

# BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

January 23-24, 2025  
Montana School Boards Association  
863 Great Northern Blvd  
Helena, MT

**Thursday, January 23, 2025**  
**8:30 AM**

## **CALL TO ORDER -00:00:15**

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

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Julia Maxwell; Mr. Gavin Mow, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Dr. Angela McLean, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE); State Superintendent Susie Hedalen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office. Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician; Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, Program Officer. Guests: Superintendent Paul Furthmyre, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Ms. Marie Judisch, OPI; Ms. Carrie Kouba, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Aislinn Brown, Board Legal Counsel; Mr. Brenton Craggs, Attorney, OPI; Ms. Trish Schreiber, Chair, Community Choice Schools Commission; Ms. Tyler Capece, OPI; Ms. Donell Rosenthal, OPI; Superintendent Chad Johnson, Livingston Public Schools (LPS); Superintendent Dan McGee, Liberty Elementary School District (LESD); Mr. David Hofer, Chair, Liberty Elementary School Board; Mr. Paul Wipf, Spokesperson, Liberty Elementary Public Charter School; Mr. Todd Hanson, 4 Poles Consulting; Ms. Emily Post, Livingston; Mr. Todd Wester, Curriculum Director, LPS; Ms. Ann Penn Cox, Director of Literacy Programs, LPS; Ms. Melissa Byington, Laurel Public Schools (Laurel PS); Mr. Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Ms. Charla Wetsch, Curriculum Director, Laurel PS; Superintendent Matt Torix, Laurel PS; Dr. Lauren Davis, Montana State University (MSU); Dr. Leslie Rogers, MSU; Mr. Brad Moore, Lewistown Public Schools; Mr. Jason Sargent; Ms. Sandra Beal.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – 00:02:26**

No public comment.

## **CONSENT AGENDA – 00:02:39**

**Board member Hamman moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.**

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

## **ADOPT AGENDA – 00:03:00**

**Board member Quinlan moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.**

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

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

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

**Item 1**                            **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR – 00:03:17**  
**McCall Flynn**

Ms. McCall Flynn noted the open position of Vice Chair and called for nominations.

**Board member Rasmussen nominated Dr. Ron Slinger. No other nominations were made.**

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

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 2-6)**

**Item 2**                            **CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 00:04:21**  
**Dr. Tim Tharp**

Chair Tharp reviewed meetings he has attended on behalf of the Board since the November meeting which include the Board’s Special Meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, and the MSDB Christmas program. Chair Tharp announced his appointments to national committees, trainings he has given and that are upcoming for Mental Health training and welcomed Ms. Julia Maxwell to the Board.

**Item 3**                            **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 00:08:16**  
**McCall Flynn**

Ms. McCall Flynn thanked MTSBA staff for allowing the Board to use their facilities for the meeting. Ms. Flynn gave an update on Legislative bills pertaining to the Board and detailed activities she has participated in related to the 2025 Legislative Session, and reviewed the agency bill Representative Bedey is carrying on behalf of the Board. Ms. Flynn updated the Board on work staff has completed since the November meeting and noted two reports that are scheduled to be presented annually at the January meeting, but no data is yet available to report. Those reports include the Community Choice Schools Annual Report and the Early Literacy Screening Tools Report. Ms. Flynn discussed work the Board and OPI have been engaged in related to the Fall Data report for the Public Charter Schools.

**Item 4**                            **STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – 00:17:42**  
**State Superintendent Susie Hedalen**

Superintendent Hedalen introduced members of her Executive Team and gave an overview of funding requests the OPI has presented to the Legislature which include funding for a third year of math, additional FTE for improved customer service, and funding for the ACT as the high school assessment tool. OPI staff members presented the following reports:

Transportation Report: Ms. Donell Rosenthal updated the Board with Fiscal Year 2024 data related to Pupil Transportation in Montana and discussed details from the report which included the number of certified bus drivers, routes, riders, and miles transported. Also reviewed were the number of contracts to both and parents. Ms. Rosenthal and Superintendent Hedalen answered Board members’ questions regarding bus driver shortages.

