

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

January 12-13, 2023  
Montana School Boards Association  
863 Great Northern Blvd, First Floor Conference Room  
Helena, MT

**Thursday, January 12, 2023**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Stockton took Roll Call and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests. Guests introduced themselves to the Board.

Board members present: Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Jane Hamman; Dr. Tim Tharp; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Tammy Lacey; Mr. Charles Fox, Student Representative. Ex-Officio members: Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office; State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Dr. Angela McLean, Commissioner of Higher Education. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests: Mr. Ron Slinger, Miles Community College; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana; Ms. Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE); Mr. Paul Furthmyre, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Ms. Jule Walker, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Ms. Chris Noel, OPI; Mr. Chris Sinrud, OPI; Dr. Adrea Lawrence, University of Montana; Ms. Donell Rosenthal, OPI; Ms. Nancy Hall, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP); Dr. Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM); Ms. Krystal Smith, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Ms. Jordann Lankford, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) Chair; Dr. Leslie Lott, University of Providence.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.**

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

**ADOPT AGENDA**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.**

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

\*\*\*\*\****Items are listed in the order which they are presented***\*\*\*\*\*

## ❖ REPORTS – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 1-6)

### **Item 1                   CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT** **Madalyn Quinlan**

Chair Quinlan opened her report by thanking Ms. Lacey for her service to the Board whose term will be ending January 31. The Chair noted that the MSDB has been selected for the Samsung Grant. The Chair discussed meetings of the Board committees since the November meeting and thanked all committee members for their work. The Chair commended Executive Director Flynn for her work on the Seal of Biliteracy.

### **Item 2                   EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** **McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn thanked MTSBA for the use of their building and technology assistance. Ms. Flynn reviewed work by the Board staff on the Chapter 58 Notice of Adoption and in preparing the Chapter 55 draft notice. Ms. Flynn discussed the meeting of the Education Interim Budget Committee in December where it was determined that the Chapter 55 changes do not have a substantial economic impact. Ms. Flynn discussed the work Board committees have done since the November meeting and thanked members for their work. Ms. Flynn reviewed the Seal of Biliteracy documents in the agenda packet regarding Native Languages noting that these documents were shared at the MACIE meeting the previous week and the group was very appreciative of the work being done. The application window will open on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Ms. Jane Hamman thanked everyone for their work on this project and suggested advertising the program in the media. Ms. Flynn updated the Board on the convening of the 2023 Legislative session and discussed bills and hearings that have taken place to date noting that the Board Legislative Playbook has been sent to all Board members and that she will be sending weekly updates of the Bill Tracker for members to review. Ms. Flynn ended her report by discussing the Board’s budget priorities for the legislative session and expressed her appreciation to the Board Legislative Committee for their work.

### **Item 3                   STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT** **State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen**

The Superintendent reported on the OPI budget hearing before the Joint Appropriations committee and discussed budget priorities for the Office of Public Instruction. The Superintendent reviewed the MAST report contained in the packet for the Board, and Ms. Chris Noel answered Board member questions regarding the MAST program, Assessment data, and program specifics. Ms. Anne Keith noted that professional development is key for this program to assist teachers. The Superintendent noted that Montana is the only state doing a “through year” test cycle. The Superintendent updated the Board on the Data Modernization Project and Mr. Chris Sinrud answered Board member questions. The Superintendent noted that funding for this program was given to the OPI during the 2021 Legislature from the state’s COVID-19 Relief funds and expressed her gratitude for the funding but noted funding for maintenance of the system may be necessary in the future. The Superintendent reviewed the Federal Report and the Transportation Report for the Board, discussing the statewide issues recruiting bus drivers. Ms. Donell Rosenthal was available for Board member questions regarding the Transportation Report.

### **Item 5                   GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT** **Dylan Klapmeier**

Mr. Klapmeier gave his report to the Board discussing some of the Federal COVID Relief funds that were unexpended and returned to the Governor’s Office. Some of those funds may be able to be sent to the OPI for other projects and an update will be given at the March Board meeting. Mr. Klapmeier explained the difference in the types of federal funds received by the state from the COVID relief monies. Mr. Klapmeier thanked Ms. Lacey for her service to the Board and welcomed Mr. Slinger as the new member beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Klapmeier reviewed a letter to the Board from the Governor encouraging the Board to adopt the Chapter 55 revisions concerning Civics and Financial Literacy for graduation requirements. Mr. Klapmeier noted a bill in the Legislature to reduce the Board of Education meetings to

one per year and discussed other Legislative priorities from the Governor's Office and specific bills moving through the Legislature pertaining to education.

