

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2022
Montana State Capitol
Room 137

October 6, 2022
1:00PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elder called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Ms. Stockton took Roll Call, and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Council members present: Mr. Kelly Elder, Chair; Ms. Teresa Marchant, Vice Chair; Dr. Jill Rocksund; Ms. Barbara Brown; Dr. Trent Atkins; Dr. Kate Eisele. Guests: Dr. Rob Watson, Executive Director School Administrators of Montana; Ms. Caitlin Jensen, Executive Director Zero to Five Montana; Mr. Thom Peck, Superintendent, Lewistown Public Schools; Dr. Tim Tharp, Board of Public Education member; Ms. Jule Walker, Montana School Boards Association; Dr. Christine Lux, MSU Bozeman; Dr. Georgenne "GG" Weisenfeld, National Institute for Early Childhood Education Research; Ms. Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation of Public Employees.

APPROVE AGENDA

Ms. Teresa Marchant moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Barbara Brown seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Teresa Marchant moved to approve the July 13, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Barbara Brown seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 1 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE – (INFORMATION) Ms. McCall Flynn

Ms. Flynn reviewed the public hearing held August 30, 2022, for the revisions to Chapter 58, Educator Preparation Programs, and the Notice of Public Hearing for the revisions to Chapter 55, Accreditation Standards, which will publish October 7, 2022. Public comment on the proposed revisions to Chapter 55 will be accepted beginning October 7, 2022 and continue through November 4, 2022.

Ms. Flynn reviewed proposed revisions to the Council Bylaws, answering member questions and discussing possible edits to the proposed revisions. The Council will take final action at the February 2023 meeting.

Ms. Flynn reviewed revisions to the Council's Mission and Goals as revised at the July 13, 2022, meeting, and answered Council member questions. Council members gave additional suggestions and recommendations to the revisions which Ms. Flynn will add and bring back for Council approval at the February 2023 meeting.

ITEM 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PANEL DISCUSSION: WHY INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION? – (INFORMATION)
Ms. Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five Montana; Dr. Georgette “GG” Weisenfeld, National Institute for Early Childhood Research; Dr. Christine Lux, Associate Professor, Child Development Center Director at MSU Bozeman; Mr. Thom Peck, Superintendent Lewistown Public Schools

Ms. Flynn opened the item for the Council explaining the background for this topic coming before CSPAC. At the September meeting of Constitutional Players, the group narrowed their focus to four areas concerning public education in Montana, one area being Early Childhood Education. The Board of Public Education has tasked CSPAC with making recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the level of engagement and support the Board of Public Education should have surrounding Early Childhood Education in Montana. Ms. Flynn worked with Ms. Caitlin Jensen of Zero to Five Montana to gather a panel of Early Childhood Educators and experts to present information to the Council before making their recommendations to the Board. Ms. Caitlin Jensen presented a brief slide show of Early Childhood Education in Montana. Dr. GG Weisenfeld and Dr. Christine Lux gave brief presentations for the Council about the work they do in the Early Childhood Education field. Mr. Thom Peck, Superintendent of Lewistown Public Schools, discussed the pre-Kindergarten program in Lewistown called “Pre-Step” for young five-year-old students who may need additional preparation before entering Kindergarten to be successful learners. The panel answered Council member questions.

ITEM 3 RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ON LEVEL OF SUPPORT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION – (ACTION)
Mr. Kelly Elder

Ms. Teresa Marchant moved to encourage the Board of Public Education to help facilitate funding for Early Childhood Education. Dr. Jill Rocksund seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed.

ITEM 4 REVIEW OF CLASS 8 LICENSE APPLICATIONS – (ACTION)
Dr. Julie Murgel

The Council reviewed six applications for Class 8 licenses and recommended all six applications for licensure.

ITEM 5 CSPAC RECOMMENDATIONS ON ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION – (ACTION)
Mr. Kelly Elder

Dr. Kate Eisele moved to recommend the Board of Public Education keep the Charter School variance under the Variance to Standards. Motion seconded by Ms. Teresa Marchant.

Public comment from Deputy Allen that the intention was to give charter schools their own rule for transparency.

Comment from Dr. Rocksund regarding keeping it under the Variance Standards.

No further discussion. Motion passed.

Discussion surrounding Special Education, Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, and student to teacher ratios in the Accreditation Standards.

Dr. Trent Atkins moved to recommend the Board of Public Education to review the lack of student to teacher ratios for students in Special Education services. Question from

Dr. Eisele regarding ratios vs. hours. Dr. Atkins responded that he is hearing from specific individuals that it is the ratios that are of concern. Motion withdrawn.

