

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday July 15, 2021**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The Chair thanked Board members for their participation at the previous day's joint meeting with the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting and the Board Strategic Planning meeting. The Chair announced that due to technical difficulties any public comment will need to be made in person or in writing. The Chair welcomed guest.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice-Chair; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Paige LePard, Student Representative; Ms. Susie Hedalen; Ms. Mary Heller. Ex-Officio members: Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Office; Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen. Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Dr. Jason Cummins, Mr. Dave Williams, OPI; Ms. Mary Maloncon; Ms. Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Mr. Jake Griffith, OPI; Ms. Hannah Tokerud, DOJ; Dr. Stansberry, Carroll College; Mr. Nathan Miller, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, MSDB; Ms. Lisa Werner; Mr. Michael Sweeney, OPI; Ms. Jessie Counts, OPI; Ms. Katie Madsen, OPI

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with possible check on header of financials. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

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

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Chair Schottle noted that the MSDB Report will need to be moved to Friday morning and that the Federal Report is being moved to Thursday. Ms. Lacey noted that she will try to move the Licensure Items as quickly as possible but that it may be necessary for the Accreditation Items to be done Friday morning.

**Ms. Jane Hamman moved to approve the agenda with changes noted. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan seconded the motion.**

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

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 1 and 3)**

**Item 1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - 15 Minutes**  
**McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn noted that Board members have been given a copy of the Audit report for the Board. Ms. Flynn reported to the Board that the Audit Committee did not have any questions for the Board at the hearing and that BPE staff will be working during the interim to resolve issues that caused the findings that came

out of the audit. Ms. Flynn noted that the Board of Education will meet in September and in Missoula in November. The Board of Public Education November meeting will be moved to accommodate this meeting.

**Item 3**                                 **COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT – 15 Minutes**  
**Angela McLean**

Ms. McLean updated the Board on the preparations for College Application week October 4-8, Apply Montana, efforts to assist with FAFSA completion, and continuing work on the ACT with the Assessment Division at the Office of Public Instruction. The ACT is still available at no cost to all high school juniors in Montana. Ms. McLean is working on the Chapter 57 revisions task force through the Office of Public Instruction.

**Item 5**                                 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT – 15 Minutes**  
**Paige Lepard**

Ms. Lepard updated the Board on preparations going on over the summer for the beginning of the upcoming school year at CMR High School. Ms. Lepard answered Board member questions.

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

**Item 7**                                 **MACIE REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) - 20 Minutes**  
**Jennifer Smith**

Ms. Hedalen, as the MACIE Liaison, opened the MACIE report. Dr. Jason Cummins joined the meeting via Zoom and made comments to the Board regarding the most recent MACIE meeting held the previous week. Dr. Cummins discussed the Native Language Position Statement Resolution that MACIE is requesting the Board to approve. Ms. Hedalen made statements regarding the need for the Resolution and answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Susie Hedalen moved to approve the MACIE Native Language Position Statement Resolution. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

***Comments from Ms. Lacey thanking Ms. Hedalen for her work with MACIE and for their work on the statement, and for the information from Dr. Cummins on the need for the statement.***

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

Ms. Hedalen reviewed the background of Mr. Levi Black Eagle for the Board, who MACIE and Superintendent Arntzen have recommended for the MACIE representative from the Crow Tribe.

**Ms. Susie Hedalen move to approve the MACIE appointment for Levi Black Eagle. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

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

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 8- 18)**

**Item 8**                                 **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE STATE EXIT REPORT AND REGULAR ACCREDITATION STATUS OF THE EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER (EPP) PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE (RMC) – (ACTION) – 5 Minutes**  
**Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Julie Murgel reviewed the State Exit Report for the Educator Preparation Program at Rocky Mountain College given at the May Board meeting. Regular Accreditation status is being recommended for the

school.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the State Exit Report and Regular Accreditation Status of the Education Preparation Provider Programs in the Department of Education at Rocky Mountain College. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman**  
**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Item 19)**

**Item 19                            ACCREDITATION OF DISTRICTS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR  
(ACTION) -15 Minutes  
Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Murgel explained the rationale and reasons for this request from the Superintendent. Due to COVID-19, the data is not available for the 2020-2021 school year and the Superintendent is requesting that districts accreditation status remain the same for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved that to recognize the challenges facing school districts in the 2020-2021 school year, I move to extend the Accreditation Status of schools for the 2021-2022 school year to remain the same as the 2020-2021 school year. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