**Item 4** **COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT**  
**Dr. Angela McLean**

Dr. McLean congratulated Mr. Slinger on his appointment to the Board before reviewing Legislative items the Commissioner's Office is tracking. Dr. McLean also discussed ongoing work with high school Counselors to assist students who did not complete their FAFSA or College Application to encourage students to circle back and complete the process. Also discussed were additional college access projects including updates on Talent Search, AIMA Council work, GEAR UP, including the GEAR UP Goes to College project, Workforce Development, and Grow Your Own Educator program. Dr. McLean noted that preliminary projections indicate the Grow Your Own Educator program has doubled since the previous year, but that final numbers will not be available for several weeks. Dr. McLean concluded her report by updating the Board on the work of the Recruitment and Retention Task Force.

**Item 6** **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**  
**Charles Fox**

Mr. Fox updated the Board by discussing work of the Executive Board for the Association of Student Councils who selected Ryan Anderson from Great Falls as the new Executive Director of the Montana Association of Student Councils. Mr. Fox noted other statewide student groups are selecting new leadership and reviewed the upcoming application process and interviews for a new Student Representative to the Board of Public Education. Mr. Fox reviewed the Student Engagement Panel that will come before the Board later in the meeting and answered Board member questions.

❖ **MSDB LIAISON – Tammy Lacey (Item 7)**

**Item 7** **MSDB REPORT**  
**Paul Furthmyre**

Ms. Lacey opened the item and thanked Mr. Furthmyre for the Christmas Dinner and Program that she and Executive Director Flynn attended in December. Ms. Lacey thanked Mr. Furthmyre for the opportunity to be the MSDB Liaison then turned the report over to Mr. Furthmyre. Mr. Furthmyre thanked Ms. Lacey for her service and extended his thanks to Ms. Lacey and Ms. Flynn for attending the Christmas dinner and program. Mr. Furthmyre congratulated Dr. Tharp on his election as County Superintendent before updating the Board with his report. Mr. Furthmyre discussed additional COVID relief funding the MSDB received to update the HVAC system at the school and thanked the Governor's Office for the funding. Mr. Furthmyre noted additional funds received from OPI for additional Outreach services. Mr. Furthmyre noted the beginning of conversations surrounding possible solutions regarding the lack of interpreters in the state. Mr. Furthmyre discussed the school being a semifinalist for the Samsung Grant, and the Code.Org grant to bring computer programming to the students. Mr. Furthmyre discussed legislative priorities for the school and the Governor's Budget. Mr. Furthmyre answered Board member questions. Mr. Furthmyre updated the Board on how the MSDB will be implementing proficiency-based learning and assessments, and that an influx of applications has come in and there is a possibility the school could be fully staffed soon. Mr. Furthmyre discussed the facility projects at the school noting that the roofing and lighting projects are complete and other projects still underway include: a drop-off loop, sprinkler systems in gym and cafeteria, camera system for security inside and outside of school, and an upgrade to the lift system to allow handicap access to the basement. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the Action items for the Board before requesting approval.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the MSDB personnel items as listed in the agenda packet and explained by Mr. Furthmyre. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.**

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the MSDB Out of State Travel Requests as presented in the agenda packet and detailed by Superintendent Furthmyre. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.*

*Ms. Tammy Lacey thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his strategic plan and making it come to life.*

*Vice Chair Susie Hedalen asked if the staff attending the CPI training will become certified and Mr. Furthmyre responded that they will.*

*No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Furthmyre noted the draft 2023-2024 MSDB school calendar which will be an action item for approval at the March meeting. Ms. Lacey noted that Mr. Jim Kelly from MSDB is a member of the Great Falls Public Schools calendar committee to ensure that the MSDB calendar aligns with the Great Falls Public Schools calendar.

