

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

November 19-20, 2025

Missoula County Public Schools, Administration Building, Board Room
909 South Ave. West, Missoula, MT

Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Missoula County Public Schools
10:30 AM

❖ PERKINS COMMITTEE MEETING

10:30 AM Missoula County Public Schools, Administration Building, Board Room
909 South Ave. West, Missoula, MT

CALL TO ORDER – 00:00:00

Chair Tim Tharp called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call, and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Dr. Hannah Nieskens; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Julia Maxwell; Ms. Renee Rasmussen, Ms. Lydia Comstock, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Dr. Angela McLean, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Administrative Assistant;. Guests: Superintendent Paul Furthmyre, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Ms. Tyler Capece, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Ellery Bresler, OPI; Superintendent Victoria Falls Down, Lame Deer Public Schools; Superintendent Wes Young, Lustre Christian High School; Board Chair Justyn Klatt, Lustre Christian High School; Mr. Peter Donovan; Mr. Rich Batterman, Board Legal Counsel; Dr. Tricia Siefert, Montana State University (MSU); Ms. Kim Popham; Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE); Ms. Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana (UM); Ms. Jeannie Origbo, OCHE; Dr. Beth Durodoye, Montana State University Northern (MSUN); Dr. Dan Lee, UM; Ms. Melissa Fisher; Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, OPI; Mr. Gordon Klasna, Billings Public Schools; Dr. Jeril Hehn, Billings Public Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 00:04:25

No public comment was made.

CONSENT AGENDA – 00:04:46

Board member Schmidt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA – 00:05:18

Board member Quinlan moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Maxwell.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1- 4)

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT -00:05:47
Dr. Tim Tharp

Chair Tim Tharp reviewed meetings and conferences he attended since the September Board meeting which included the School Funding Interim Commission Meetings, Board Executive Committee Meetings, National

Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Conference, and other local and state meetings related to Mental Health Awareness.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 00:09:19
McCall Flynn**

Ms. McCall Flynn thanked Superintendent Micah Hill and the Missoula County Public Schools staff for their hospitality. Ms. Flynn reviewed the Board's budget presented at the Education Interim Budget Committee Meeting in September, discussed her attendance at the Montana Conference of Education Leadership and NASBE Conferences in October, her participation in the Rigorous Action Task Force, and reviewed work completed for the Public Charter School Program.

Item 3 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 00:19:06
Dr. Angela McLean

Dr. Angela McLean presented projects at OCHE that included the College Access Arc of Events and ACT Connections for 2025-2026, Future Ready Efforts, MUS Workforce Training, and the Montana State University Northern Traffic Education Program. Ms. Jeannie Origbo concluded the report with an update on the GEAR Up Grant and Dr. McLean answered Board members' questions.

Item 4 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT -00:38:10
Lydia Comstock

Ms. Lydia Comstock updated the Board on the Montana Association of Student Council's State Conference held in October, discussed topics that were presented, and reviewed resolutions passed at the conference. Ms. Comstock answered Board members' questions.

❖ MSDB COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Item 5)

Item 5 MSDB REPORT -00:52:44
Superintendent Paul Furthmyre

Superintendent Paul Furthmyre presented the MSDB Report and highlighted the recent Cognia Accreditation review on site at the MSDB, reviewed the First Reading of Policy 8210, discussed a review of salaries for the Educational Staff, a recent audit of the MSDB Foundation financials, and the Student Newsletter.

Board member Schmidt moved to approve the MSDB Personnel Items as listed in the Agenda Packet. Motion seconded by Board member Maxwell.

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 Vice Chair Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Schmidt moved to approve the OPI Special Education Discretionary Grant with updated dates. Motion seconded by Board member Nieskens.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Slinger commended Superintendent Furthmyre for the exceptional review from Cognia.

Chair Tharp noted the exemplary rating reviews for MSDB on the Cognia review.

Board member Maxwell called for congratulations and recognition of Mr. Jim Kelly who will retire from the MSDB at the end of the school year.

❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Item 6)

Item 6 INITIAL REVIEW AND WORK SESSION OF EARLY LITERACY AND NUMERACY ADVISORY COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STANDARDS – 01:19:35
McCall Flynn

Ms. McCall Flynn led the Board in a work session to review the proposed revisions to the Early Childhood Education Standards as recommended by the Early Literacy and Numeracy Advisory Council. Ms. Flynn answered Board members' questions and discussed next steps in the revision process.

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 7-11)

Item 7 ACTION AND INFORMATION ON RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE FAFSA COMPLETION PRIOR TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – 01:30:10
Dr. Angela McLean

Dr. Angela McLean presented a proposal from OCHE that would encourage students to complete the FAFSA prior to High School graduation. Dr. McLean discussed specifics of the resolution, answered Board members' questions regarding data sharing protocols and access to student data, then requested the Board's support of the resolution.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Direct Admissions and FAFSA Completion Resolution. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.