Assessment Report: Ms. Cedar Rose provided an update on the results of the first MAST testing window and the status of the second MAST testing window currently in progress, challenges and successes schools have reported, and percentages of tests administered. Ms. Rose answered Board members’ questions.

Federal Report: Ms. Carrie Kouba updated the Board on the High Risk Designation Timeline and the status of schools that receive Title 1 Part A, Part C, Part D, Part 3, Part 4, and Part 9 funds, the purpose of the funds, and how the distribution of funds are monitored by the OPI. Ms. Kouba and Superintendent Hedalen answered Board members’ questions.

Accreditation Report: Ms. Crystal Andrews presented an update of the Accreditation Platform that opened December 2, 2024, and reported that 100% of schools have been contacted to ensure that all districts were able to successfully access the system. The next platform for Infinite Campus opens on February 3, 2025 for schools to add additional information or make corrections. Five schools have completed all aspects and the OPI has received positive feedback about the Accreditation Data Collection process for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Andrews reviewed training sessions the OPI has offered to districts related to the new Accreditation reporting process and answered Board members’ questions. Vice Chair Slinger complimented Ms. Andrews and the OPI on their work with the new system and for their response to suggestions from the field.

Content Standards Revision Update: Ms. Marie Judisch discussed the status of the Content Standards Revisions underway and work both the Task Force and Negotiated Rulemaking Committee have completed as the revisions move through the process.

Superintendent Hedalen congratulated Board member Slinger on his nomination as Vice Chair and noted the OPI will look into questions Board members have and bring information back at a future meeting.

**Item 5** **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT – 01:39:48**  
**Dylan Klapmeier**

Mr. Dylan Klapmeier welcomed Board member Maxwell to her first Board meeting and to Ms. Hannah Nieskens who will be at the March meeting. Mr. Klapmeier gave an overview of each of their backgrounds and announced the Governor's appointment of Superintendent Heather Hoyer from Great Falls Public Schools to the Board of Regents. Mr. Klapmeier highlighted education bills the Governor's Office is tracking in the Legislature, the Governor's Office support of Board member appointments that will be before the Senate for approval, and reviewed a letter from the Governor to the Board related to Public Charter Schools.

**Item 6** **COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 01:56:44**  
**Dr. Angela McLean**

Dr. McLean welcomed Board member Maxwell to the Board, congratulated newly appointed Vice Chair Slinger, and thanked Board member Hamman for her contributions to the Board during her tenure. Dr. McLean noted the request from the Superintendent for additional funding to support a third year of math, reviewed the upcoming Section E hearings related to OCHE and the Montana University System, thanked all the Educator Preparation Programs across the state for their innovative work, and for the work of mental health programs on campuses. Dr. McLean encouraged all educators and parents to remind families of high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

❖ **CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Items 7-8)**

**Item 7** **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOL COMMISSION – 02:02:01**  
**Trish Schreiber**

Ms. Trish Schreiber reviewed the December Commission meeting and announced that the Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Executive Committee will remain the same. Chair Schreiber noted the Commission held a Special meeting and approved a new position for a Director of Planning for the Commission and that the hiring process is currently underway. The Chair noted that oral arguments in the litigation has been delayed until February 28, 2025.

**Item 8** **WORK SESSION ON THE APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS – 02:06:13**  
**Jane Hamman**

Chair Tharp reviewed the process for the work session and noted that he will allow for public comment before the work session begins.

Superintendent Dan McGee provided public comment on the application from Liberty Elementary for a Public Charter School.

Mr. David Hofer provided public comment on the application from Liberty Elementary for a Public Charter School.

Mr. Paul Wipf provided public comment on the application from Liberty Elementary for a Public Charter School. Mr. Todd Hanson provided public comment on the application from Liberty Elementary for a Public Charter School.

Ms. Emily Post provided public comment on the application from Yellowstone Experience School (YES) for a Public Charter School.

Superintendent Johnson provided public comment on the application from YES for a Public Charter School.

Mr. Todd Wester provided public comment on the application from YES for a Public Charter School.

Ms. Ann Penn Cox provided public comment on the application from YES for a Public Charter School.