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Susie Hedalen (Item 8)**

**Item 8**                                    **MACIE REPORT**  
**Jordann Lankford Forster**

Vice Chair Hedalen noted the informational MACIE meeting held January 4<sup>th</sup> and items discussed during the meeting before turning the report to MACIE Chair Jordann Lankford. Ms. Lankford noted there are no Action items for today's meeting. Three applications were received for the Tribal College President position on MACIE, and one individual has been selected by the Tribal College Presidents which will be brought to MACIE at their February meeting. The Board will see that nomination and act upon it at the March meeting. Ms. Lankford discussed that the Council would like to see continued support and affirmation on the Native Language Statement and the Regalia Statement. Ms. Lankford extended her appreciation to Ms. Flynn and Vice Chair Hedalen for their support and commitment to MACIE. The Board discussed continuing to support the two statements regarding Native Languages and Regalia.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 9-14)**

**Item 9**                                    **ANNUAL TEACHER LICENSURE REPORT**  
**Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Andrews presented the Annual Teacher Licensure Report to the Board. Ms. Andrews noted the ease of gathering the data this year with the new licensing system and referred the Board to the report contained in the packet. Ms. Andrews highlighted areas of the report for the Board including, renewals, adding an endorsement, initial applications, emergency authorizations, denials, unusual cases, and newly hired educators in critical shortage areas. Ms. Andrews noted the decline in initial application for licensure statewide and the increase in emergency authorizations. Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions.

**Item 10**                                   **ETS PRAXIS TEST REVIEW TIMELINE UPDATE**  
**Crystal Andrews, Kristi Steinberg**

Ms. Andrews and Ms. Steinberg presented this item to the Board. Ms. Steinberg participated in the PRAXIS Working Committee (PWC) for the Montana Council of Deans of Education and discussed issues pertaining to the PRAXIS. Ms. Andrews noted that several tests are set to expire and the PWC has reviewed these areas and made recommendations for updated tests. Ms. Steinberg discussed the process the committee followed in reviewing the tests and bringing in experts to help make the recommendations for the test scores. Ms. Andrews noted that she will bring this same information to the

Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council later in January, and back to the Board for action at the March meeting. Ms. Andrews reviewed the recommended scores for the Board, which are the recommended scores from Educational Testing Services (ETS) and the scores the PWC has agreed with. Ms. Andrews reviewed the timeline for implementation for the Board and answered Board member questions.

**Item 11**                                **ACTION ON THE VIRTUAL JOINT SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (EPP) IN THE PHYLLIS J. WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION APRIL 10-12, 2022**

**Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Murgel opened the item explaining that this was an information item at the November meeting and now an action item for the Board's approval. Superintendent Arntzen has recommended full accreditation for the University of Montana. Ms. Kristi Steinberg introduced Dr. John Matt, and Dr. Morgan Allwell who joined via Zoom. Ms. Steinberg discussed the review process and noted the school met all standards for accreditation.

**Vice Chair Susie Hedalen moved to approve the State Exit Report and Regular Accreditation Status of the Montana Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education at the University of Montana, as recommended by Superintendent Arntzen. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dr. McLean congratulated the University for their work.**

**Item 12**                                **ACTION ON THE STATE EXIT REPORT AND REGULAR ACCREDITATION STATUS OF THE MONTANA EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (EPP) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE, OCTOBER 3, 2022**

**Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Murgel explained the reason for the action request for the University of Providence to move from provisional accreditation to full accreditation. Dr. Murgel explained the final step for full accreditation is an on-site review which was completed in October 2022. Due to a change in the education program, the school obtained provisional accreditation and is now moving to full accreditation as recommended by Superintendent Arntzen. Dr. Leslie Lott, University of Providence, thanked Dr. Murgel and the Board for their work. Ms. Tammy Lacey noted she was on the University of Providence Board of Trustees when these programs were eliminated, so she is pleased to see the programs reinstated and accredited. Ms. Quinlan noted she was on the Board when the school was considering eliminating their education program, and that it is good to see the program back.

