

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

September 12-13, 2024
Park High School
Library
102 View Vista Dr., Livingston, MT

Thursday, September 12, 2024
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER – 00:02:38

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.

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Mr. Gavin Mow, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Dr. Angela McLean, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE); Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office; Assistant Superintendent Christy Mock-Stutz, Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician; Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, Program Officer. Guests: Superintendent Chad Johnson, Livingston Public Schools; Superintendent Paul Furthmyre, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster, Chair, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE); Mr. Brenton Craggs, Attorney, OPI; Ms. Aislinn Brown, Board Legal Counsel, Agency Legal Services Bureau; Ms. Trish Schreiber, Chair, Community Choice Schools Commission; Mr. Patrick Cates, OPI; Ms. Danni McCarthy, OPI; Dr. Jason Neiffer, Montana Digital Academy (MTDA); Mr. Mike Agostinelli, MTDA; Dr. Dan Lee, University of Montana (UM); Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM; Ms. Kim Popham, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE); Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Ms. Julia Caro, OPI; Ms. Marie Judisch, OPI; Dr. Robert Clausen, OPI; Ms. Wendi Fawns, OPI; Dr. Erica Allen, UM; Mr. Frank No Runner; Mr. Brendan O'Connor, Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB); Ms. Jillian Reagan, PTSB.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 00:05:17

No public comment was made.

CONSENT AGENDA – 00:05:28

Board member Quinlan moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Hedalen.

Chair Tharp requested Ms. McCall Flynn highlight revisions that were made to the Strategic Plan and the Meeting and Agenda Calendar. Ms. Flynn answered Board members' questions.

Board member Rasmussen requested Lewistown be prioritized as the location for the September 2025 meeting.

Chair Tharp noted that the schedule has two meetings in Helena in 2025 and that he appreciates the opportunity for the Board to visit locations across the state.

Board member Quinlan thanked Ms. Flynn for her work revising the documents in the Consent Agenda.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Slinger moved to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Tharp noted that the appeal in Item 27 has been withdrawn.

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-5)

**Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 00:13:35
Dr. Tim Tharp**

Livingston Public Schools Superintendent Chad Johnson welcomed the Board to Livingston and reviewed the schedule of events over the noon hour.

Chair Tharp reviewed meetings and events he has attended on behalf of the Board since the July 2024 Board meeting, reviewed the new Board Committee assignments, and thanked Board members for their committee work.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 00:21:23
McCall Flynn**

Ms. McCall Flynn opened her report by thanking Livingston Public Schools for hosting the Board. Ms. Flynn reviewed work the Board staff has completed since the July 2024 Board meeting, including hiring Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher as the new Program Officer who began her work with the Board on September 9, 2024. Ms. Murnane Butcher introduced herself to the Board and summarized the work she will be doing administering the Public Charter School Program. Ms. Flynn continued her report by noting the opening of the new Public Charter Schools for the 2024-2025 school year, reviewing the upcoming application cycle for Public Charter Schools, and asking Board members for any revisions for the next Public Charter School application cycle. Ms. Flynn concluded her report by stating she will be attending all of the Fall 2024 Montana Association of School Superintendent (MASS) meetings across the state.

**Item 3 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 00:33:38
Dr. Angela McLean**

Dr. Angela McLean reviewed a request from OCHE to open the Chapter 55 Accreditation Standards to add a third year of math to the graduation requirements. Ms. Crystine Miller and Ms. Ciera Franks-Ongoy presented the Math Attainment Action Plan, requesting that the Board and OPI work with OCHE to discuss the possibility of adding a third year of math to the high school graduation requirements and present the plan at the November 2024 Board of Education meeting. Board members questioned the group about adding the new graduation requirement and what implementation might look like. Chair Tharp referred the Math discussion to the Board Accreditation Committee and requested a formal recommendation from OCHE at the November 2024 Board meeting.