Ms. Melissa Byington provided public comment on the application from Laurel Virtual Academy for a Public Charter School.

Mr. Lance Melton gave public comment regarding HB 549(2023) and aspects of the law pertaining to the Public Charter School Act and reviewed the requirements in the law stating schools must comply with Title 20.

Ms. Charla Wetsch provided public comment on the application from Laurel Virtual Academy for a Public Charter School.

Superintendent Torix provided public comment on the application from Laurel Virtual Academy for a Public Charter School.

Board Charter School Committee Chair Hamman stated the Board's appreciation of the written public comment received over the past weeks and for those giving comment in person at the meeting. Board Charter Committee Chair Hamman noted that Board members have reviewed and scored each application according to the rubric, and Ms. Flynn reviewed the process for the work session and what the Board will act on the following day. Members discussed the applications, where they score on the rubric, and if the applications have met the letter of the law and the intent of the Public Charter School Act.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Items 9-13)**

**Item 9 INFORMATION ON PRAXIS REGENERATED TEST REVIEW AND QUALIFYING SCORES FOR SOCIAL STUDIES, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, AND FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE – 04:39:28**  
**Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the Praxis tests for Social Studies, Industrial Technology, and Family and Consumer Science, which are set to expire, and reviewed the new tests that will replace them. Ms. Andrews highlighted what changed in the test, the review conducted by Educational Testing Services (ETS), and each test's recommended qualifying score. Ms. Andrews noted that the Praxis Review Panel agreed with the scores recommended by ETS with the exception of the score for Industrial Technology, and the panel has selected a different score for Industrial Technology. Ms. Andrews noted that each recommendation has been sent to the Montana Council of Deans of Education for review and those recommendations will be brought to the Board at the March 2025 meeting. Ms. Andrews answered Board members' questions.

**Item 10 INFORMATION ON ANNUAL EDUCATOR LICENSURE REPORT – 04:49:50**  
**Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Andrews reviewed the Annual Educator Licensure Report for the Board, reviewed changes in the report from last year, and answered Board members' questions.

**Item 11 INFORMATION ON MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM – 05:03:16**  
**Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Crystal Andrews presented a request from MSU for the addition of a Special Education Certification Program in their Educator Preparation Program. Dr. Lauren Davis and Dr. Leslie Rogers presented the details of the new certificate program and answered Board members' questions.

**Item 12 PRESENTATION ON ABCTE INTERIM REPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALING – 05:13:22**  
**Isabell Welch, ABCTE and Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Isabell Welch presented a report to the Board which reviewed enrollment in the Montana ABCTe Teacher Education program. The report highlighted the endorsement areas where individuals have obtained certification, districts where teachers are employed, the results of a satisfaction survey completed by students and employers, and areas ABCTe has slated for improvement. Ms. Welch answered Board members' questions.

**Item 13 INFORMATION ON THE QUALITY EDUCATOR LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – 05:34:43**  
**Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Julie Murgel reviewed the statute for the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program and discussed the qualifications educators must meet to qualify for the payment and the amount educators may receive. Dr. Murgel

noted the next application cycle will open February 5, 2025, and continue through April 15, 2025, reviewed the number of payments sent out in previous years, and noted that OPI hopes to improve communication to educators and districts in an effort to increase the number of payments. Dr. Murgel answered Board members' questions.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 14-15)**

**Item 14**                    **ACTION ON THE NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, AND REPEAL OF ARM, TITLE 10, CHAPTER 53, MATHEMATICS CONTENT STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 05:43:28**  
**Madalyn Quinlan**

Ms. Flynn reviewed the new Administrative Rules format due to the conversion to a new system at the Secretary of State's Office. The new format pertains to Items 14 and 15.

Board member Quinlan noted that no comments were received during the public comment period.

**Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Notice of Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal of ARM Title 10, Chapter 53, Mathematics Content Standards, and authorize filing of the notice with the Secretary of State's Office for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.**

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

**Item 15**                    **ACTION ON THE NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTION AND REPEAL OF ARM, TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 05:49:29**  
**Madalyn Quinlan**

Board member Quinlan noted that no comments were received during the public comment period.

**Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Notice of Adoption and Repeal of ARM Title 10, Chapter 54, World Language Content Standards, and authorize filing of the notice with the Secretary of State's Office for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.**

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

Ms. Flynn noted that the World Language Content Standards have been moved from Chapter 54 to Chapter 53.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Item 16)**

**Item 16**                    **ACTION ON CONTESTED CASE HEARING BPE CASE #2024-10, MAHERAS – 06:14:39**  
**Aislinn Brown**

Ms. Aislinn Brown opened the item and turned it over to Mr. Brenton Craggs. Mr. Craggs announced that a stipulated agreement has been reached between the parties. Ms. Bea Kaleva, Attorney for Mr. Maheras, noted that Mr. Maheras has completed the requirements of his sentence, the charges have been dropped from his record, and he will accept the letter of reprimand agreed to in the stipulated agreement. Board members asked questions of Ms. Kaleva.

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to approve the stipulated agreement between the parties in BPE Case #2024-10, Maheras. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.**

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

❖ **MSDB LIAISON – Lisa Schmidt (Item 18)**

**Item 18**                      **MSDB REPORT – 06:22:52**  
**Paul Furthmyre**

Superintendent Furthmyre reviewed the action items on the agenda, updated the Board on the status of MSDB Legislative requests, and answered Board members' questions.

**Board member Schmidt moved to approve the MSDB Personnel Action Items as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Board member Schmidt moved to approve the MSDB Out of State Travel Requests as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Board member Schmidt moved to approve the Second Reading of MSDB Policies as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.**

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

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 17)**

**Item 17**                      **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 06:46:49**  
**Gavin Mow**

Mr. Gavin Mow updated the Board on his participation in the National Association of State Boards of Education Student Council and noted that the results of the Student Survey Report are not available yet due to the high number of responses received, but he will provide results at the March meeting. Mr. Mow discussed the process for the selection of the next Student Representative to the Board and answered Board members' questions.

The Chair called for Executive Session and the Board entered Closed Session at 3:20 PM for the MSDB Superintendent Evaluation.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 19)**

**Item 19**                      **MSDB SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – 06:51:02**  
**Dr. Tim Tharp**

The Board came back to Open Session at 3:43 PM.

**RECESS**

The Board recessed for the day at 3:44 PM.

**Friday, January 24, 2025**

**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER – 00:00:12**

Chair Tharp called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call. The Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests. Deputy Superintendent Ron Whitmoyer, OPI, introduced himself to the Board.

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Julia Maxwell. Ex Officio members: Dr. Angela McLean, OCHE; Deputy State Superintendent Ron Whitmoyer, OPI; Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office. Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician; Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, Program Officer. Guests: Superintendent Paul Furthmyre, MSDB; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Krystal Smith, OPI; Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster, Chair, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE); Ms. April Grady, OPI; Mr. Todd Hanson, 4 Poles Consulting; Superintendent McGee,

LESD; Superintendent Johnson, LPS; Mr. Jason Sargent; Layer Barn; Mr. Frank Jobe; Ms. Sandra Beal; Ms. Aislinn Brown, Board Legal Counsel.

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

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

Item 20 ACTION ON MSDB SUPERINTENDENT 2024-2025 – 00:03:49  
Dr. Tim Tharp

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to approve the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind Superintendent Contract. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.**

***Superintendent Furthmyre thanked the Board for their support and stated he looks forward to continuing in his role at the MSDB.***

***Chair Tharp noted that an evaluation was held the previous day and that pending legislation, an amendment to the contract for the salary may need to be made in the future.***

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

Item 21 ACTION ON TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING GRANTS – 00:06:37  
Krystal Smith

Ms. Krystal Smith presented the Transformational Learning Grant applications and shared that the most recent application window closed January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Ms. Smith reviewed the qualifications for the grant and the applications received before answering Board members' questions.

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to qualify the Transformational Learning Grant Applications as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.**

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

Ms. Smith presented the Annual Reports for the Transformational Learning Grant program and answered Board members' questions.