***Dr. Murgel answered questions from Ms. Hedalen.***

***No further questions. Motion passed unanimously.***

Dr. Murgel discussed the requirements districts must adhere to for the ARP/ESSER funding. Schools must create a plan for how the dollars will be used, how they will assess learning, and that districts must monitor their plans every six months. These requirements are like the Continuous School Improvement Plans, so the OPI is requesting that for this year, the ARP/ESSER requirements take the place of the CSIP requirements.

**I move to approve allow the request for the Federal LEA plan required by all public-school districts which accepted ARP-ESSER funds as the continuous school improvement plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

***Comments from Superintendent Arntzen.***

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

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 2 and 4)**

**Item 2                            STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – 15 Minutes  
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen**

Superintendent Arntzen gave her update to the Board discussing teacher shortages, and partnerships with Workforce Development in the Governor’s Office. The Superintendent discussed a new class on the Teacher Learning Hub regarding Critical Race Theory and the difference between equity and equality. The Superintendent noted a discussion she had with Dr. Alison Harmon at MSU regarding Teacher Recruitment and Retention and an upcoming law conference being offered to teachers and education professionals. The Superintendent answered Board member questions.

**Item 4**                               **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT 15 Minutes**  
**Dylan Klapmeier**

Mr. Klapmeier discussed the intention of Governor Gianforte to convene a Board of Education meeting with possible dates of September and November. Mr. Klapmeier noted that he and Executive Director Flynn have monthly meetings to keep abreast of any upcoming issues. Mr. Klapmeier reviewed issues discussed at the Education Interim Meeting the previous day that the Governor is following, including HJ Resolution 47, and Educator Recruitment and Retention. The application for the GEAR 1 funding should be launched and available next week. Mr. Klapmeier answered Board member questions.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 9- 18)**

**Item 9**                               **REVIEW OF THE VIRTUAL SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER (EPP) AT CARROLL COLLEGE, APRIL 11-13, 2021 – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 Minutes**  
**Dr. Julie Murgel, Nathan Miller, Dr. Darlene Sellers, Team Chair, Dr. Robert Stansberry, Director of Teacher Education Programs at Carroll College.**

Ms. Lacey opened the item and turned it over to Dr. Murgel and Dr. Stansberry. Dr. Stansberry presented to the Board a review of the Accreditation Site review at Carroll College including issues that arose during the review and how they are being remedied moving forward. Ms. Lacey noted that most of the program standards were met and congratulated Dr. Stansberry on the successful review. Dr. Stansberry answered Board member questions. The Exit Report will be presented to the Board at the September meeting for consideration of approval.

**Item 10**                             **REQUEST FOR A SECOND ONE-YEAR EXPIRATION EXTENSION FOR PROVISIONAL LICENSES AND THIRD-YEAR INTERNSHIPS – (ACTION)**  
**Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Andrews presented the request to extend for one year the Class 5 Provisional licenses and Third Year internships. Ms. Andrews cited examples educators have given as to why they are making these requests to the OPI, and therefore the request from the OPI to the Board.

***Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the request for a one-year expiration for Montana Provisional Licenses and Third Year Internships from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.***

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

**Item 11**                             **ACTION ON REQUEST TO APPOINT MS. ORR AS HEARINGS OFFICER TO BPE CASE #2020-11, MEDICINE HAWK – (ACTION) 5 Minutes**  
**McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn explained the reason for the request for the Board members. The request is specific to appointing Ms. Orr the Hearing's Officer specific to this case and determining admissibility of exhibits.

***Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to appoint Ms. Orr for the limited admissibility of determining exhibits in this case, BPE Case #2021-11, Medicine Hawk. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.***

***Ms. Lacey noted that needing to approve this request will cause an increase in the cost of legal fees to the Board.***

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

**Item 24** **FEDERAL PROGRAMS UPDATE – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 Minutes**  
**Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Murgel presented the Federal Programs Update to the Board, discussing the state report submitted to the Department of Education June 7<sup>th</sup> for the ARP-ESSER funds. Each state is required to submit a report as to how the dollars will be spent, and the plan is available for viewing on the OPI website. Dr. Murgel referenced webinars and sessions the OPI has made available for districts regarding ARP-ESSER funds, and that the public comment period is open for the Federal Spending Flexibility Waiver the OPI has requested. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 19-22)**

**Item 20** **ADDENDUM(S) TO THE 2020-2021 ANNUAL ACCREDITATION STATUS**  
**REPORT OF ALL SCHOOLS (ACTION) -15 Minutes**  
**Nathan Miller**

Mr. Miller explained the reasons for the two schools that had errors in their initial submission that once corrected improved their Accreditation Status. Ms. Lacey thanked Mr. Miller and the OPI for reaching out and assisting schools with errors and allowing them to correct mistakes.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the Addendums to the 2020-2021 Annual Accreditation Status of All Schools. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

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

**Item 21** **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND**  
**TIMELINES OF SCHOOLS IN ADVICE OR DEFICIENCY STATUS – (ACTION)**  
**– 15 Minutes**  
**Nathan Miller**

Mr. Miller explained that schools in Advice of Deficiency status are required to submit corrective plans to the OPI to be approved by the Board to explain how their deficiencies will be corrected.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan recommended approval of the 2020-2021 Corrective Plans and Timelines of Schools in Advice or Deficiency status. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.**

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\*\*\*

**Item 12** **ACTION ON REQUEST TO GRANT LICENSE AS AN UNUSAL CASE, BPE**  
**CASE # 2021-03, KRAMER**  
**Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services**

\*\*\*\*\*OPEN SESSION\*\*\*\*\*

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the request to remove the Library Endorsement from the Educator License in BPE Case #2021-03. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

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

**Item 13** **ACTION ON REQUEST TO GRANT LICENSE AS AN UNUSAL CASE, BPE**  
**CASE # 2021-05, MALONCON**  
**Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Service**

Dr. Murgel reviewed the merits of the case for the Board reviewing Ms. Maloncon's educational and employment background. Ms. Maloncon spoke on her behalf adding some additional information for the Board to consider.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to grant a license as an unusual case in BPE Case #2021-05. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

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

**Item 14                    ACTION ON REQUEST TO GRANT LICENSE AS AN UNUSAL CASE, BPE  
CASE # 2021-06, RUFF  
Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services**

Dr. Murgel gave background information on the request. The educator is not available to appear at the hearing.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the request to grant an unusual case request in BPE Case # 2021-06, Ruff. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.**

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

**Item 15                    ACTION ON REQUEST TO GRANT LICENSE AS AN UNUSAL CASE, BPE  
CASE # 2021-07, BARNETT  
Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services**

Ms. Crystal Andrews presented the case and Ms. Barnett answered Board member questions. Dr. Murgel also addressed the Board with additional information as to what type of license will be granted should the Board approve this request. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to waive the student teaching requirement and approve the request to grant a license in BPE Case #2021-07 Barnett. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.**

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

**Item 16                    ACTION ON REQUEST TO GRANT LICENSE AS AN UNUSAL CASE, BPE  
CASE # 2021-08, McCREADY  
Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services**

Ms. Crystal Andrews presented the case for the Board reviewing the educator's background. Ms. McCready reviewed her background for the Board and answered questions.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the request to Grant a License as an Unusual Case pending passage of the Praxis Exam in BPE Case #2021-08. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

***Point of clarification from Ms. Quinlan regarding the Praxis exam.***

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

**Item 17                    ACTION ON INITIAL REVIEW OF DISTRICT REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION  
FOR MATERIAL NON-PERFORMANCE, BPE CASE #2021-02, SMOKER –  
Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services**

Ms. Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services, reviewed the request from the Frazier School Board for the Board of Public Education members. Ms. Jean Faure, attorney representing the Frazier School Board,

presented the school district case. Ms. Melanie Blount-Cole, Superintendent for Frazier School Board, answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to a disciplinary hearing in BPE Case #2021-02, Smoker. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

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

**Item 18                    ACTION ON HEARING ON REVOCATION REQUEST, BPE CASE #202-02, HEATON  
                                 Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services**