Board member Schmidt noted that families can opt out if they choose.

Board member Nieskens noted the language states OCHE and OPI will assist districts with data sharing protocols and with outreach to students and families and because of that she will support the motion.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 8 ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 53, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY CONTENT STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 02:15:09
Madalyn Quinlan

Ms. McCall Flynn reviewed the timeline for revisions and noted the effective date is July 1, 2027. Ms. Flynn added that the Economic Impact Statement has been presented to the Education Interim Budget Committee.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the proposed Notice of Adoption pertaining to rulemaking in ARM Title 10, Chapter 53, English Language Arts and Literacy Content Standards, and authorize filing of the Notice with the Secretary of State for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 9 ACTION ON VARIANCE TO STANDARDS REQUESTS AND RENEWALS -02:29:53
Ellery Hill and Crystal Andrews

Ms. Ellery Hill and Ms. Crystal Andrews presented the Variance to Standards Initial Applications and answered Board members' questions.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Initial Applications for a Variance to Standards Request as listed in the Agenda Packet. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

Board member Maxwell recused herself due to the application from Marion Public Schools for a Variance to Standards.

Board member Schmidt voiced concerns with the application from Billings Public Schools for Financial Literacy courses and stated she will not support the motion.

Vice Chair Slinger concurred with Board member Schmidt and stated he will support the motion but encouraged Billings Public Schools to find a way to correct the problem.

Board member Rasmussen stated that Billings Public Schools has not explored opportunities to partner with other entities that offer Financial Literacy coursework.

Chair Tharp reviewed the statute that requires Financial Literacy coursework.

Board member Nieskens echoed the previous comments from Board members that concerned the application from Billings Public Schools.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Board member Schmidt dissenting and Board member Maxwell abstaining.

Ms. Ellery Hill and Ms. Crystal Andrews presented the Variance to Standards Renewal Applications and answered Board members' questions.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Renewal Applications for a Variance to Standards Request as listed in the Agenda Packet with the exception of Independent Elementary whose request would be approved for one year. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

Board member Schmidt stated her concern over variance requests for Library Media and School Counseling but supports the one-year approval for Independent Elementary.

Superintendent Hedalen stated her support of the change for Independent Elementary.

Chair Tharp noted that schools can discontinue their variance at any time.

Board member Nieskens requested that future recommendations specify if the variance is for one, two, or three years.

Dr. Tricia Siefert stated that MSU has an online Library Media Services program for educators to obtain certification.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 10 ACTION AND PRESENTATION ON THE CORRECTIVE PLANS FOR SCHOOLS IN DEFICIENT STATUS FOR ACCREDITATION – 03:22:23
Crystal Andrews and Ellery Bresler

Superintendent Victoria Falls Down presented the Corrective Action Plan for Lame Deer Public Schools and answered Board members' questions.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Corrective Plan for Lame Deer Public Schools. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Slinger.

Public comment from Ms. Melissa Fisher who thanked Superintendent Falls Down for her work.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Wes Young and Board Chair Justyn Klatt presented an updated Corrective Plan for Lustre Christian High School and answered Board members' questions.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Corrective Plan for Lustre Christian High School. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 11

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS FOR ACCREDITATION – 04:04:27
Dr. Julie Murgel and Tyler Capece

Ms. Tyler Capece noted a Task Force has been formed to review the Intensive Assistance Process for Accreditation. Dr. Julie Murgel discussed work completed by the Task Force and reviewed future meeting dates and work to be completed. Dr. Murgel noted that a final plan will be presented to the Board at the March 2026 meeting.

The Board recessed for the day at 5:44 PM.

Thursday, November 20, 2025
Missoula County Public Schools
8:30 AM

Board members and members of the Legislative Education Interim Committee toured Hellgate Elementary School, TEACH Academy at Franklin Elementary School, and the Special Education Department at Rattlesnake Elementary School in the morning before convening for a joint meeting in the afternoon.

CALL TO ORDER – 00:00:01

Chair Tim Tharp called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call, and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Dr. Hannah Nieskens; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Julia Maxwell; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Lydia Comstock, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: State Superintendent Susie Hedalen, OPI. Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Lea Ann Munkres, Program Officer; Ms. Cathy Kincheloe, Director of Planning, Community Choice Schools Commission. Education Interim Committee Members: Representative Linda Reksten, Chair; Senator Sara Novak, Vice Chair; Representative Shelly Fyant; Representative Lee Deming; Mr. Pad McCracken, Legislative Analyst; Ms. Becca Brown, Legislative Analyst. Guests: Ms. Tyler Capece, OPI; Ms. Nancy Berg, Safe Schools Center; Ms. Tina Hays, Safe Schools Center; Dr. Dan Lee, UM; Dr. Tricia Seifert, MSU; Dr. Jodi Carlson, Rocky Mountain College; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Superintendent Michah Hill, Missoula County Public Schools; Superintendent Les Meyer, Frenchtown School District; Superintendent Pete Joseph, Corvallis School District; Superintendent Dave Thennis, Hamilton School District; Representative Connie Keough; Ms. Kim Popham, MFPE; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Ms. Christy Mock-Stutz, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM; Deputy Superintendent Craig Barringer, OPI; Ms. Tyler Capece, OPI; Mr. Rich Batterman, Board Legal Counsel.