**Vice Chair Susie Hedalen moved to approve the State Exit Report and Regular Accreditation Status of the Montana Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) at the University of Providence as recommended by Superintendent Arntzen. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 13**                                **ACTION ON THE NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO THE AMENDMENT OF ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 58, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM STANDARDS**

**Susie Hedalen**

Chair Quinlan commented on the process for reviewing and revising Chapter 58 and thanked everyone who participated in the review process.

**Vice Chair Susie Hedalen moved to approve the Notice of Adoption pertaining to the Amendment of ARM Title 10, Chapter 58, Educator Preparation Program Standards, and authorize filing of the notice with the SOS for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Comments from Ms. Renee Rasmussen on minimum vs. maximum standards.**

**No further discussion. Motion passed with Board member Rasmussen dissenting.**

Chair Quinlan read the Statement of Executive Session and closed the meeting. The Board recessed for visitors to leave. The meeting was closed at 1:03 PM.

\*\*\*\*\*TIME CERTAIN AT 1:00 – CLOSED SESSION\*\*\*\*\*

**Item 14 HEARING OF APPEAL OF LICENSURE DENIAL, BPE CASE #2022-15, NO RUNNER  
Katherine Orr**

\*\*\*\*\*OPEN SESSION\*\*\*\*\*

The Board came back into Open Session at 3:10 PM.

**Vice Chair Susie Hedalen moved to not uphold the Superintendent's recommendation to deny and to issue a license in BPE case #2022-15. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 15-20)**

**Item 15 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PANEL  
Charles Fox**

Mr. Fox opened the panel for the Board and each student introduced themselves to the Board. Board members asked questions of the students on topics such as student mental health, proficiency-based learning, career and technical education, and the topics in education students think are important. Mr. Fox wrapped up the discussion by thanking the students for their input and their hard work.

**Item 20 ACTION ON CRITICAL QUALITY EDUCATOR SHORTAGE AREA REPORT  
Jay Phillips**

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Critical Quality Educator Shortage Area Report for the Board highlighting areas of the report which include: the criteria for a shortage area, methodology for determining a shortage area, using retired teachers to fill positions, emergency authorizations, and the number of districts experiencing shortages. Mr. Phillips answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Renee Rasmussen moved to accept the Critical Quality Educator Shortage Area Report and authorize publication by February 1. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Susie Hedalen.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 16 ACTION ON TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING GRANT ANNUAL REPORTS  
FY2023**

**Krystal Smith**

Ms. Smith presented the Transformational Learning Grant Annual Reports to the Board. Ms. Smith briefly discussed the grant program for the Board per statute and discussed how school districts are creating innovative programs in their districts. This spring Ms. Smith will be meeting with the district managers who oversee the grants to learn how to better utilize the funding. They'll look at the programs, compile the data, identify the districts using the program, and share the best practices with schools statewide, which would allow schools to work together to bring programs to new schools.

**Ms. Renee Rasmussen moved to approve the Transformational Learning Annual Reports for FY2023. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

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

**Item 17                    ACTION ON QUALIFICATION OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING GRANT APPLICATIONS FY2024  
Krystal Smith**

**Ms. Renee Rasmussen moved to approve qualification of newly applied districts for FY2024 and retain the waitlist for the Transformational Learning Grants. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

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

**Item 18                    ACTION ON ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY GRANT ANNUAL REPORTS  
FY2023  
Krystal Smith**

Ms. Smith reviewed the Advanced Opportunity Grant program for Board members. Ms. Smith discussed pending legislation that would increase the amount of funding for the program.

**Ms. Renee Rasmussen moved to approve the Montana Advanced Opportunity Grant Annual Reports for FY2023. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

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

**Item 19                    ACTION ON QUALIFICATION OF ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS FY2024  
Krystal Smith**

**Ms. Renee Rasmussen moved to approve the qualification of districts for FY2024. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

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

Ms. Smith thanked the Board for their time and their support of these programs.

The Board recessed for the day at 4:40 PM.

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**Friday, January 13, 2023**

**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Stockton took Roll Call and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests. The Chair asked guests to introduce themselves to the Board.