Ms. Orr opened the request for revocation for the Board, reviewing the case, and noting that Mr. Heaton has not participated in his case. He has been notified of all the pre-conference meetings, and that the hearing is taking place today and he has not responded. Ms. Hannah Tokerud presented the Office of Public Instruction case to the Board. The option to suspend the educator license for the court ordered period of probation was also made available in place of revoking the license by Ms. Tokerud. Ms. Tokerud answered Board member questions. Board members deliberated and discussed the merits of the case and allegations.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to suspend the License in BPE Case #2020-02 effective immediately with no allowance to apply for reinstatement of the license until the educator's sentence has been discharged. Ms. Anne Keith seconded the motion.**

***Motion passed with Board member Hedalen dissenting.***

***Chair Schottle thanked Ms. Tokerud for her presentation and offering an alternative option for disciplinary action.***

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**Friday July 16, 2021**  
**8:30 AM**

The Board reconvened on Friday July 16, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. Ms. Stockton took roll call and the Chair welcomed guests.

**❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 22)**

**Item 22                    ASSESSMENT REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 10 Minutes  
                                 Ashley McGrath**

Ms. Keith opened the Assessment report and turned the item over to Ms. Ashley McGrath, Assessment Director at OPI. Ms. McGrath reviewed the Draft Analysis Plan, and the 2021-2022 Assessment Plan then answered Board member questions. A discussion took place regarding the shortened version of Assessment testing that has taken place over the past school year and how that looks compared to the traditional test that has taken place in the past. It is likely that this shortened version may be the process moving forward.

**❖ MSDB LIAISON - Mary Heller (Item 6)**

**Item 6                    MSDB REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 20 Minutes  
                                 Paul Furthmyre**

Chair Heller opened the item and turned the report over to MSDB Superintendent Paul Furthmyre. Mr. Furthmyre joined the meeting via Zoom and gave his report to the Board. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed Personnel items with the Board, revisions to the COVID-19 policies for the upcoming school year, and the

out of state travel request. Mr. Furthmyre included information on additional personnel changes since the report was submitted. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the revisions to the policies and answered Board member questions. A discussion was had regarding interpreters and the ability to hire. Mr. Furthmyre noted he has met with MSU Great Falls College to discuss the possibility of the creation of an interpreter program at the College. Mr. Furthmyre answered Board member questions.

**MSDB ACTION ITEMS:**

**Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve the following updated MSDB Covid-19 Emergency Policies: 1903, 1905, and 1906 with the changes noted. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.**

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

**Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve the Human Resource Items: Resignation of Andrea Reimer, DHH Paraprofessional; Hiring of Sarah Trimble, Interpreter. Chair Schottle noted a resignation this week. Ms. Mary Heller amended the motion to include Jackie Whaley, PE Teacher, resignation. Ms. Tammy Lacey seconded the motion.**

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

**Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve the Out of State Travel request for Jim Kelly to attend the National School Safety Conference. Ms. Jane Hamman seconded the motion.**

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 23-29)**

**Item 23                                      ACTION ON SEAL OF BILITERACY – (ACTION) – 10 Minutes  
McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn reviewed the Seal of Biliteracy for the Board. Ms. Flynn reviewed that the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council has reviewed the Seal and moved it forward to the Board for consideration. The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education has also received a presentation on the Seal and requested the Board approve the Seal for Montana. If the Board approves the Seal, a subcommittee will be formed to determine how this will work for schools and students in Montana. Ms. Flynn answered Board member clarifying questions as to how the implementation will move forward. Ms. Lisa Werner added that she would like to involve as many stakeholders as possible to determine implementation and bring back to the Board for approval.

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the Seal of Biliteracy in Montana with the expectation that a subcommittee will convene to determine implementation. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Heller.**

***Ms. Tammy Lacey commented that she believes this is the right process and that the Great Falls Public school district uses something similar for students receiving CTE credits.***

***Ms. Anne Keith thanked Ms. Warner for her hard work and persistence in getting this passed in Montana.***

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



**Item 25**                                **COVID RELIEF FUNDING UPDATE: ESSER I, II, AND III; EANS I – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 Minutes**  
**Dave Williams**

Mr. Dave Williams, OPI, introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Williams is the new Chief Financial Officer at the Office of Public Instruction. Mr. Williams referred to the information sheet passed around to the Board with updated data on the ESSER funding presented to the Education Interim Committee earlier in the week. Mr. Williams reviewed the different aspects of the three COVID-19 funding relief packages from the Federal Government. Mr. Williams answered Board member questions.