**❖ BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE
JOINT MEETING – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 12-18)**

Item 12

PRESENTATION ON SAFE SCHOOL CENTER SURVEY – 00:03:20
Nancy Berg, Tina Hays

Ms. Nancy Berg and Ms. Tina Hays discussed the survey conducted by the UM Safe Schools Center related to school safety, how schools address safety, the use of Emergency Operations Plans, and answered members' questions.

Item 13

DISCUSSION ON TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATOR PIPELINE CHALLENGES -00:21:55
**Dr. Dan Lee, University of Montana; Dr. Tricia Seifert, Montana State University;
Dr. Jodi Carlson, Rocky Mountain College**

Dr. Dan Lee, Dr. Tricia Seifert, and Dr. Jodi Carlson discussed Educator Preparation Programs across the state, how many students complete, challenges in teacher recruitment and retention and developing school leaders, statewide shortage areas, the importance of student achievement, how the campuses are working to encourage and promote the teaching profession, and national trends. The group answered Board members' questions.

Item 14

FUTURE READY UPDATE – 01:35:19
Superintendent Susie Hedalen

Superintendent Susie Hedalen presented an update on Future Ready as outlined in the STARS Act and discussed collaborative work between OPI, OCHE, and the Department of Labor and Industry.

Item 15

SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION UPDATE – 01:44:50

Dr. Tim Tharp, Representative Lee Deming, Senator Sara Novak, Pad McCracken

Mr. Pad McCracken reviewed the work of the School Funding Interim Commission, what they've been tasked with, the work they've completed, and work to be accomplished. Representative Deming, Senator Novak, Superintendent Hedalen, and Chair Tharp provided input related to work the Commission has done and presentations the Commission has heard.

Item 16

INFORMATION ON MONTANA ALIGNED TO STANDARDS THROUGH-YEAR (MAST) AND REVIEW OF STATEWIDE PROFICIENCY SCORES – 02:03:20

Cedar Rose

Ms. Cedar Rose gave an overview of the goal of MAST, how the test is designed and utilized, presented the newly released statewide assessment results, and answered member's questions.

Item 17

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PANEL AND PRELIMINARY ANNUAL REPORT DATA – 02:7:56

McCall Flynn; Pad McCracken; Superintendent Micah Hill, Missoula County Public Schools; Superintendent Les Meyer, Frenchtown School District; Superintendent Pete Joseph, Corvallis School District; Superintendent Dave Thennis, Hamilton School District

Mr. Pad McCracken and Ms. McCall Flynn presented background information on the Public Charter School Program, created by House Bill 549 in the 2023 Legislative Session before a panel of Superintendents highlighted their Public Charter Schools and answered members' questions.

Item 18

OPEN DISCUSSION AND FINAL THOUGHTS – 03:33:35

Dr. Tim Tharp and Representative Linda Reksten

Representative Linda Reksten noted that work the Legislature put in has come to fruition and expressed her pride with the work that the schools have done.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

The Board recessed for the day at 4:52 PM.

University of Montana
Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, Room 334

Friday, November 21, 2025

University of Montana – College of Education

8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER -00:00:01

Chair Tim Tharp called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call, and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Dr. Hannah Nieskens; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Julia Maxwell; Ms. Renee Rasmussen, Ms. Lydia Comstock, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: State Superintendent Susie Hedalen, OPI. Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Cathy Kincheloe, Director of Planning, Community Choice Schools Commission. Guests: Ms. Christy Mock-Stutz, OPI; Mr. Brenton Craggs, OPI; Ms. Marie Judisch, OPI; Ms. Aimee Konzen, OPI; Ms. Eva Cox, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Mr. Patrick Cates, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE); Ms. Tyler Capece, OPI; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM; Dr. Dan Lee, UM;

Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Dr. Tricia Siefert, MSU; Dr. Beth Durodoye, MSUN; Mr. Rich Batterman, Board Legal Counsel; Dr. Jason Neiffer, Montana Digital Academy (MTDA); Ms. Nicole Thuotte, OPI.

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

❖ **CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 20-22)**

Item 20 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS COMMISSION – 00:02:19
Cathy Kincheloe

Ms. Cathy Kincheloe announced the Commission received a second year of grant funding, discussed the procurement request to assist with the development of Special Education policies and procedures, reviewed the October Advance, and provided an overview for the December meeting. Ms. Kincheloe answered Board members' questions.

