

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

September 16-17, 2021
Montana State Capitol Building, Room 152
Helena, MT
Zoom Option available upon request

Thursday September 16, 2021
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chair Schottle. Ms. Flynn led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Ms. Stockton took roll call. Chair Schottle read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Ms. Mary Heller; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Susie Hedalen; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Ms. Paige LePard, Student Representative. Ex-Officio members: Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Superintendent Arntzen; Governor Gianforte. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests: Mr. Matt Jette; Dr. Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana, Mr. Jacob Barto, OPI; Dr. Bob Currie, Montana Digital Academy; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI; Ms. Krystal Smith, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Mr. Zach Hawkins, OPI; Ms. Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Hannah Tokerud, Attorney General's Office; Ms. Jennifer Smith, MACIE Chair; Mr. Nathan Miller, OPI; Mr. Dan Rispens, Superintendent East Helena Public Schools; Mr. Brian Kessler, East Helena High School Principal, Mr. Donald Johnson Sharp; Mr. Don Peoples; Ms. Christina McGill.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Matt Jette, Missoula, gave public comment regarding his struggles obtaining licensure in Montana in coming from the state of Florida. (Mr. Jette's written statement is attached as Appendix A)

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Jane Hamman noted errors in the July 2021 BPE Minutes, page 7 Item 17.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the correction to the July minutes as noted by Ms. Hamman. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.

No comments. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Mary Heller questioned the November meeting dates listed under the future agenda items. Ms. Flynn explained that will be discussed under Item 2. Chair Schottle noted that the Student Representative Report will be given Friday morning.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to adopt the agenda as presented with changes noted. Ms. Jane Hamman seconded the motion.

No comment. Motion passed unanimously.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 1-6)

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT Dr. Darlene Schottle

Chair Schottle thanked school districts across Montana for the work they have done opening schools using flexibility provided, and the positive attitude they have for the school year. Chair Schottle thanked the Board for allowing her to serve as Chair for the last three years and for the selfless giving of their time. Ms. Flynn explained the process for nominations for Chair and then for Vice Chair, then opened the floor for nominations. Question from Ms. Heller on the timing of the Election of Officers. Chair Schottle and Ms. Flynn described reasons for how and when Election of Officers is held.

Dr. Darlene Schottle nominated Ms. Tammy Lacey as Chair

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to elect Ms. Tammy Lacey as Chair to the Board of Public Education for a 1-year term. Ms. Susie Hedalen seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed.

Dr. Darlene Schottle nominated Madalyn Quinlan as Vice Chair. Ms. Susie Hedalen nominated Ms. Mary Heller.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to elect Ms. Madalyn Quinlan as Vice Chair. Ms. Tammy Lacey seconded the motion.

Motion passed with Board members Hedalen and Heller dissenting.

Chair Lacey thanked Dr. Schottle for her leadership and her dedication to education and the students of Montana.

Chair Lacey adjourned the meeting for the Board of Education meeting with Governor Gianforte.

*****9:00 – 10:00 AM – BREAK FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING*****

The Board of Public Education reconvened at 10:36 AM concluding the Board of Education Meeting.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT McCall Flynn

• BPE 2022-2023 Calendar – (ACTION)

Ms. Flynn discussed the change of date for the November 2021 BPE meeting to move the date from November 4-5 in Helena to November 18-19, in Missoula to coincide with the Board of Regents meeting so that the Governor can convene a Board of Education Meeting. Ms. Flynn discussed the proposed meeting dates for 2022 and 2023 before asking for a motion on the proposed dates.

Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the 2022 – 2023 Board of Public Education meeting calendar with the selected dates as noted. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.

No comments. Motion passed.

Updated By-Laws

Ms. Flynn discussed the updated By-Laws to include Professional Development opportunities for Board members and a draft Out of State Travel Justification Request form to be voted on at the November BPE meeting.

Updated Strategic Plan

Ms. Flynn discussed the updated Five-Year plan to be renamed a Strategic Plan, as drafted by a subcommittee. The draft plan will be voted on at the November BPE meeting. Comments from member Heller on the plan.