Board members present: Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Dr. Tim Tharp, Ms. Jane Hamman, Ms. Tammy Lacey, Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Anne Keith. Ex Officio members: Dr. Angela McLean, OCHE. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests: Dr. Rob Watson, SAM; Mr. Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA); Ms. Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana; Mr. Ron Slinger, Miles Community College; Ms. Jenny Murnane-Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE); Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Ms. Chris Noel, OPI.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 21-23)**

**Item 21 ACTION ON CONTENT STANDARDS REVISION TIMELINE  
Chris Noel**

Ms. Noel explained the reasons for the revisions to the Content Standards Timeline and answered Board member questions. Board members expressed concerns with the timeline and the content areas being proposed for revisions. Board members asked to receive more information at their next meeting, specifically regarding math and reading revisions.

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to approve the Proposed Content Standards Revision Timeline. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.**

***Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen regarding Professional Development opportunities that the OPI will be offering. Deputy Allen noted that she will provide the Board with the dates for the training.***

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

**Item 22 ACTION ON REVISED TIMELINE FOR REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10,  
CHAPTER 55, STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION  
Dr. Tim Tharp**

Dr. Tharp noted that the timeline for the revisions to Chapter 55 has been revised due to needing two meetings to review the public comments received.

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to approve the revised timeline for the revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 55, Standards of Accreditation. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

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

**Item 23 ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON  
REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, STANDARDS OF  
ACCREDITATION  
Dr. Tim Tharp**

Dr. Tharp noted that this is a continuation of the work the Board began in November and referred the Board to the document Executive Director Flynn distributed and the accompanying pages in the agenda packet.



## **10.55.602 DEFINITIONS**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to acknowledge Comments 17, 19, 31, 34, 35, 37 and remove any terms in 10.55.602 that do not exist throughout Chapter 55, and work with the Office of Public Instruction to provide clear guidance in their resources and materials to define commonly used terms when appropriate. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen thanked the Board for their work on the definitions. Deputy Allen noted that proficiency-based learning is an example of a new term that does not have a definition.**

**Question of clarification from Ms. Lacey as to which terms will not be defined.**

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

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved that the Board partially agree with Comment 27 and proposed the following definition: (38) "Minimum requirement" as used in 10.55.606(3) means "groups of 10 or more students for reporting valid and reliable results as it pertains to student performance". Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Procedural question from Ms. Lacey.**

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

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to recommend that the Board partially agree with Comment 30 and recommends the following language in 10.55.602: "(51) "Pupil instruction" as defined in 20-1-101, MCA". Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **10.55.605 CATEGORIES OF ACCREDITATION**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved that the Board agree with Comments 47, 48, and 50 and revert to current language in 10.55.605 and include the clean-up language from the Chapter 55 Notice of Public, and noted that based on this action, 10.55.606 will need to be revised to ensure consistent language and process. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Allen that the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee had unanimous agreement on the proposed revisions, and that a school has never lost accreditation and if a status isn't being used it may be time to remove it.**

**Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE, spoke about comment 50 and commended the Board for taking the time to investigate the proposed revisions more closely. Ms. Renee Rasmussen asked Deputy Allen to explain why no school has ever lost their accreditation. Deputy Allen responded that the way the process was set up was that a school would never actually lose their accreditation.**

**Chair Madalyn Quinlan made comments in reference to the above comment regarding a school in Livingston that was closed by the Fire Marshall for safety concerns, and that is the only time she believes that a school came before the Board for their accreditation status to be revoked.**

***Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, commented that the Board acted the previous day on the accreditation status of EPP's, and higher education accreditation has categories of distinction, but K-12 does not. K-12 accreditation has become about entering data, checking boxes, and ensuring compliance with the standards.***

***Ms. McCall Flynn noted that §20-9-311, MCA, discusses non-accreditation so that status needs to remain, per statute.***

***Ms. Tammy Lacey thanked Dr. Murgel for her comments, and that the revisions to 10.55.601 makes the accreditation process better than simply checking boxes on a report and will make the accreditation process at the local level more robust. Ms. Lacey noted that it should be a testament that no school has ever lost accreditation and that there is a process and incentive for schools to improve their status and not lose accreditation. Ms. Lacey noted there is room for improvement but that it should be reviewed in the future. She stated that these are the Board's rules, and the Board has final say on what the rules say, regardless of the recommendations from the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee.***