**Item 4 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT – 01:05:40
Dylan Klapmeier**

Mr. Dylan Klapmeier reviewed schools Governor Gianforte has visited as the new school year begins, and referenced the Cell Phone Free Policy the Governor is urging school districts to adopt. The Governor has spent time speaking with students and educators on the implementation of Cell Phone Free Policies and has held discussions with schools. Mr. Klapmeier reviewed work by the State Workforce Innovation Board, summarized the Education Commission of the States National Forum held in July, shared changes to Title IV from the Department of Education, and reminded Board members that the annual Board of Education meeting will be held in November. The Board will be asked to adopt the Unified Education Budget and discuss other P-20 education topics.

**Item 5 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 01:12:55
Gavin Mow**

Mr. Gavin Mow reviewed the upcoming Montana Association of Student Council (MASC) meeting November 17-19, 2024, and extended an invitation to Board members to attend. Mr. Mow noted that he will be working with the

MASC Board on the next application cycle for the Student Representative to the Board. Mr. Mow announced he will be attending the New Student Membership meeting held by the National Association of State Boards of Education and updated the Board on the Student Input Survey he is working on and the possibility of rolling the survey out at the state conference. Board member Quinlan asked that Mr. Mow ask student leaders and students to work with the Board about the possibility of adding a third year of math as a graduation requirement. Dr. McLean requested that OCHE be included in the discussions as well, and to work with students to spread information regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, College Application Week, and Apply Montana.

❖ **MSDB LIAISON – Lisa Schmidt (Item 6)**

Item 6 **MSDB REPORT – 01:26:08**
Paul Furthmyre

Ms. Lisa Schmidt shared information on her recent visit to the MSDB before asking Superintendent Furthmyre for his report. Superintendent Furthmyre reviewed the action items contained in the agenda packet and requested Board action.

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

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lisa Schmidt moved to approve the OPI Discretionary Grant for MSDB. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Board member Quinlan asked if the policies address the Cognia Accreditation recommendations, and Superintendent Furthmyre answered that they do.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Furthmyre reported that they have had a successful beginning to the new school, in services training has been held for teachers and staff, implementation of a mentoring program in cooperation with Montana State University (MSU), update on campus projects, and a review of the MSDB Annual Report. Superintendent Furthmyre answered Board members' questions.

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Susie Hedalen (Item 7)**

Item 7 **MACIE REPORT – 01:50:04**
Jordann Lankford Forster

Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster reviewed the August MACIE meeting and the upcoming October MACIE meeting. Ms. Lankford Forster reviewed items scheduled on the October agenda including Election of Officers, a discussion about the American Indian student achievement gap, and formal recommendations to address these challenges. Ms. Lankford Forster requested the Board's action to renew MACIE in accordance with statute.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the extension of MACIE as an advisory council to the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction in accordance with 2-15-122, MCA. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

Dr. McLean thanked MACIE for their partnership with OCHE.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lankford Forster shared information on the most recent nomination to MACIE from the Montana School Board's Association. Vice Chair Hedalen noted that a formal recommendation and Board action will be made at the November Board meeting.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 8-9)**

Item 8 ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT – 02:15:3
Patrick Cates

Mr. Patrick Cates presented the Annual Special Education Report and reviewed changes in the data from last year in different categories for Special Education students and answered Board members' questions.

Item 9 MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY UPDATE – 02:36:18
Dr. Jason Neiffer and Mike Agostinelli

Dr. Jason Neiffer and Mr. Mike Agostinelli presented the MTDA update reviewing the MTDA Annual Report, the new Clearinghouse, courses offered, and a Student Satisfaction Survey, before answering Board members' questions.

❖ **CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Item 10)**

Item 10 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOL COMMISSION -03:12:33
Trish Schreiber

Ms. Trish Schreiber reviewed ongoing work by the Commission including mapping seven phases to implement the choice school provisions in law. Ms. Schreiber noted that Phase 2, which includes incorporating a Steering Committee, has been completed, and that the Committee met on September 9, 2024. The Commission will meet on September 25, 2024, to review Phase 2 and move to Phase 3. The Commission projects completion of all seven phases by the end of the third quarter in 2025. The Commission Fundraising Committee continues to meet and explore fundraising opportunities for the Commission.

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 11)**

Item 11 STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT -05:47:41
Assistant Superintendent Christy Mock-Stutz

Ms. Mock-Stutz introduced the Superintendent's Report before OPI staff reported on specific areas.