Update on Seal of Biliteracy

Ms. Flynn updated the Board on the work of the Advisory Committee for the Seal of Biliteracy that has been done since the July meeting. The goal is to have a draft plan to the Board in March for vote in May.

Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen updated the Board on some additional information including results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey done in the Spring of 2021. The report will be given to the Board in November. Deputy Superintendent Allen reviewed the CSCT program and funding.

Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT Angela McLean

Ms. McLean gave the update from the Commissioner of Higher Education's office thanking the Governor for his leadership with the Board of Education. Ms. McLean discussed the partnership between OCHE and OPI, noting she was selected to serve on the committee to select the Montana Teacher of the Year. Ms. McLean highlighted the College Access Network, a process to ensure affordable childcare access for students and faculty on the campuses statewide, an update on College Application Weeks Oct 4-15, the Apply Montana portal, GEAR Up Grant updates, a grant to the Commissioner's Office to bring adult learners back to the campuses, and Talent Search grants. Ms. McLean also provided an update on the "Grow Your Own" program and collaborative work being done on the Chapter 57 and 58 Task Forces. Ms. McLean also noted that the "iGraduate Montana Summit" will be held later in September.

❖ MSDB LIAISON - Mary Heller (Item 6)

Item 6 MSDB REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) Paul Furthmyre

Mr. Furthmyre thanked Dr. Schottle for her work as Chair and for her leadership with the MSDB and welcomed Chair Lacey to working with the MSDB. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed his presentation before the Education Interim Committee the previous day, new hires for the action on personnel items, and funding requests for technology needs. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the Out of State Travel request before asking the Board to act and provided an update on student enrollment numbers.

Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve the personnel actions for the MSDB as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Question from member Hamman on whether the Board can approve a new hire just hired. Chair Lacey clarified it needs to be publicly posted first.

No comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve the Out of State Travel Request for MSDB staff to travel to Cody, Wyoming for the NREA Conference. Motion seconded by Ms. Quinlan.

No comments. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey – (Items 7-15)**

Item 7 ACTION ON MONTANA MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS (CAEP) – (ACTION)
Dr. Julie Murgel

Dr. Murgel summarized the Memo of Understanding between the Montana Board of Public Education, the Montana Office of Public Instruction, and the Council of Accreditation for Educator Preparation. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions.

Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the Memo of Understanding between the Montana Board of Public Education, Office of Public Instruction, and CAEP from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Motion seconded by Ms. Hamman.

No comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 8 CHAPTER 57 TASK FORCE UPDATE – (INFORMATION ONLY)
Crystal Andrews

Ms. Andrews updated the Board on the work of the Chapter 57 Task Force and work the group has done since the Board was last updated in July. Ms. Andrews outlined the process and discussed how the revisions are moving forward, how the recommendations are being handled, and the timeline for the revisions, including a review by CSPAC at their October meeting. Ms. Andrews reviewed sub chapters being reviewed within Chapter 57, specifically Chapter 4 which outlines different types of licenses, revisions surrounding military spouses and reciprocity, and revisions to the Counselor to Administrator pathway. Comments from Board member Heller surrounding the Class 4 licenses.

Item 9 CHAPTER 58 TASK FORCE UPDATE– (INFORMATION ONLY)
Zach Hawkins

Mr. Hawkins provided the Chapter 58 update to the Board. Mr. Hawkins reviewed the make-up of the Task Force, the review process for the Chapter 58 revisions, and highlighted areas being considered including: hands on teaching, preparing students for 21st Century learning, mentoring, social and emotional learning, and trauma informed instruction. A feedback group is also providing comments and assistance to the full Task Force. Mr. Hawkins reviewed the areas the Task Force is considering for review in Chapter 58. A revised timeline may be considered to take a deeper dive into specific endorsement areas in sub chapter 5. Ms. McLean extended her thanks to both Ms. Andrews and Mr. Hawkins for their work on both the Task Forces and asked how a review of the endorsement areas would look and if faculty from the Educator Preparation Programs would be involved. Mr. Hawkins answered that is what is being envisioned. Ms. McLean made comments regarding mentoring and induction, and to consider bringing both Task Forces together for this area of revisions.

