BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2023 ZOOM

<u>Wednesday, April 12, 2023</u> <u>1:00 PM</u>

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Stockton took Roll Call. The Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Mr. Ron Slinger; Ms. Anne Keith; Dr. Tim Tharp; Ms. Jane Hamman; Mr. Charles Fox, Student Representative. Ms. Renee Rasmussen was excused. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests: Dr. Julie Murgel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI; Ms. Jule Walker, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Dr. Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

ADOPT AGENDA

<u>Mr. Ron Slinger moved to approve the agenda as presented.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Tim Tharp (Item 1)

Item 1

ACTION ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO THE DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE OF ARM, TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION FOR 10.55.905 (2)(c) and (2)(h), AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER Dr. Tim Tharp

Dr. Tim Tharp opened the item by explaining that schools have notified the Office of Public Instruction that student schedules for the upcoming school year have already been set and adding a new graduation requirement effective for the 2023-2024 school year is not possible and are asking if the implementation of ARM 10.55.905(2)(c) and (2)(h) can be delayed.

<u>Dr. Tharp moved to approve the delayed effective date of Title 10, Chapter 55,</u> <u>Standards of Accreditation,</u>

for 10.55.905(2)(c) and (2)(h) to July 1, 2025 and authorize filing with the Secretary of State. All other rules adopted, amended, repealed, and transferred remain effective July 1, 2023. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

Question from Ms. Anne Keith if next fall's sophomore class would be the first group affected by the rule change. Dr. Tharp replied that is correct.

Question from Ms. Anne Keith if the date should be extended further.

Chair Quinlan noted that public comment at this time should be taken before discussing this any further.

Dr. Rob Watson, SAM, gave public comment regarding extending the effective date to July 1, 2027 and stated his reasons for the request. Most notably, the Montana School Board Association's model policy is that any changes to graduation requirements are always effective for the incoming freshman class. Dr. Watson thanked the Board for holding a special meeting to discuss the issue.

Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen spoke regarding competency transcripts.

Dr. Tharp asked OPI if a Social Studies Broadfield or History teacher could teach economics. Deputy Allen responded that would be allowed.

Dr. Tharp asked if any schools in the state are not offering civics courses. Deputy Allen and Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, both responded that five schools reported in their accreditation report that they do not have a course code that aligned with government or civics. Dr. Murgel also responded to Dr. Tharp's question regarding who could teach economics or financial literacy.

Chair Quinlan asked for clarification from Dr. Murgel regarding which graduating class would be affected by the rule change.

Chair Quinlan clarified that depending on the date set at this meeting students who graduate before the effective date set would not have to meet the minimum graduation requirement. Dr. Murgel answered that is correct. Only students graduating after the effective date would have to meet the new requirements.

Chair Quinlan noted that if a Board member wants to offer a different effective date a substitute motion would need to be made.

Ms. Keith stated her preference would be to align with the Montana School Boards Association model policy to make it effective for the incoming freshman class.

Dr. Tharp noted he needs more information to be talked into delaying implementation further.

Ms. Susie Hedalen stated that she does not see an issue moving forward with the proposed date.

Mr. Ron Slinger asked for clarification if there are other alternatives for students to meet the requirement.

Dr. Murgel answered and shared that there are options that school districts have to meet the requirements including: independent study or economics via social studies coursework.

Ms. Keith asked Ms. Hedalen and Dr. Tharp if the proposed timeline gives districts enough time to meet the requirements. Both Ms. Hedalen and Dr. Tharp said the proposed time frame is sufficient. Dr. Tharp noted that schools always have the option of applying for a Variance to Standards if they are experiencing issues meeting the accreditation standards. Dr. Tharp asked Dr. Watson if his members

have expressed any concern that this is going to be problematic, and Dr. Watson answered that he has not.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McCall Flynn discussed the next steps, which is to submit the notice to the Secretary of State's office for publication in the Montana Administrative Register.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM.

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Professional Development Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education 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 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: <u>kmstockton@mt.gov</u> or phone at 444-0302.