Assessment Update: Ms. Cedar Rose discussed the upcoming MAST window, the testlet windows, the MAST Roadshow, listening sessions, and the MAST Virtual Summit. Ms. Rose completed her presentation with the Statewide Data Overview.

Federal Update: Dr. Julie Murgel discussed the statewide E-Grants tour to assist districts working with the E-Grants system, a Risk Assessment that was completed on the Assurance Standards, and a Department of Education waiver OPI applied for to hold the Targeted and Comprehensive Schools harmless, which was denied by the Department of Education. Ms. Wendi Fawns gave a brief overview of the ESSER close out noting that the OPI is working with schools to complete the process.

Data Modernization Update: Ms. Julia Caro presented the Educational Data Integrative Report, which was also presented to the Legislature and gave an update on integrating Power School into the project.

Content Standards Revision Update: Ms. Marie Judisch reviewed the progress of the revisions to the English Language Arts Content Standards and answered Board members' questions.

Four Day School Week Research: Dr. Robin Clausen, and Dr. Erica Allen, UM, presented their research on Four Day School Weeks. The final report will come out on September 30, 2024, and will be presented at the November 2024 Board meeting.

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 12-14)

**Item 12 NOTICE OF THE SURRENDER OF BPE CASE #2024-08 -06:57:41
Brenton Craggs**

Mr. Brenton Craggs notified the Board of the surrender in BPE Case #2024-08 stating the educator surrendered their license prior to the Board’s Initial Review of the revocation request.

**Item 13 ACTION ON MOTION TO DISMISS OF BPE CASE #2023-01, CASE – 06:58:39
Brenton Craggs**

Mr. Brenton Craggs reviewed BPE Case #2023-01 referencing the July 2023 Board meeting, where Counsel for the defendant presented a Motion to Continue, which the Board granted, while the verdict in the criminal case was awaiting review by the Montana Supreme Court. The Montana Supreme Court upheld the verdict in August 2024 and the defendant has voluntarily surrendered his teaching license via his Power of Attorney. Mr. Craggs requested the Board approve a Motion to Dismiss based upon this information.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the Motion to Dismiss in BPE Case #2023-01, Case. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

*****TIME CERTAIN AT 3:30 PM*****

**Item 14 ACTION ON CONTESTED CASE HEARING OF BPE CASE #2024-03, NO RUNNER –
07:00:43
Aislinn Brown**

Ms. Aislinn Brown opened the item discussing the Motion in Limine from OPI regarding several exhibits entered by Mr. Frank No Runner, and allowed Mr. Brenton Craggs and Mr. No Runner time to present their cases on the exhibits.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Motion in Limine from OPI. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to admit the OPI exhibits into the record. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

Mr. Craggs listed the exhibits to be entered into the record.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Craggs made opening statements. Mr. No Runner waived his opening statement.

Mr. Craggs questioned Mr. No Runner regarding the Bureau of Indian Education Report and the allegations he is facing. Board members asked questions of Mr. No Runner.

Mr. Brendan O’Connor, Executive Director for PTSB, was sworn in and testified about PTSB, and their investigation of Mr. No Runner.

Mr. No Runner cross examined Mr. O’Connor. Board members asked questioned of Mr. O’Connor.

Ms. Jillian Reagan, PTSB, was sworn in and questioned by Mr. Craggs regarding the PTSB investigation.

Mr. No Runner cross examined Ms. Reagan and gave his closing statements.

Mr. Craggs made closing statements requesting the Board revoke the Class 1 and Class 3 Licenses of Mr. Frank No Runner.

Chair Tharp reviewed the revocation request from the Superintendent.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the request from the State Superintendent to revoke the Class 1 Montana Professional Educator License and Class 3 Administrative License in BPE Case #2024-03, No Runner. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.

Board member Hamman stated she does not see the evidence to support the request and will abstain from voting.

Board member Quinlan stated her support for the motion and noted the thoroughness of the investigation in Wyoming.

Vice Chair Hedalen noted the difficult decision before the Board but agreed with Board member Quinlan's comments regarding the Wyoming investigation.