*******TIME CERTAIN AT 1:00 PM*******

Item 10 REPORT ON BPE CASE #2021-09, MORENGO – (INFORMATION)
Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services

Ms. Hannah Tokerud, Attorney General's Office, and representing the Office of Public Instruction, presented this case to the Board. Ms. Tokerud reported on the stipulation agreement between the parties that the educator's license be suspended for the completion of the educator's probationary period ending in July 2022. Questions of clarification were asked by Board counsel to Ms. Tokerud. No action will be taken by the Board.

Prior to beginning the Unusual Case Request section, Ms. Orr reviewed ARM 10.57.109, Unusual Cases, for the Board members and how this rule pertains to the cases the Board will review.

Item 11

**ACTION ON UNUSUAL CASE REQUEST OF BPE CASE #2021-11,
JOHNSON SHARP
Crystal Andrews, Educator Licensure Manager, OPI**

Ms. Andrews reviewed the educational background of Mr. Johnson Sharp for the Board and the reasons why the Office of Public Instruction is requesting the Board approve this as an Unusual Case. Mr. Johnson Sharp was available via Zoom for questions. Board members asked questions of Mr. Johnson Sharp and Ms. Andrews. Ms. Andrews gave a closing summary of the case for the Board in advocating for Mr. Johnson Sharp.

Ms. Anne Keith moved to deny the request for a Class 5 Provisional License as an Unusual Case in BPE Case #2021-11. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.

Comments on the process for voting and making motions from Ms. Heller.

Comment from Ms. Andrews clarifying the education of Mr. Johnson Sharp.

Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve the request for a Class 5 Provisional License as an Unusual Case in BPE Case #2021-11. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.

Comments from Dr. Schottle that in light of clarification of his bachelor's degree from Ms. Andrews that she will vote for approval.

No further comments. Motion on the amended motion passed.

No further comments on the original motion. Original motion failed.

Item 12

**ACTION ON UNUSUAL CASE REQUEST OF BPE CASE #2021-12, PEOPLES
Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Andrews reviewed the background of BPE Case #2021-12, Mr. Peoples, including his educational and professional background and experience. Mr. Peoples reviewed his background for the Board and answered questions.

Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the request of a Class 3 Administrative License in BPE Case #2021-12, Peoples. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.

No comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 13

**ACTION ON UNUSUAL CASE REQUEST OF BPE CASE #2021-14, MCGILL –
Ms. Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Andrews reviewed the background of BPE Case #2021-14, McGill, reviewing the educational and professional background of Ms. McGill. Ms. McGill reviewed her professional background for the Board and the reasons why she is seeking licensure in Montana. Clarifying questions were asked by Board members of Ms. McGill.

Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the request for a Class 5 Provisional License in BPE Case #2021-14, McGill. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Heller.

Question from Ms. McGill.

No additional comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 14

LEGAL UPDATE - (INFORMATION ONLY)

Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services

- **Update on BPE Case #2018-12, Oelkers**
- **Update on Yellow Kidney, et al v. MOPI – MBPE**
- **Update on BPE Case #2021-02, Smoker**

Ms. Orr updated the Board on BPE Case #2018-12, Oelkers. Judge McMahon would like oral arguments to be heard sooner rather than later. A conference will be held on September 24th with the parties to schedule when those oral arguments will take place.

Ms. Orr reviewed the Yellow Kidney, et al case against the BPE and the OPI. Arguments are due from the parties by October 24th.

BPE Case #2021-02, Smoker, has been extended to the November 18-19, 2021 BPE meeting with exhibits due November 1, and a prehearing conference on November 8. Any exhibits will be discussed at the prehearing conference to be presented to the Board at the November 18-19, 2021 hearing.