***Chair Madalyn Quinlan reiterated comments from the September meeting that the Standards of Accreditation are integral to the definition of quality public schools and are standards all schools must meet. Chair Quinlan noted that the data collection piece may not be ideal, but that work needs to be done to revise the process.***

***Dr. Tim Tharp agreed with Chair Quinlan's comments and would like to see the conversation continue to find a better process.***

***Vice Chair Susie Hedalen commented that she was looking for an example of what the process looks like, what are other states doing, where is the research, and if this isn't the way accreditation should be done, what does the new process look like?***

***Ms. Renee Rasmussen made comment regarding the statute and that until that is revised, the status needs to remain in rule. Ms. Rasmussen discussed her concerns with having a status of "Accreditation with Distinction", and that it does not have a place in the definition in the Constitution of "basic quality public education".***

***Vice Chair Susie Hedalen asked Dr. Murgel if the "Blue Ribbon School", which is a national federal recognition could be something the state considered. Dr. Murgel answered that it could be.***

***Ms. Jane Hamman asked clarifying questions of Dr. Murgel regarding the Blue Ribbon Status and asked what the timeline is for continuing to revise this section.***

***Ms. McCall Flynn answered that this current revision needs to be finalized by March but that this specific section could be pulled out and looked at more closely in the future.***

***No further discussion. Motion passed with Ms. Jane Hamman dissenting.***

***Without objection direct Board staff to respond to Comments 46 and 49 based on previous Board action.***

**10.55.702 LICENSURE AND DUTIES OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR – DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT**

*Without objection direct board staff to respond to Comment 57, as the duties currently listed in 10.55.702 are very similar to those stipulated in 20-4-402, MCA.*

**10.55.703 LICENSURE AND DUTIES OF SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

*Dr. Tim Tharp moved that the Board agree with Comment 58 and revert back to the original language in 10.55.703, while still including the internship changes in (1)(b), and the additional language in the last sentence, which would read, “(3) The principal shall carry out the district’s policies and procedures, provide instructional leadership and be responsible for the effective day-to-day operation of the school, including the management of finances, materials, and human resources to maximize student learning outcomes.” Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.*

*Dr. Rob Watson thanked the Board for taking the time to work on this section and aligning with national standards.*

*Ms. Tammy Lacey commented on the work the Accreditation Committee did on this section.*

*No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**10.55.712 CLASS SIZE: ELEMENTARY**

*Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 77 and respond accordingly to comments 75 and 76. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.*

*Public comment from Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE, thanked the Board for their work and urged the Board to not change this rule and to retain the ratio currently in rule.*

*Clarifying question on background check from Vice Chair Susie Hedalen.*

*No further discussion. Board members Keith, Quinlan, Hamman, Tharp voted yes. Board members Lacey, Hedalen, Rasmussen voted no.*

*Motion passes.*

**10.55.714 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 78 to include “and staff”. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Susie Hedalen.*

*Point of clarification from Ms. Tammy Lacey that this section pertains to professional development for staff.*

*Point of clarification from Chair Madalyn Quinlan that the language aligns with the “district graduate profile” language.*

*Comments from Ms. Tammy Lacey and Vice Chair Susie Hedalen that providing professional development to staff is important.*

*Dr. Tim Tharp discussed the training regarding mental health and encourages schools to add this for their staff.*

*No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 79 accordingly.*

#### **10.55.715 INSTRUCTIONAL PARAPROFESSIONALS: QUALIFICATIONS AND SUPERVISION**

*Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 80. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.*

*Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Allen.*

*Ms. Renee Rasmussen noted this would affect Emergency Authorizations which uses non licensed teachers.*

*Dr. Tim Tharp amended his motion to disagree with comment 80. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Susie Hedalen.*

*Ms. Tammy Lacey asked for clarification from the Education Associations.*

*Comments from Ms. Anne Keith regarding the intent of the proposals.*

*Dr. Rob Watson noted that the proposal is simply to clarify the resource.*

*Ms. Tammy Lacey noted that sideboards might be important.*

*No further discussion. Motion passed with Board members Keith and Lacey dissenting.*

*Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 81 accordingly.*

#### **10.55.716 SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

*Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 82 accordingly.*

#### **10.55.717 ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONS PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO BRAILLE STUDENTS**

*Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 83 accordingly.*

#### **10.55.718 ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONS PROVIDING SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

*Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 84 accordingly.*

#### **10.55.721 HAZARD AND EMERGENCY PLANS**

*Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 85. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 86 accordingly.*

#### **10.55.801 SCHOOL CLIMATE**

*Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 87 accordingly.*

#### **10.55.802 OPPORTUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**

***Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 88. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

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

#### **10.55.803 LEARNER ACCESS**

***Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 89. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

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

#### **10.55.804 GIFTED AND TALENTED**

***Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 90 accordingly.***

#### **10.55.901 BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM: ELEMENTARY**

***Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 91 accordingly.***

#### **10.55.902 BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM: MIDDLE GRADES**

Dr. Tharp called for Board discussion prior to making a motion. Ms. Anne Keith noted her objection to the proposed rule. Vice Chair Susie Hedalen noted that during the student panel the previous day the students noted that CTE courses are important to students and their mental health. Ms. Renee Rasmussen noted that rural schools struggle to find qualified teachers for elective courses especially in the middle grades. Dr. Tharp concurred with the comments that elective courses are important to students.

***Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 92 to not make the proposed changes and revert back to the original elective offerings. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

***Public comment from Ms. Moffie Funk, former middle school teacher, expressed her gratitude to the Board at not accepting the proposed revisions.***

***Public comment from Dr. Murgel, OPI, noted that this was a major component for the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee who also received a lot of public comment, but decided to create flexibility for schools to align courses with the interest of students.***

***Mr. Michael Ruybalid, spoke in opposition to the proposed revisions, and thanked the Board for agreeing with all the commenters who opposed the proposal.***

***Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen spoke in support of the proposed revisions.***

***Ms. Anne Keith asked how the language saying “minimum of 3 electives” is not a reduction from the previous language that stated 5 electives must be offered. Deputy Allen spoke to that question stating that choice was built in, nothing was eliminated.***

***Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE, noted that she has spoken with rural teachers who feel strongly that the current language in rule be retained.***

***Ms. Renee Rasmussen noted that the current rule says to “maintain 5 programs”, not 5 electives. The new language requires that three classes be offered, but not maintain 5 programs. Ms. Rasmussen noted that the proposed revisions do offer schools flexibility and that she will vote in favor of the proposed language.***

***Ms. Tammy Lacey read through the proposed language and expressed her concerns.***

***Ms. Jane Hamman noted that this section is written poorly and would like to rewrite it so that everyone agrees.***

***Chair Madalyn Quinlan noted that she is a strong supporter of electives and will support a motion to not accept the changes.***

***No further discussion. Motion passes with members Hedalen, Hamman, Rasmussen dissenting.***

***Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 93. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.***

***Chair Madalyn Quinlan noted this is also important for school funding.***

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

***Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 94 and stated that schools can and already do offer native languages as part of their elective offerings. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

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

***Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 95 based on previous Board action.***

#### **10.55.904 BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS: HIGH SCHOOL**

Dr. Tharp offered the opportunity for Dr. McLean to speak on the requested revisions from the Montana University System. Dr. McLean highlighted the requested revisions from the Montana University System, specifically the recommendation to add FAFSA completion as a course requirement.

***Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 96. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.***

***Ms. Renee Rasmussen noted that while she agrees this is important, she will vote against the motion because it requires schools to create new programs.***

***Discussion ensued on where this is best assigned, whether in the Content Standards or in another section of Chapter 55.***

***Chair Madalyn Quinlan noted that she will not support the motion.***

***No further discussion. Motion failed with Board member Tharp voting in favor.***

#### **10.55.905 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comments 97 and 99 and direct Board staff to respond to comment 98 accordingly. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey. Public comment from Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE, thanking the Board for working on this.**

**Vice Chair Hedalen asked Dr. Murgel if there was any work done in researching offering ½ unit of financial literacy. Dr. Murgel answered there was.**

**Dr. McLean noted that other states have moved in the direction of requiring FAFSA completion for a graduation requirement, and that MUS purposefully did not go that far, but offered that if this does not pass today, she would offer creating a task force or work group to further discuss this issue and provide clear direction. Chair Madalyn Quinlan specified this motion is regarding ½ unit of financial literacy.**