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to approve the Transformational Learning Grant Annual Reports as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.**

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

Item 22 ACTION ON ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY GRANTS - 00:17:42  
Krystal Smith

Ms. Krystal Smith reviewed the purpose of and qualifications for the Advanced Opportunity Grant program before reviewing the applications received.

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to qualify the Advanced Opportunity Grant applications as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.**

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

Ms. Smith presented the Annual Reports for the Advanced Opportunity Grant program.

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to approve the Advanced Opportunity Grant Annual Reports as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.**

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

❖ MACIE LIAISON – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 23-24)

**Item 24 INFORMATION ON GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REQUEST – 00:39:58**

**April Grady**

Ms. April Grady reviewed the Present Law Adjustment package requested by OPI for operations related to MACIE and noted the request has been increased from the original proposal in the Governor's budget. Mr. Klapmeier noted the request is supported by the Governor's Office, and Ms. McCall Flynn noted that the funding will exist within the OPI budget if approved. Vice Chair Slinger stated his support of this request. Ms. Grady stated that OPI has presented the request to the Section E Committee, but the Committee has not acted.

**Item 23 MACIE REPORT – 00:43:21**

**Jordann Lankford Forster**

Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster reviewed recent activities and meetings that MACIE has taken part in which included a meeting she attended with the ACLU regarding the Yellow Kidney lawsuit where the role of MACIE in Indian Education for All was explained. Ms. Forster noted she has submitted the most recent version of the MACIE Goals, which has been updated on the Board website, and stated she hopes to continue the conversation with the Superintendent with regards to the MACIE funding structure. Ms. Forster answered Board members' questions.

❖ **CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Item 25)**

**Item 25 ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS TO APPROVE AND DENY PUBLIC CHARTER**

**SCHOOLS – 01:03:47**

**Jane Hamman**

Chair Tharp noted that an hour has been designated for this item and that he will continue the discussion from the previous day regarding the application for the Liberty Charter School.

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to deny the Liberty Charter Application.**

**Board member Hamman made a substitute motion to support the Liberty Charter Application and hold a Special Meeting to discuss requesting an Attorney General Opinion. Vice Chair Slinger did not accept the substitute motion.**

**Board member Rasmussen made a substitute motion to accept the chart as presented with the blue to approve and the remainder to disapprove. Substitute motion accepted by Vice Chair Slinger. Motion seconded by Board member Maxwell.**

***Ms. Flynn noted that the resolutions are written and must be approved in an open meeting.***

***Board member Rasmussen withdrew her substitute motion.***

Ms. Flynn displayed the Resolution to Approve for the Board and read the Resolution for the record.

**Vice Chair Slinger moved to approve the Resolution to Approve the five Public Charter School Applications. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.**

***Public comment from Mr. Todd Hanson regarding the Board's statutory responsibilities in the Public Charter School Act and clarified components of the Liberty Charter School Application.***

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

Ms. Flynn displayed the Resolution to Deny for the Board and read the Resolution for the record.

**Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Resolution to Deny. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Slinger.**

***Board member Maxwell stated her reasons for voting to approve the Resolution to Deny.***

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



Chair Tharp noted that a Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, and asked for Board member availability.

After a review of Board member availability, the Chair stated that the Special Meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Members discussed possible changes to the Public Charter School Act and the role of the Board.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 26)**

**Item 26 RECOGNITION OF EXITING BOARD MEMBER – 01:45:38  
Dr. Tim Tharp**

Chair Tharp recognized outgoing Board member Jane Hamman, whose term will end January 31, 2025. The Chair complimented Board member Hamman on her tireless dedication and passion for her work in public education. Board member Hamman expressed her gratitude and appreciation for serving on the Board and thanked the Board members for their service. Board member Hamman reviewed the work of the 250<sup>th</sup> Commission of which she is a member. Board members expressed their appreciation to Board member Hamman for her work.

Ms. Flynn reviewed the March meeting which will be held on Tuesday March 11 and Wednesday March 12, 2025, in East Helena.

Ms. Flynn reviewed the tours scheduled for the Helena Public Charter Schools.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – March 11-12, 2025 – East Helena, 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*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

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*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.*

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