Friday September 17, 2021

8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

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

Item 5

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Paige Lepard

Ms. Lepard gave the Student Report updating the Board on activities at CMR High School in Great Falls including athletic updates, and a Covid outbreak at Great Falls High. Ms. Lepard noted that the students would prefer to wear masks and be in person in school than to have remote learning. Student government posters are being worked on as well as planning for prom in the Spring. The State Student Council Conference will be held in October and planning for that is ongoing. The Chair asked for a report on the State Conference at the November BPE meeting.

Item 15

RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE STATE EXIT REPORT AND REGULAR ACCREDITATION STATUS OF THE EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER (EPP) PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT CARROLL COLLEGE – (ACTION)

Dr. Julie Murgel

Dr. Murgel presented the State Exit Report for the Accreditation Review at Carroll College. Superintendent Arntzen recommends full accreditation for the Education Preparation Program at Carroll College through 2027. Dr. Murgel reviewed the review process and the report for the site review at Carroll College. Dr. Stansberry gave remarks to the Board on the review process and thanked the OPI for their work. Dr. Stansberry answered Board member questions. Dr. Schottle expressed her appreciation to Dr. Stansberry for the work they have done in this process. Ms. Quinlan congratulated Carroll College for their “Best in the West” award for the 11th year in a row.

Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the State Exit Report and Regular Accreditation Status of the Educator Preparation Program Provider at Carroll College as recommended by State Superintendent Arntzen. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.

No comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the State Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Provisional Accreditation Status Without Determination for East Helena High School. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.

Comments from Ms. Angela McLean on the good things happening in East Helena.

No further comments. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 22 ACTION ON 2021-2022 PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR LOCKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL – (ACTION)
Dr. Julie Murgel, Nathan Miller**

Mr. Miller reviewed the current accreditation status for Lockwood High School. Mr. Miller noted that Lockwood High School has met all Accreditation requirements and would have had regular accreditation status were they eligible. Superintendent Arntzen recommends approval of Provisional Accreditation Status without Determination for Lockwood High school. Ms. Heller noted that she has visited Lockwood High School as well.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the State Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Provisional Accreditation Status Without Determination for Lockwood High School. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.

No comments. Motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - November 18-19, 2021

Committee Appointments – C

MACIE Annual Report

Assessment Update

Critical Quality Educator Shortage Area Report

Federal Update

Variance to Standards Requests & Renewals

Accreditation Report

Annual Renewal Unit Providers List - C

MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment from Dr. Ann Ewbank, MSU, representing Council of Dean's. Dr. Ewbank thanked the Board for all their work, reviewed the Council of Deans and their work, and reviewed the Montana Rural Teacher Project at MSU.

Dr. Laura Straus, UM Western, gave public comment on her concerns with the Chapter 58 Task Force and asked the Board to direct OPI to revise the process, to extend the timeline for writing the process, and to add sufficient experts to the Task Force in the areas of pedagogy.

Dr. Tricia Seifert, MSU, gave public comment regarding Chapter 58 revisions and the Montana Rural Teacher Project.

**Written public comments received are attached as Appendix B.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Renewal Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting may qualify you to receive renewal units. One hour of contact time = 1 renewal unit up to 8 renewal units per day. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet if you are applying for renewal units.

Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Action may be taken by the Board on any item listed on the agenda. Public comment is welcome on all items but time limits on public comment may be set at the Chair's discretion.

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 444-0302.

Good morning,

As I am sure most, if not all of you are aware, my journey to becoming a teacher in the state of Montana has been nothing short of interesting. This journey, full of hurdles and roadblocks was nearly 3 months of headache and frustration. I know for a fact that such a journey has not only been frustrating for myself and those trying to hire me, but for many other teachers who struggled to navigate a system that from all accounts is antiquated, cumbersome, and quite frankly, damaging (detrimental) to the Montana educational system.

Now I am not here today to berate such a system, but rather to draw attention to the difficulties I encountered along the way and also shed light on some of the consequences stemming from our current system. These difficulties and consequences are not only easily avoidable, but are all for nothing. They are bred from a system that undermines quality based education - one that places students, not teachers or administrators, at the heart of its focus.