Item 21 INFORMATION ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FALL ENROLLMENT DATA – 00:11:03
Christy Mock-Stutz

Ms. Christy Mock-Stutz presented the Fall Enrollment Data for Public Charter Schools and answered Board members' questions.

Item 22 UPDATE ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS – 00:27:45
McCall Flynn

Ms. McCall Flynn reviewed the Performance Framework Revisions, new Public Charter School applications and interviews, and the Application and Evaluation Criteria Review. Ms. Flynn answered Board members' questions.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 23-27)**

Item 23 NOTICE OF SURRENDER IN BPE CASE #2025-05 – 00:38:40
Brenton Craggs

Mr. Brenton Craggs presented an Affidavit of Surrender in BPE Case #2025-05.

Item 24 INFORMATION ON THE ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT PROVIDERS LIST – 00:42:04
Marie Judisch, Aimee Konzen, Eva Cox

Ms. Marie Judisch presented the Annual Professional Development Unit Providers list and Ms. Eva Cox discussed upcoming changes to the Professional Development Unit Providers System and answered Board members' questions.

Item 25 ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REQUEST TO REVISE TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, SPECIAL EDUCATION STANDARDS AND INITIAL REVIEW OF NEW RULES PERTAINING TO A CLASS 9 SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICIAN LICENSE – 01:22:02
Dr. Julie Murgel and Patrick Cates

Dr. Julie Murgel and Mr. Patrick Cates presented a proposal to create a new Class 9 Special Education Technician License to address the need for Special Education providers across the state. Dr. Murgel explained the need to open Chapter 57, and Chapter 55, which will require Negotiated Rulemaking, and reviewed the timeline for revisions. Dr. Murgel and Mr. Cates answered Board members' questions.

Vice Chair Slinger moved to approve the Superintendent's request to revise Title 10, Chapter 55, Special Education Standards and Title 10, Chapter 57, Educator Licensure Standards. Motion seconded by Board member Nieskens.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 26 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER REPORT – 01:38:12
Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews presented the Annual Professional Educator Preparation Provider Report to the Board and answered Board members' questions.

Item 27 **UPDATE ON CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM PROVIDER ACCREDITATION – 01:43:33**
Crystal Andrews
Ms. Crystal Andrews presented the Corrective Action Plan for Montana State University Northern and Dr. Beth Durodoye reviewed work the school completed to comply with the stipulations in the Corrective Plan and the timeline moving forward to seek full accreditation. Dr. Durodoye answered Board members' questions.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Item 29)**

Item 29 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TIMELINE PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTIONS AND 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 – 01:55:38**
McCall Flynn
Ms. McCall Flynn presented the revisions to the Early Literacy Targeted Interventions rules and the Early Childhood Education Standards rules as shared the previous day, reviewed the timeline, and answered Board members' questions.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the Notice of Public Hearing and timeline pertaining to rulemaking in ARM Title 10, Chapter 54 Early Literacy Targeted Interventions, and 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. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Julia Maxwell (Item 28)**

Item 28 **MACIE REPORT – 02:14:02**
Jordann Lankford Forster
Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster reviewed the Regalia Protections Letter with the Board and requested their support.

Board member Maxwell moved to approve the Board of Public Education signing on to the Regalia Protections Letter as prepared by MACIE. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.

Board member Maxwell expressed her support for the letter.

Board member Quinlan asked for clarification on the intended audience. Ms. Lankford Forster explained the target audience is districts outside the state of Montana.

Vice Chair Slinger noted that Montana is a state that requires Indian Education for All and he strongly supports the motion.

Chair Tharp stated his support for the letter.

Board member Nieskens stated her support for the letter.

Superintendent Hedalen stated that OPI provides support to schools to ensure compliance with the law.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 19)**

Item 19**STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – 02:25:25****State Superintendent Susie Hedalen**

Superintendent Susie Hedalen updated the Board on work at the OPI which included an update on changes to Federal Programs, Artificial Intelligence Guidance created in conjunction with the MDTA, work related to mental health, and a partnership with Level All. Board member Nieskens requested information on MAST Science for a future agenda item before Superintendent Hedalen answered Board members' questions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS January 15-16, 2026, Helena, MT

Exiting Board Member – Last Meeting & Recognition

MACIE Update

Review Community Choice School Annual Reports

Action on ABCTe Program Approval

Action on Authorizing Public Charter Schools

Transportation Report

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Accreditation Report

Teacher Licensure Report

Qualify Advanced Opportunity Grant Applications

Action on Transformational Learning Phase II Grants

Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program Report

Content Standards Revision Update

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Annual HiSET Report

MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

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.
