

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

**May 15 & 16, 2003**

**Montana School for the Deaf and Blind**  
**3911 Central Avenue**  
**Great Falls, MT 59401**

Chairperson Dr. Kirk Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2003.

Board members present were: Kirk Miller, Chairperson; Diane Fladmo, Vice Chairperson; Randy Morris, Storrs Bishop, John Fuller, Patty Myers, Joyce Silverthorne, and Derek Duncan, Student Representative. The upcoming student representative, Erik Engellant, Great Falls, was in attendance at this meeting. Ex-Officio member present was Superintendent Linda McCulloch. Also present was Acting Commissioner of Higher Education, Carrol Krause. Staff present were: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Suzan Hopkins, Administrative Assistant, BPE. Those in attendance: Nancy Coopersmith, David Strong, OPI; Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI; John Kinna, Al McMilin, OPI; Debbie Casey, OPI; Representative Carol Juneau, Browning, MIEA; Lynette Zuroff, Carroll College; Kris Goss, Governor's Office; Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension-Bozeman; Bob Pyfer, Montana Credit Union Network; Ranel Perkins, Great Falls Teachers; and Maureen Bryson, Golden Triangle.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Patty Myers led the Board in the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Miller advised the Board regarding HB 94, which revises and clarifies the issue of public comment on any matter (which is an information item) that is a concern to the community. With regards to this bill, there will be a public comment section at the end of the meeting on both days. Dr. Miller welcomed the new incoming student representative and asked Derek Duncan to introduce him and give a brief history of how he was chosen. Erik Engellant, who is a sophomore from Great Falls High School, is currently involved in student government, plays soccer, and enjoys outdoor activities. Dr. Miller recognized and thanked Superintendent of MSDB, Steve Gettel and his staff for sponsoring the meeting. Mr. Gettel presented the Board with their Five-Year Comprehensive Plan with a new logo.

Dr. Miller went over the revisions of the agenda which included: addition of the open portion of the meeting which will be added to future agendas as a result of 2-3-103, item # 6 was moved to 2:30 on Thursday afternoon, item 13 and 14 should be listed under Certification Committee, item 15 will be heard on Thursday instead of Friday, item #18 was moved to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday instead of Friday, item #19 is an action item, not a discussion item, and items 28 & 29 should be under the Board Procedure Committee.

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to adopt the agenda as revised. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Bishop mentioned that the time elapsed is 75% for the fiscal year, all accounts are below 75% expended, 65% expended in operating expenses, and the advisory council and research fund will be elaborated on by Mr. Meloy. Mr. Meloy related that the board is in good shape, but we still have a ways to go. The CSPAC budget is over expended at this time, and will be over expended due to reclassification of Administrative Officer, which took place at the beginning of the fiscal year. Mr. Meloy passed around a memo from Mr. Swysgood, Budget Director, regarding a contingency account allocation in the amount of \$18,500, which will come out of the research fund to offset the over expenditure. Mr. Meloy stated that the Board would have to ask the legislature to increase teacher certification fees by approximately \$2.00 to cover the cost of operating for CSPAC. The Research fund expenditures are about \$40,000 with a \$60,000 appropriation. SB 202 was passed and it has an immediate effective implementation date. This allows the Board and CSPAC a broader use of research funds, which will help us get through the next biennium. The creation of the Renewal Commission will allow us to track expenditures, and will not be included in the base, as it is a one-time expenditure.

**MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. Silverthorne seconded this motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

***\*\*Items appear in the order in which they were addressed during the meeting.\*\****

### **Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Miller presented his report of activities that have transpired since our last board meeting. He was in contact with Mr. Meloy by phone and email throughout the legislative session. He briefly participated in Ms. Silverthorne's committee, Indian Education for All. On March 31, he met with the SAM Board of Directors in conjunction with Mr. Meloy in hopes of establishing a better communication network between the Board and administrators in the field. On April 10, he was asked to speak at the Pachyderm Club of Cascade County in Great Falls. On April 18, he submitted a NASBE State Board Member survey on behalf of the Board. On April 22-24, he attended the SAELP Chairs Leadership Summit in Newark, NJ on behalf of the Board.

### **Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Meloy summarized his activities since the last meeting of the Board, which included the ongoing work on the communications plan with Roger Merrill. He updated the members of the Board with the news that Phase One is 95% complete. Mr. Meloy passed around what Mr. Merrill has completed thus far. Other items of interest:

- Testified in House Appropriations on HB 736.
- Worked with Carol Juneau on amendments to HB 736.
- Attended hearings on SB 303, 323, and 411.
- Attended House Education Special meeting on NCLB
- Met with Board of Directors of SAM
- Attended BOE Indian Education for All sub-committee meeting.
- Attended "informal" legislative lead discussion on school funding bill.

### **Item 3 CSPAC REPORT**

Mr. Donovan presented items, which will be discussed at a greater length later in the agenda, one of which included the CSPAC Assessment Study Group. He advised the Board that the next CSPAC meeting will be July 10 & 11, 2003 in Helena. On May 21, 2003, Mr. Donovan and Mr. Meloy will attend the Council of Deans meeting in Billings, MT. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Meloy will be attending the NASDTEC conference in Seattle from June 7-11, 2003.