Allow me to explain...

I have seven years of teaching high school in AZ and FL obtaining teaching licenses in both states. In that time, I have taught at what are considered the top high schools in the world, teaching classes like AP Euro, APUSH, APGOV, APECON, IB Econ, Humanities, and Philosophy, while also coaching basketball, baseball, and football. However, this experience is not good enough to teach high school in Montana.

I have taught over ten years at the university level, teaching undergraduate and graduate level classes like economics, philosophy, political science at schools like Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, Thunderbird School of Global Management, and Grand Canyon University (where I helped design their newly created government department). However, this experience is not good enough to teach in the state of Montana.

I have received four degrees from the University of Montana, Arizona State University, and Harvard University. These include a BA, two Masters, and a PhD, where I also served as a Teacher's Assistant. These degrees center on political science, government, and economic policy. However, these degrees are not good enough to teach in the state of Montana.

I have one simple question and I'm hoping you all can answer... Why?

Why is this not good enough? How do you explain that to a parent?

Since my education and teaching experience are not sufficient to teach in Montana, I am being forced to go back to school for three years to take courses that will help me teach subject matter for which I already have four degrees and over ten years of teaching experience. Why?

I was offered and I accepted to teach a political science course at the University of Montana this coming Spring. This is now sadly ironic, for I will be teaching a course at the same institution to which you are forcing me to be a student of, to learn how to teach the material I am already teaching.

Unfortunately, I have learned, my journey is far too common. Many talented teachers have taken been tangled up in this same arduous process, which illustrates the length at which our system, by design, will go to limit and block qualified teachers from doing that which you and I, and families across the state want; to provide a quality education for the students of Montana. How many qualified teachers do we need to overlook and lose with this ridiculous barrier to entry? And how do we look parents in the face and explain this to them?

Although my story depicts well and perhaps with the greatest clarity the problems of such a system, there are far too many other instances of history repeating itself here. And sadly, it appears unless change is made, this story will continue on at the expense of our kid's future. I think we can all agree they deserve a better legacy than red tape.

My experience is just one egregious example of many in a system that is clearly broken and I am hoping you can answer the simplest question: WHY? And then I'm hoping you will start the process of WHAT'S NEXT?

I came here to teach, but now I have been catapulted into the political arena once again. You and the process you have helped create has now forced me to respond, forced me to take time away from my classes and my family so that a change, even a small change can be implemented.

I have wrestled with why such a restrictive policy was put into place and I keep coming back to the same possible answers. Perhaps it is to protect certain interests

and passions. Perhaps it is due to the lack of knowledge in allowing and making room for change. But whether it is to protect, reinforce, or champion this or that matters much less than the effect it is having on the education here in Montana.

Montana currently ranks in the bottom third of the country, a significant decline since the days I went to school here. So, this policy and like policies are not improving education, but contributing to its demise. Students in Montana are becoming ill-prepared and for a world that is growing more complex and challenging every day. University professors are dropping first and second year courses partly due to the fact they are tired of teaching the basics students should have received in high schools throughout Montana. Still worse, Montana graduates are falling behind in the intense competition to attend the best schools and land the best paying jobs. This body is in the position to make instrumental change. Each one of you, regardless of what you may feel, your political leanings, or your rationale, have an obligation and a duty to do better, not for yourself, not for some institution, and not for some group or interest, but for our students of Montana.

I thank you for your time today and I hope change can take place this Fall, preventing more cases like my own, while at the same time fostering an educational system in Montana that can thrive.

Matt Jette, PhD, MPA, MIS

**Board of Public Education
Public Comment
September 16-17, 2021**

**1. Mike Ehinger
Superintendent, Terry Public Schools**

To whom it may concern,

In a recent visit with the Governor as he made a trip around Eastern Montana, we discussed some issues related to school. He asked me to email him a summary and followed up saying I should pass this on to you. So here it is. I don't know if it best fits a public comment section, should be forward to the relevant committee or what. As such, I respectfully submit this to your discretion related to the next best step for this content.