**Item 26**                                **OPI ANNUAL STAFFING REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 10 Minutes**  
**Dave Williams**

Mr. Williams discussed the challenges the OPI, and other state agencies are experiencing in hiring qualified staff. Mr. Williams reviewed his current staff members at the OPI and their experience for the Board. The Board reviewed the report and Mr. Williams answered Board member questions. Ms. Lacey commented on her concerns regarding the vacancies in the Special Education Division and the decrease in staffing in the Indian Education for All department and how reduced staffing may impact school districts across the state seeking support from the OPI. Ms. Lacey noted that Indian Education Achievement is a challenge for schools across the state and having reduced staffing in that department is cause for concern. Ms. Hedalen echoed those concerns noting that working with districts across the state she is aware the reduced staffing is challenging for districts and that she too is concerned with the reduced staffing. Ms. Keith inquired if staffing increases are being considered in the Licensure Division due to increased workload in that division. Ms. Heller questioned how the hiring process was moving along and if job postings are available and if applications are coming in to fill the vacant positions. Mr. Williams noted that the OPI is working hard to fill the vacancies with qualified individuals. Ms. Heller inquired if the CTE vacancies are currently posted, and Mr. Williams noted that they are currently posted.

**Item 27**                                **DATA SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION PROJECT – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 Minutes**  
**Michael Sweeney**

Mr. Michael Sweeney, Chief Data Officer at the OPI introduced himself to the Board to discuss the Data Systems Modernization as required by new legislation passed in the 2021 Legislative Session. Discretionary ESSER funding of approximately \$13 million has been allocated to the OPI to make the update. The update is a collaborative effort between the OPI and School Districts to alleviate the friction with collection and reporting of data. Goals of the project include saving time, securing data, supporting data use, and to be sustainable. Mr. Sweeney discussed the funding, timeline, and implementation plan with the Board, emphasizing this project is being done with input and collaboration with the school districts.

**Item 28**                                **ANNUAL HiSET REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 10 Minutes**  
**Katie Madsen**

Ms. Katie Madsen presented the Annual HiSET report to the Board highlighting the state passing rate, which remained the same as the previous year. There are 24 centers in the state that offer paper assessment, 10 that offer computer only, and 12 that offer both. HiSET offered a “test at home” option launched in June 2020 due to COVID-19. Ms. Madsen highlighted additional areas of the report for the Board. Ms. Lacey noted the importance of the Adult Education program at the OPI and the services it offers to Montanans across the state. Ms. Heller commented that the number one reason people list as their reason for taking the HiSET is “personal satisfaction”. Chair Schottle added her comments thanking Ms. Madsen and the Adult Education Division for the work they are doing.

**Item 29**

**ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 10**  
*Minutes*  
**Jessie Counts**

Ms. Jessie Counts presented the Annual Special Education Report to the Board highlighting impacts from COVID-19 including no Onsite Differentiated Monitoring but noted that all monitoring was still completed. Other impacts of the pandemic included a decrease in onsite support, however an increase in weekly director calls, more open hours for technical support to districts, and hybrid approaches to future work for onsite and virtual monitoring. Ms. Counts answered Board member questions.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS September 16-17, 2021**

Election of Board Officers  
Set Yearly Board Meeting Calendar - C  
Set Annual Agenda Calendar – C  
BPE Goal Review – C  
*MACIE Update*  
Digital Academy Update  
*Assessment Update*  
*Federal Update*  
*MACIE Renewal (Even Years)*  
MSDB Superintendent Evaluation – preview  
Oelkers Update  
*Action on Carroll College Accreditation Site Review*  
*East Helena HS/Lockwood HS Provisional Accreditation Approval*  
*Action on CAEP MOU*  
*Chapter 57, 58 Revisions Update*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments from State Superintendent Arntzen on the hard work the Board has done over the past two days, thanking the Board for their diligent consideration with the Unusual Case requests and the flexibilities in school accreditation.

Ms. Lacey reminded the Board of the upcoming August 10, 2021 Special Licensure Meeting.

**ADJOURN**

***Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

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*Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". 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.*

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