Board member Rasmussen noted that Mr. No Runner did not bring any evidence forward to support his claims.

Chair Tharp echoed the previous statements and explained that the determining factor for the Boards' decision is the preponderance of evidence.

No further discussion. Motion passed, with Board member Hamman abstaining.

Board member Rasmussen clarified that she voted in favor of the motion.

Chair Tharp recessed the meeting at 4:51 PM.

Friday, September 13, 2024

8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER – 00:00:01

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.

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Mr. Gavin Mow, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Assistant Superintendent Christy Mock-Stutz, OPI. Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guests: Mr. Kernard Jones, Waterford; Ms. Ellery Bresler, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Michelle Price, OPI; Dr. Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM); Ms. Kim Popham, MFPE; Dr. Dan Lee, UM; Dr. Tricia Seiffert, MSU; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM; Dr. Beth Durodoye, Montana State University Northern (MSUN); Mr. Dan Stusek; Ms. Marie Judisch, OPI; Dr. Tammy Elser, Salish Kootenai College (SKC); Dr. Doug Ruhman, SKC; Dr. Rebecca Turk, MSU.

❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Ron Slinger (Items 15-16)

Item 15 WATERFORD INTRODUCTION AND EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTION HOME-BASED PROGRAM PRESENTATION – 00:02:36

Kernard Jones, Senior Vice President of Government Relations

Mr. Kernard Jones presented the Waterford home-based learning program by explaining the reading, math, and science curriculums, the mindset skills taught to engage learning, and how the program supports families with their child's learning. Mr. Jones reviewed the Upstart Reading program aimed at increasing students' reading skills and noted that students who have been in the Upstart Reading program show above average reading scores. Mr. Jones answered Board members' questions.

Item 16 INFORMATION ON EARLY LITERACY SCREENING PROTOCOL TEAM'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE APPLICATION AND CRITERIA FOR THE LIST OF APPROVED EARLY LITERACY SCREENING TOOLS – 00:19:34
McCall Flynn

Ms. McCall Flynn provided information on the Early Literacy Screening Protocol Team’s recommendations for the list of Early Literacy Screening Tools. Ms. Flynn described the process used by the team to design and review the application and to determine the criteria for approving the screening tools. Ms. Flynn noted that districts will be able to choose the screening tool that works best for their district.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 17-21)**

Item 17 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TIMELINE PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 53, MATHEMATICS CONTENT STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 00:31:28**
Madalyn Quinlan

Board member Quinlan discussed a meeting between the Board Accreditation Committee and Cognia regarding integrating the Cognia Accreditation process into the Montana Accreditation process. Board member Quinlan noted that an update will be given at a future Board meeting.

Board member Quinlan turned it over to Ms. Flynn to discuss and review the timeline, as well as several revisions that the Board Accreditation Committee would like to include prior to going out for rulemaking on the proposed revisions to the Mathematics Content Standards. Ms. Marie Judisch summarized the OPI proposed revisions and the major shifts in the proposal and Board member Quinlan thanked the Task Force for their hard work. Ms. Judisch and Dr. Julie Murgel explained that OPI continues to work with schools to gather responses on the Economic Impact Survey. Board members made comments and asked questions on the proposed revisions before the Board acted.

Board Member Quinlan moved to approve the proposed Notice of Public Hearing and Timeline as revised pertaining to rulemaking in ARM Title 10, Chapter 53, Mathematics Content Standards, and authorized filing of the notice with the Secretary of State for Publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

Board member Hamman thanked everyone for their hard work on this project.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 18 **ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARDS – 00:59:00**
Madalyn Quinlan

Board member Quinlan stated that no public comments were received so the Proposal Notice will move on to the next stage of rulemaking. Ms. Flynn stated that until the Education Interim Budget Committee reviews the Economic Impact Statement, the Board cannot adopt the proposal. The Board will act on the Notice of Adoption at the January 2025 Board meeting. Dr. Julie Murgel discussed responses in the Economic Impact Statement.