Here's the concern I voiced to Governor Gianforte:

The red tape involved in getting qualified people through the licensing process is a significant issue for us. When I came from Michigan about a decade ago, I was licensed in both Math and Science. Here in Montana I was required to take a number of additional classes to get licensed, adding more expense that was really unnecessary. Fast forward to the present, I have a teacher who has a non education degree that has been teaching elementary for the last 3 years under an emergency license. Now that she is nearing the end of her education degree, she is required to be a student teacher for a year with an extensive list of additional requirements. I don't have anyone on staff with enough experience to supervise her. The fact that she has to do this at all with 3 years of successful teaching under her belt already makes absolutely no sense. I have a history teacher in a similar situation. She has a Master in History, taught at the community college level, taught for 3 years under a class 5 license in a MT high school and another year under an emergency authorization. She is also required to complete student teaching. Both teachers have had a history of receiving excellent performance reviews. It simply makes no sense at all to put these expensive and pointless barriers in place when I can't even fill all my open teaching positions this year. We are being forced to recruit overseas as they seem to be the only people willing to apply these days. I would love to hire Montana's, or even out of state, teachers but this red tape is killing an already struggling hiring pool and I request some common sense exceptions be put in place. I understand the concern about lowering the bar and risking bringing in lower quality teachers. I ask what is worse, taking that risk or not having staff and being forced to combine classes or recruit from overseas and hope that works out?

Thank you again for your work and taking the time to listen, it is much appreciated. Again, I'm not 100% sure the best next step for this feedback. Advise me accordingly. Thank you!

**2. Estee Aiken, Ed.D.
Chair and Professor, Division of Education, The University of Montana-Western**

Good morning,

I am writing today as both a faculty member and Chapter 58 feedback group participant. While I support the work of the Chapter 58 task force to date, I do not support the work continuing under the proposed timeline. I urge BPE to direct OPI to form individual committees for each endorsement area that would include faculty experts, teachers, administrators, and community members. While this process would take more time, it would also lead to standards that are better written to meet the needs of each area and the learners of Montana.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

3. Christine Rogers Stanton, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Education, Montana State University

As a former teacher and instructional facilitator, and as a current educational researcher and teacher educator, I work closely with Montana's Chapter 58 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards. Montana has long led the way in terms of including comprehensive PEPPS that also allow individual program flexibility and expertise, recognize national and local needs, and position teacher candidates for success as effective and responsible educators who work in diverse contexts.

To ensure continued quality and leadership in teacher preparation, it is important for the Chapter 58 revision process to include the following:

1. Experts in teacher education across endorsement areas (i.e., teacher education program faculty, educational researchers, experienced teachers who have been recognized by national and state professional organizations);
2. Adequate time to conduct research, review policy discourse from previous PEPPS and other states, and develop clear guidelines that reflect current best practice (a minimum of 6 months); and,
3. Indigenous educator and leader guidance (beyond inclusion/representation) throughout the process.

These suggestions recognize Montana's unique needs and allow for purposeful alignment between research-based best practices, Montana's unique and diverse contexts, and national, state, and local organizations.

Please let me know if you have questions. If possible, I would appreciate access to the Zoom link for the Chapter 58 public comment period tomorrow, September 17, 2021.

4. Kristin Harney, DMA

School of Music, Montana State University-Bozeman

Hello,

I am writing to officially comment about the current PEPPS process.

I recommend that the Board of Public Education direct OPI to create new groups to make recommendations in each endorsement/licensure area in Subchapter 5, including **faculty experts**, teachers, administrators, and community members. I am willing to serve in this role to review the current music standards and make recommendations about revisions.

I recommend that the Board of Public Education direct OPI to provide a **reasonable timeline** for subcommittees to write the standards in each endorsement area, so that they can make recommendations in an intentional, thoughtful manner, as opposed to rushing to adopt with a July 1, 2022 effective date **without expert faculty input**.

Thank you for your time.