Dr. Jill Rocksund recommended the Board of Public Education create a new rule to quantify special education case load, taking into consideration case load size for Special Education instructors, to consider instructional hours, student contact hours, parent contact hours, and working with providers. Motion seconded by Dr. Atkins. Dr. Trent Atkins made a friendly amendment to add "related services personnel" instead of classroom teachers.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jill Rocksund moved to recommend the Board of Public Education strike the following portion of NEW RULE II: everything after "children" in (1)(c). Motion seconded by Dr. Kate Eisele.

Comments from Deputy Allen that the recommendation is based upon best practices. Dr. Eisele asked if there was information they could review, and Deputy Allen noted that she could get the Council the information.

Dr. Jill Rocksund stated that she agrees with the best practices but that it does not need to be spelled out in rule. Agreement from Ms. Teresa Marchant.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jill Rocksund moved to recommend the Board of Public Education retain the ratios in 10.55.704-705, 10.55.709-710, and 10.55.712, viewing those ratios as minimum standards moving forward. Motion seconded by Ms. Teresa Marchant.

No discussion. Motion passed.

Ms. Teresa Marchant moved that the Board of Public Education retain NEW RULE III (10.55.723) Mentorship and Induction. Dr. Kate Eisele seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kate Eisele moved that the Board of Public Education look at available resources and training to support school districts as they move to implement the requirements in 10.55.603 for proficiency-based learning. Motion seconded by Dr. Jill Rocksund.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion surrounding 10.55.902 and possible removal of music and arts in the curriculum requirements.

Ms. Teresa Marchant moved to recommend the Board of Public Education ensure section 10.55.902 contains a balanced education for all middle school students that requires music and art curricula. Motion seconded by Dr. Kate Eisele.

Friendly amendment from Dr. Atkins to change "curricula" to "program areas".

Comments from Deputy Superintendent Allen regarding the discussion.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6

**RECOMMENDATION ON THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF MONTANA
CODE OF ETHICS – (ACTION)
Mr. Kelly Elder**

Chair Elder asked members of the Code of Ethics subcommittee to update the full Council on work the subcommittee has done. Dr. Kate Eisele gave comments regarding professionalism in teaching, the controversy surrounding certain words contained within the Code, public comments made throughout the past year, and how to move forward. Dr. Eisele stated that the Board of Public Education has given the Council direction to revise the opening paragraph and language contained therein.

Dr. Kate Eisele moved to approve the revised introductory paragraphs and recommend to the Board of Public Education accept the new language. Dr. Jill Rocksund seconded the motion.

Comments from Deputy Superintendent Allen regarding the Code of Ethics being aspirational.

Discussion surrounding the word aspirational. Dr. Eisele amended her motion to remove the word aspirational. Dr. Jill Rocksund seconded the motion.

Discussion as to whether striking the word makes a difference.

Dr. Eisele withdrew the amended motion. Return to original motion.

Comments again from Deputy Allen who stated that we are better off without a Code of Ethics than with an aspirational document.

No further discussion. Motion passed.

Dr. Kate Eisele reviewed the second issue surrounding the word “equity” in Principle III(b) and reviewed three possible options for the Council.

Dr. Kate Eisele moved to change Principle III(b) to read: “understands and respects human diversity, is fair and impartial, and provides opportunities and resources for all students to be successful”. Ms. Teresa Marchant seconded the motion.

Comments from Dr. Rob Watson giving examples of educators in Montana who helped him as a student reach his full educational potential.

Discussion about whether this statement is placed under the correct principle. Dr. Eisele noted that her next motion will be to move the statement under a different principle.

Dr. Atkins proposed adding the phrase “demonstrates an understanding of educational diversity and respects human diversity” and agrees that the statement should be moved under Principle I.

Ms. Flynn proposed melding the two statements.

Dr. Kate Eisele amended her motion to meld the two statements and revised the statement to read “demonstrates an understanding of educational inclusion, and respects human diversity, and provides opportunities and resources for all students to be successful”. Dr. Rocksund offered another amendment, so the statement reads: “Demonstrates an understanding of educational inclusion, respects human diversity, and provides opportunities and resources for all students to reach their full potential”.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kate Eisele moved to relocate the new language to Principle I(h) and recommend the Board of Public Education accept these new revisions. Dr. Jill Rocksund seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 7 OFFICER ELECTIONS – (ACTION)
Ms. McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of CSPAC.

Ms. Teresa Marchant nominated Mr. Kelly Elder as Chair. Dr. Kate Eisele seconded.

No further nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kate Eisele nominated Ms. Teresa Marchant. Dr. Trent Atkins seconded.

No further nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (February 8, 2022)

Teacher Residency Program update
Presentation on School Funding Formula
Critical Shortage Area Presentation

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Flynn read comments from Ms. Hannah Neiskens regarding Early Childhood Education.

Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Professional Development Unit Provider. Attending a Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council Meeting 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 end of each meeting.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council 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.