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

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 100. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 101 and 102 based on previous Board action.**

#### **10.55.906 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 103. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey expressed her appreciation of the revisions.**

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

#### **10.55.907 DISTANCE, ONLINE, AND TECHNOLOGY-DELIVERED LEARNING**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to partially agree with Comment 104 to retain the current language in (3), change “accredited” to “approved”, and update the ARM reference to 10.57.102. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Public comment from Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, clarifying this would be in alignment with the Chapter 58 revisions.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved agree with comments 105 and 106. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **10.55.908 SCHOOL FACILITIES**

**Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 107 accordingly.**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 108. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Susie Hedalen.**

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

#### **10.55.1001 PROGRAM STANDARDS**

***Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 109 accordingly.***

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 110. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.**

***Public comment from Ms. Jenny Murnane-Butcher, MOFE, encouraging the Board to be aware that this is a problem and should be addressed in the future.***

***Vice Chair Susie Hedalen noted this is a difficult issue and recruiting Special Education teachers is difficult and teachers do have high caseloads.***

***Dr. Tim Tharp stated that he agrees with the spirit of the comment but not all Special Education students' needs are the same. Some students require full time care, and some only need a few hours per week.***

***Ms. Tammy Lacey agrees with the comments, supports Special Education teachers, and tried to see if there was a way to create flexibility but could not come up with anything. She will vote for the motion and encourages all school districts to meet the standards.***

***Ms. Renee Rasmussen noted the difficulty with this issue but will vote for the motion because more flexibility is needed for teachers to become Special Education teachers.***

***Vice Chair Susie Hedalen noted that other states separate out Special Education pay metrics.***

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

**Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 111. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

***Ms. Tammy Lacey noted the reasons the Accreditation Committee agreed with the comments.***

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

***Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 112 and 113 accordingly.***

#### **RECONSIDERATION**

The Board reviewed language in New Rule II and discussed the possibility of adding "FAFSA completion" in (vii).



**Dr. Tim Tharp moved amend New Rule II to add language regarding FAFSA completion and apprenticeship opportunities. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Susie Hedalen.**

**Deputy Superintendent Allen asked for clarification of the language.**

**Dr. McLean expressed to the Board her appreciation for the revisions.**

**Dr. Ron Slinger noted that FAFSA completion should not be a graduation requirement because there are families who refuse to share their financial information.**

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

Ms. Keith asked for clarification of the motion and vote for comment 77 in 10.55.712.

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to reconsider action related to comments 75, 76, and 77. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Discussion ensued on the reconsideration and potential revised language. Chair Madalyn Quinlan noted that the Board will again review the proposed revisions from the Superintendent.**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to agree with comment 75 and disagree with comments 76 and 77. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Susie Hedalen.**

**Ms. Renee Rasmussen noted that she likes the language in 77 but voted no because she didn't like the removal of the hours.**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey amended her motion to partially agree with comment 75 which removes the 1 ½ hours per day per student overload, agree with comment 77, and disagree with comment 76 to read: "(5) The school district must assign qualified human resources that comply with all fingerprint and background check requirements when exceeding maximum class sizes at a rate of 1 ½ hours per day, per student overload". Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.**

**Public comment from Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE, opposing the motion eliminating instructional aides.**

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

**Ms. Amanda Curtis requested a correction of the public record related to public comment from MFPE in 10.55.709.**

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Item 24)**

**Item 24**

**RECOGNITION OF EXITING BOARD MEMBER  
Madalyn Quinlan**

Chair Quinlan expressed her appreciation for Ms. Tammy Lacey and her service on the Board and to public education in Montana. Other Board members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Lacey, for her thoroughness, and as a role model for others.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – March 9-10, 2023**

*Assessment Update*

*Federal Update*

*Accreditation Report*

*Annual School Food Services Report*

*MACIE Update*

*Approval of MSDB School Calendar*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment from Ms. Jenny Murnane-Butcher, MOFE, spoke regarding the bill draft eliminating CSPAC and encourage the Board to be aware of this bill.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

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