#### **Item 4 STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent McCulloch presented items of interest that have transpired since she was last before the Board. They include:

- ❖ Margaret Bowles was presented with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching at the White House in March.
- ❖ Lynn Hinch, OPI Bilingual Education Specialist, was honored at the annual Montana Wyoming Indian Education Conference in March.
- ❖ OPI calendar on their home page provides upcoming conferences, deadlines, and trainings.
- ❖ Critical issues with regards to rural concerns with NCLB Act addressed in letter from Governor Martz
- ❖ Senate Bill 81, to award honorary high school diplomas for certain veterans passed this session.
- ❖ Computer Surplus program has been successful; schools have received a total of 1540 computing devices since July 2002.
- ❖ During April, Superintendent McCulloch recognized presentations from 12 schools as part of the Montana Heritage Project Student Conference.
- ❖ Participated in Montana's Peer Review with OPI staff members and Department of Education

#### **Item 5 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT**

Interim Commissioner Dr. Carrol Krause discussed his participation during the legislature. He mentioned that Higher Education has been hit with a 40 million dollar decrease from the last biennium. Tuition levels at the Colleges of Technology are a concern (6% increase). He also briefed the board on the progress with the search for a replacement commissioner. The Board of Regents will start interviewing candidates after the May 29 meeting. By June 15, a candidate will be chosen for the position, to be implemented possibly by August 1.

#### **Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Duncan welcomed and introduced the new incoming student representative, Erik Engellant, a sophomore from Great Falls High School. Mr. Duncan plans to attend Montana State University, Missoula, upon graduation in June. He also passed out preliminary results of his student survey and discussed major points.

#### **Item 8 ANNUAL GED REPORT**

Mr. Strong, GED Administrator, Career, Technical and Adult Education Division, OPI, presented the 2002 Montana GED Statistical Report. This report will be used to give an overview of the GED testing program in Montana and to identify trends occurring in the state. He also reported on the status of current fees charged for administration of the GED. The cost of the test has not been changed for this year, but consideration will be given to raising the fees for next year. A new test has been put into action, which meant additional training given to examiners on improved ways to assess students.

#### **Item 9 SAELP INITIATIVES**

Mr. Meloy reported that he has been involved with the SAELP project since inception, along with Nancy Coopersmith, Kris Goss, and Madalyn Quinlan. He also reported on Policy Initiative #6 which delineates the Board's involvement. The steps involved include:

1. Analyze the alignment of the Board of Education policies with NCLB with special

- attention on policies that effect leadership.
2. After alignment is complete, we will convene a practitioners and business advisory committee to examine discrepancies and make recommendations to the Board for policy changes.
  3. The results will be presented to the interim School Renewal Commission.
  4. A representative will present recommended rule changes to the Board from the practitioners group and the Board's Executive Secretary.
  5. It is anticipated that policy changes will be forwarded to other appropriate bodies other than the Board.

#### **Item 10 CHAPTER 55 TEACHER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Dr. Linda Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division, OPI, reported on procedures to implement the new teaching endorsement internship program with regards to the adoption of the amendments to ARM 10.55.707. Representatives from the Montana Council of Deans and the OPI Accreditation and Educator Licensure Staff have worked on the draft procedures. The presentation to the Board provided a draft application, a suggested letter to be completed by each Montana institution of higher education, a copy of the rule, and a timeline for implementing the internship program.

#### **Item 11 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND UPDATE**

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI, gave an overview of activities conducted to implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The following issues were discussed: Peer Review of Montana's SEA Application, Revised Accountability Workbook submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on May 1, 2003, and the ESEA Consolidated Application to be submitted to the OPI by Montana school districts no later than May 30, 2003. This application must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education in order for the state to continue to receive funding.

#### **Item 18 ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Judy Snow presented an update of activities with regards to the subject of assessment. This presentation included a timeline and discussion of the Norm-Referenced Tests-The Iowa Tests for the 2002-2003 school year, Criterion-Referenced Test Item Development and Pilot, and BPE/CSPAC Assessment Advisory Task Force. Ms. Fladmo gave a brief update on the CSPAC Assessment Advisory Task Force achievements and charges so far.

#### **Item 12 PERFORMANCE BASED ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

Dr. Linda Peterson, and Mr. Al McMilin, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, presented an examination of the Performance-Based Accreditation process as stated in ARM 10.55.606 as the possible avenue for alternative schools/special purpose schools to follow when seeking accreditation from the Board. This presentation outlined some of the issues and stated that OPI will work with the Accreditation Committee to facilitate an inclusive process that will include the Montana education community in designing the guidelines for an alternative route to accreditation.

