEGIC PLANNING ITEMS – page #10

- REVIEW BYLAWS
- REVIEW COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
- REVIEW 2027 MEETING CALENDAR AND AGENDA CALENDAR
- REVIEW OPEN MEETING LAWS

*****LUNCH WITH EDUCATION PARTNERS*****

*****Lunch will be provided for Board Members and Ex-Officio Members*****

1:00PM

REVIEW DRAFT STRATEGIC PLANNING ITEMS

1:30PM

DISCUSS RELATED METRICS FOR SUCCESS

2:00PM

REVIEW LAYOUT AND FORMATTING

3:00PM

IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS FOR FEEDBACK

3:30PM

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON STRATEGIC PLANNING ITEMS

RECESS

Thursday, July 23, 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 #27

(Items may be pulled from Consent Agenda upon request)

- A. May 21-22, 2026 and June 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- B. Financials**

ADOPT AGENDA

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-5)

- Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #51
Dr. Tim Tharp**
- Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #52
McCall Flynn**
- Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – 1 Hour, page #53
State Superintendent Susie Hedalen**
 - **Assessment Update**
 - **Federal Update**
 - **OPI Staffing Report**
 - **Content Standards Revision Update**
 - **Data Modernization Update**
- Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #72
Dr. Angela McLean**
- Item 5 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #74
Lydia Comstock**

❖ MSDB COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Item 6)

- Item 6 MSDB REPORT – 30 Minutes, page #75
Superintendent Paul Furthmyre**
- ACTION ITEMS:**
- **Action on Personnel Items**
 - **Action on Pay Increase for Plan 061**

*****TIME CERTAIN AT 11:15AM*****

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 7-11)

- Item 7 ACTION AND INFORMATION ON INITIAL REVIEW OF BPE CASE #2026-04, KNIGHT –
15 Minutes, page #126
Brenton Craggs**
- Item 8 ACTION AND INFORMATION ON INITIAL REVIEW OF BPE CASE #2026-06, WHITNEY
– 15 Minutes, page #127
Brenton Craggs**

Item 9 **ACTION ON THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER ACCREDITATION HANDBOOK – 5 Minutes, page #128**
Crystal Andrews

Item 10 **ACTION ON THE SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE CARROLL COLLEGE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – 5 Minutes, page #163**
Crystal Andrews

Item 11 **ACTION ON PRAXIS ITEMS – 5 Minutes, page #195**
Crystal Andrews

- Math – Middle School
- English Language Arts – Middle School
- Social Studies – Middle School
- Science – Middle School
- Physical Education
- Health

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Item 12)**

Item 12 **INFORMATION AND REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICIAN RULEMAKING – 30 Minutes, page #199**
Dr. Julie Murgel, Patrick Cates

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 13)**

Item 13 **INFORMATION AND REVIEW OF MONTANA SCHOOL BUS STANDARDS RULEMAKING – 45 Minutes, page #205**
Elsie Workman, OPI; Mike Krout, Majestic Transportation; Neal Ullman, DEQ

***** **JOINT LUNCH WITH MACIE MEMBERS*******

****Lunch will be provided for Board Members, MACIE Members, and Ex-Officio Members****

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

❖ **JOINT MACIE MEETING AND TRIBAL CONSULTATION – Julia Maxwell (Items 14-17)**

Item 14 **MACIE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #343**
Jordann Lankford Forster

Item 15 **INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL REPORT – 1 Hour, page #345**
Christy Mock-Stutz, Dr. Brooke Gondara

Item 16 **INFORMATION AND UPDATE ON INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS – 1 Hour, page #359**
Dr. Julie Murgel, Dr. Brooke Gondara

Item 17 **WRAP UP AND FINAL THOUGHTS – 15 Minutes, page #371**
Dr. Tim Tharp, Jordann Lankford Forster