Item 19 **ACTION ON ADDENDUMS TO ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR – 01:05:11**
Ellery Bresler and Crystal Andrews

Ms. Ellery Bresler reviewed fifteen addendums to the 2023-2024 Annual Montana Accreditation Report and requested the Board’s approval.

Board Member Quinlan moved to approve the addendums to the 2023-2024 Annual Montana Accreditation Report. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

Chair Tharp noted that the fifteen addendums change the school’s accreditation status from deficient or advice to regular accreditation status.

Dr. Rob Watson gave public comment on the accreditation and addendum processes.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 20 INFORMATION ON CORRECTIVE PLANS FOR DEFICIENT AND ADVICE STATUS ACCREDITED SCHOOLS – 01:16:42
Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the process for schools in Advice or Deficiency status requiring schools to provide a Corrective Plan and Timeline to outline how the school will remedy the deviations. Ms. Andrews compared the current year's data to the previous year's data and answered Board members' questions.

**Item 21 ACTION ON ACCREDITATION PROCESS AND SCHEDULE FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR – 01:22:08
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the accreditation process and schedule for 2024-2025 stating that the submission process has been changed this year to allow the Board to act on the Annual Accreditation Report at the May 2025 Board meeting. Dr. Julie Murgel thanked superintendents across the state for their work and input into the process.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the proposed accreditation process and schedule for the 2024-2025 school year as recommended by the State Superintendent.
Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

Dr. Watson provided public comment regarding the proposed process for 2024-2025.

Board member Rasmussen questioned Dr. Watson on what his proposed timeframe would be.

Vice Chair Hedalen asked Ms. Andrews how rural schools will be supported.

Board member Quinlan stated she supported a discussion about adjusting pieces of the process for the upcoming year and asked for input from OPI of any conversations by the think tank about holding some pieces out for this year. Dr. Murgel responded that rural schools work with their consortiums and that assists them in providing information for the accreditation report. Dr. Murgel stated that the goal is to get to the three-year cycle where accreditation reports are gathered every three-years and not annually.

Chair Tharp noted that many schools are implementing pieces of the process, but he would appreciate further thought on what the rubric looks like for small schools. Chair Tharp noted that many schools are ready to go and will be granted three-year status, but that other schools will need more support and may only be granted accreditation for one year.

Board member Quinlan noted that it may result in more schools being in Corrective Action but that the goal is for the process to move along and for schools to improve.

Board member Rasmussen stated her concerns that new superintendents will need more support with the process and may not be ready to move to the three-year cycle. She would support allowing those schools to be able to move through at a slower pace.

Board member Hamman asked for an amendment to the motion pertaining to the small schools.

Chair Tharp noted that the Board can make changes in the future if necessary and that OPI has been open to working with the Board to do so. Assistant Superintendent Mock-Stutz stated that the goal is for a smoother process next year and that continual feedback from the schools will let OPI know if changes are necessary.

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

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 22-27)**

Item 22 **REPORT ON PRAXIS TEST SCORES IN HARD-TO-FILL ENDORSEMENT AREAS –**
02:30:26

Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews provided data requested by the Board on PRAXIS test scores in endorsement areas that are considered hard to fill. Ms. Andrews explained how the data was gathered, then presented test scores in the areas which are considered hard to fill. Ms. Andrews noted that panels will be held in the next month to review scores for Family and Consumer Science, Technical Education, and Social Studies, and answered Board members' questions. Vice Chair Hedalen expressed concerns about the areas that have a pass rate of less than 80% and that those areas may need to be reviewed to see if there are issues with the test or the preparation. Board member Rasmussen echoed those concerns.

Item 23 **INFORMATION ON THE SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF SALISH
KOOTENAI COLLEGE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER IN THE DIVISION OF
EDUCATION – 02:37:58**

Crystal Andrews and Michelle Price

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the Site Visit and the State Exit Report for SKC, noting that the Board will be asked to act on the State Exit Report at the November 2024 Board Meeting. Ms. Michelle Price provided additional information regarding the accreditation review process at SKC, noting areas in which the school excels. Dr. Doug Ruhman made comments on the review process and the value the review process brings to the program. Dr. Tammy Elser provided additional comments regarding the review process.

