

***BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA***

MARCH 25, 2024

Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

March 25, 2024
Zoom

Board of Public Education meetings are open to the public electronically. For those wishing to give virtual public comment, please contact bpe@mt.gov to request the zoom link for the meeting. To watch the meeting streamed live, please visit the Montana Board of Public Education [Youtube](#).

Monday, March 25, 2024

11:00AM

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPT AGENDA

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 1)

Item 1 **ACTION ON LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT ARNTZEN PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OPENING PROCESS – 30 Minutes, page #5**
Dr. Tim Tharp

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.

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, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 406-444-0302.

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
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❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – (Item 1)**

Dr. Tim Tharp

ITEM 1

**ACTION ON LETTER TO
SUPERINTENDENT ARNTZEN
PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC CHARTER
SCHOOL OPENING PROCESS**

Dr. Tim Tharp



Board of Public Education

BOARD MEMBERS

March 25, 2024

APPOINTED MEMBERS:

Tim Tharp, Chair
Savage

Superintendent Elsie Arntzen
Office of Public Instruction

Susie Hedalen, Vice-Chair
Townsend

Dear Superintendent Arntzen:

Ron Slinger
Miles City

As you know, the Board of Public Education has approved 19 public charter schools to open and operate pursuant to the provisions of Montana law codified in Title 20, Chapter 6, Part 8 of the Montana Code and the Montana Constitution. Given this authority, the Board declares the public charter schools open.

Renee Rasmussen
Clancy

Each of the charter schools approved by the Board will have fully satisfied all requirements set forth in law to open and operate starting in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. Each district has, through its constitutionally empowered board of trustees, fully executed contracts with the Board authorizing the opening dates. The terms of these contracts specify the preopening requirements to ensure that each charter school is prepared to open smoothly on the date agreed. Nothing in the law that your staff have cited from a different and inapplicable part of the Code, or the terms of those contracts requires school districts to obtain supplemental approval of their charter schools from the county commissioners or your office.

Lisa Schmidt
Conrad

Jane Lee Hamman
Clancy

Pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 6, Part 8, MCA, and the constitutional authority over the public school system vested in the Board of Public Education by Article X, Section 9 of the Montana Constitution, the Board directs that your office:

Madalyn Quinlan
Helena

Gavin Mow, Student Rep.
Helena

1. Assign a school code to each charter school approved by the Board;
2. Incorporate funding for the charter schools approved by the Board in the preliminary general fund budget worksheets for the districts to be used by the districts in adopting their fiscal year 2025 budgets; and
3. Distribute K-12 BASE Aid for each district with charter schools approved by the Board with basic entitlements for fiscal year 2025 based on the planned enrollments submitted by each district as part of its application for approval and the terms of each district's charter contract and per-ANB and other enrollment-driven funding elements based on enrollment counts in October and February of the school year.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Clayton Christian,
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Elsie Arntzen,
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Greg Gianforte,
Governor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

McCall Flynn

Should you have any questions, please contact the Board's Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair
Board of Public Education