PUBLIC COMMENT ON JOINT MACIE MEETING ITEMS

RECESS

Friday, July 24, 2026
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

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

❖ **CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Items 18-19)**

- Item 18 **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS COMMISSION – 15 Minutes, page #373**
Cathy Kincheloe
- Item 19 **ACTION AND INFORMATION ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT**
REQUEST PROCESS – 15 Minutes, page #424
McCall Flynn

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 20-22)**

- Item 20 **PRESENTATION ON MONTANA BRIDGED HEALTH ALLIANCE – 30 Minutes, page**
#427
John Doran
- Item 21 **INFORMATION ON THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY RESULTS – 30 Minutes,**
page #435
Sarah Music, Genie Zeeck
- Item 22 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TIMELINE**
PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 64, TRANSPORTATION
STANDARDS AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 5
Minutes, page #485
Dr. Tim Tharp

❖ **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Item 23)**

- Item 23 **PRESENTATION ON ARTIFICIAL TECHNOLOGY GUIDANCE – 30 Minutes, page #491**
Dr. Jason Nieffer, Montana Digital Academy, Tyler Capece, Lucas Rowsey

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 24-27)**

- Item 24 **ACTION ON THE DRAFT COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR**
PREPARATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – 15 Minutes, page #492
Dr. Julie Murgel, Crystal Andrews
- Item 25 **INFORMATION ON THE SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE STONE**
CHILD COLLEGE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION – 15 Minutes, page #502
Crystal Andrews
- Item 26 **INFORMATION ON THE APPROVAL OF NEW CURRICULAR PROGRAM FOR**
SPECIAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PHYLLIS J.
WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION – 15 Minutes, page #519
Crystal Andrews
- Item 27 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING**
IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, EDUCATOR LICENSURE STANDARDS – DUAL
CREDIT POSTSECONDARY FACULTY LICENSE AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE
NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA
ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 5 Minutes, page #525

Dr. Ron Slinger

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Items 28-29)**

- Item 28 **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT THINK TANK – 15 Minutes, page #528**
Dr. Julie Murgel, Marie Judisch
- Item 29 **ACTION AND INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION AND CRITERIA FOR THE LIST OF APPROVED EARLY NUMERACY SCREENING TOOLS – 15 Minutes, page #532**
McCall Flynn

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

****Lunch will be provided for Board Members and Ex-Officio Members****

*******TIME CERTAIN AT 1:00PM*******

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Items 30-36)**

- Item 30 **INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ECONOMICS AS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT – 45 Minutes, page #537**
Dr. Carly Urban, Montana State University; Mike Paffhausen, NAIFA; Dr. Julie Murgel
- Item 31 **INFORMATION ON ACCREDITATION PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS METRIC – 15 Minutes, page #549**
Shannon Boswell, Nicole Thuotte
- Item 32 **INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED CORRECTIVE PLANS FOR SCHOOLS IN DEFICIENT AND ADVICE STATUS FOR ACCREDITATION – 15 Minutes, page #568**
Crystal Andrews
- Item 33 **ACCREDITATION UPDATE – 15 Minutes, page #573**
Crystal Andrews
- Item 34 **ACTION ON THE ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR NEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS – 5 Minutes, page #577**
Crystal Andrews
- Creston 7-8 – Provisional
 - Martinsdale Colony – Provisional
 - Meadow Lane Colony – Provisional
- Item 35 **INFORMATION ON OPENING AND CLOSING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS – 15 Minutes, page #580**
Autumn Warren
- Item 36 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TIMELINE PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICIAN STANDARDS AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 5 Minutes, page #595**
Dr. Hannah Nieskens

ADJOURN

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS September 24-25, 2026, Glendive, MT

Election of Board Officers
Action on Strategic Planning Items
MACIE Update
Montana Digital Academy Update

MACIE Renewal (Even Years)
Review Community Choice School Academic Performance and Financial Reports
Annual HiSET Report
Annual Special Education Report
Accreditation Update
Assessment Update
Federal Update
Content Standards Revision Update

PUBLIC COMMENT

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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.