Item 24 **ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATION FOR INITIAL APPROVAL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT A HEALTH AND PHYSICAL
EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT AND A SECONDARY EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT –**
02:50:06

Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the presentation made at the July 2024 Board meeting regarding UM's request to add endorsements in Health and Physical Education and Secondary Education. Dr. Dan Lee and Ms. Kristi Steinberg spoke about the proposal for the new endorsement areas. Vice Chair Hedalen thanked the university for being responsive to the need for these endorsements.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the State Superintendent's recommendation for initial approval of the University of Montana's request to implement a Health and Physical Education Endorsement and a Secondary Education Endorsement. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 25 **ACTION ON THE VIRTUAL JOINT SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – 02:54:40**

Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the initial presentation of the MSU Joint Site Visit made at the July 2024 Board meeting. Dr. Tricia Siefert commented on the review process and its value to the program. Dr. Rebecca Turk echoed Dr. Siefert's comments and thanked the OPI Accreditation team for their diligent work.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the State Exit Report and the State Superintendent's recommendation of Regular Accreditation Status of the Montana State University Educator Preparation Program in the Department of Education. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 26 **ACTION ON THE SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY NORTHERN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER IN THE
COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND EDUCATION – 02:59:15**

Crystal Andrews and Dr. Julie Murgel

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the initial presentation of the MSUN site review given at the July 2024 Board meeting and reviewed the three areas in which improvements are needed. Dr. Beth Durodoye reiterated comments she made at the July 2024 Board meeting and stated her appreciation for the feedback the school received from the review. Dr. Durodoye stated that improvements have begun to address the three areas of concern. Ms. Andrews and Dr. Julie Murgel answered questions from the Board.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the State Exit Report and the State Superintendent's recommendation of Accreditation with Stipulation Status of Montana State University Northern Educator Preparation Provider in the College of Arts, Sciences and Education. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of Item 26, Chair Tharp requested a continued discussion pertaining to Item 22 and the Praxis scores in the hard to fill areas and requested the Board Licensure Committee meet to review the issue. Board member Quinlan asked if research could be done to determine if people are using the test as a pathway to add an endorsement to their license. Vice Chair Hedalen noted that she would like to find out how Montana compares to surrounding states. Ms. Kristi Steinberg commented that as a member of the Praxis Working Group, she can bring that information to the Board at a future meeting.

**Item 27 ACTION ON APPEAL HEARING OF BPE CASE #2024-04, OLIVER
Aislinn Brown**

The educator withdrew their appeal, and the item was removed from agenda at the beginning of the meeting on September 12, 2024.

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 28)

**Item 28 ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 03:10:05
McCall Flynn**

Ms. McCall Flynn explained the process for the Election of Officers and opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Board member Slinger nominated Dr. Tharp for Chair.

No additional nominations were made. Nomination passed unanimously.

Ms. McCall Flynn opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Chair Tharp nominated Board member Hedalen for Vice Chair.

No additional nominations were made. Nomination passed unanimously.

Ms. McCall Flynn previewed the November Board meeting in Bozeman, which will include the Board of Education meeting and noted that it is likely the Board meeting will begin Wednesday afternoon with tours of Bozeman schools. Ms. Flynn reviewed items that may be included on the November agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS November 20-22, 2024 – Bozeman, MT

Board of Education Meeting
Montana Council of Deans of Education Update
MACIE Update
Assessment Update
Federal Update
Annual Data Collection
Variance to Standards Requests & Renewals
Accreditation Report
Annual Professional Development Unit Providers List
Content Standards Revision Update

PUBLIC COMMENT – 03:16:23

Dr. Rob Watson gave public comment regarding Ms. Flynn’s participation in the statewide MASS meetings and stated that the superintendents appreciate her attendance. Dr. Watson discussed upcoming conferences and extended an invitation to the Board to attend the conferences as well as an invitation for members to attend any of the webinars offered by SAM on the second Thursday of every month.

Dr. Tharp thanked Livingston Public Schools for hosting the Board stating his appreciation that the Board is able to travel across the state and to visit schools.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 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, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 406-444-0302.