#### **Item 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT**

Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs and Kris Goss, Governor's Office, gave an overview of issues with which they have been involved with since the last Board meeting. The first portion of

his report focused on a legislative update. Highlights from the report:

- Governor signed Senate Bill 424, which gives school districts increased spending flexibility and simplifies the school transportation funding formula. It also provides for an entitlement increase to address funding concerns for this session.
- Special education will receive a 3 million dollar increase in FY 2005. In order to give schools this increase in the current difficult fiscal climate, the bill corrected a school accounting concern. Starting in FY 2005 federally funded employees will have their retirement paid with federal funds rather than county tax dollars.
- Governor signed HB 736, which authorizes the Board of Public Education, The Office of the Governor, the Legislature, and the Office of Public Instruction to convene a K-12 Public School Renewal Commission
- Announced the Governor's Award for Excellence in Cultural Education, which is intended to recognize school districts that have implemented a program to meet the provisions of 20-1-501 MCA.
- Kris Goss, along with the Lieutenant Governor, attended the MWIEA meeting in Helena
- Attended Small Schools Summit in Lewistown on May 5.

They discussed the foundation of the Renewal Commission and the process of establishing this landmark commission.

Lieutenant Governor Ohs wrapped up his appearance by presenting Derek Duncan with a Governor's Citation for his admirable service to this board and to the students of Montana.

#### **Item 14 CARROLL COLLEGE TEACHER EDUCATION UNIT REVIEW**

Dr. Linda Peterson, and Dr. Lynette Zuroff (Dean) presented an overview of the Full State Review of the Carroll College Teacher Education Unit conducted in February 2003, by the Office of Public Instruction. The review consisted of two parts: an off-site review of the teaching areas followed by an on-site review. The purpose of the on-site review was to validate the Carroll College Institutional Report, to evaluate the programs requested for review, and recommend action to the Board. Mr. Jay Erdie, Roundup Superintendent of Schools, served as chairperson of the team. This will be presented for approval at the Board's July meeting.

#### **Item 13 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS**

Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI, presented to the Board the proposed review process and timeline for the Sixth Cycle of the Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) for 2003-2005. These standards will be performance-based in the adoption of revised standards reviewed during period 2003-2005, for implementation in 2006. These standards also include the standards established by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC). In addition, Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) has developed standards, specifically for principals and superintendents. SAELP (State Action for Education Leadership) Project Goal 7 calls for an audit of and support for teacher preparation programs to align with ISLLC standards.

#### **Item 15 E-LEARNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Dr. Linda Peterson, and Mr. Al McMilin presented a summary of preliminary information gathered by the Office of Public Instruction as to which districts are using the distance learning option provided in ARM 10.55.907 and in what educational contexts those districts are using the

option. Chairperson Silverthorne proposed that a face-to-face meeting of the E-Learning Committee be scheduled for the near future.

**Item 19 STATE AID PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith presented for approval the distribution of BASE aid for public education as required by law, 20-9-344, MCA.

**MOTION: Ms. Fladmo has moved to approve the proposed payment schedule for fiscal year 2003-2004. Ms. Silverthorne seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Ms. Silverthorne brought forth an issue regarding Resolution 2003-06, opposing the use of Indians as Mascots in the State's Educational System. Her concern was who has the authority to clarify such a policy; the Attorney General, NASBE representative, Board of Education, or someone else? Mr. Morris pointed out that local boards are responsible for naming the schools' mascots.

***\*\*Presentation by students who attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama and guided tour of MSDB\*\****

**Item 16 NASBE 2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

Ms. Diane Fladmo recommended Gary Waters from Nevada for the President-elect position. Mr. Miller echoed Ms. Fladmo's position.

**MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to accept the slate of officers represented and cast our vote for the one contested case in favor of Gary Waters for President-elect. Mr. Morris seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

**Item 17 FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr. Steve Meloy presented the Five-Year Plan to the Board and gave a brief overview of how it came to fruition. He suggested that every year the Board should line out, under the goals, some performance measures of what we need to accomplish in the coming year. This will be done at our retreat in July 2003.

**Item 20 WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW**

Dr. Marti Garlett, Western Governors University, presented discussion regarding their program for initial certification in Elementary Education at both the B.A. and M.A. levels, plus mathematics endorsement programs for the middle and high school grades. W.G.U. is a competency-based institution, which means the curriculum is a set of competencies, along with the assessments used to measure those competencies. The average age of the student at W.G. U. is 40 years old. This item will be presented for action at the July 2003 board meeting, in Helena.

**Item 21 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Steve Meloy gave an update on the most recent legislative issues. He also passed around a document from Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Office of Public Instruction. This

document outlined the legislative changes to school funding for fiscal year 2004 as demonstrated in Senate Bill 424 and House Bill 2.

**Item 22 HJR 10**

Professor Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Service, Bozeman, and Mr. Robert Pyfer, Senior Vice President, Montana Credit Union, presented information regarding HJR 10, which urges the Board to adopt content and performance standards integrating principles of basic personal finance. It also urges school districts to fully implement the standards. Professor Goetting presented information pertaining to financial planning for students. Dr. Miller recommended OPI and the Board review language of HJR 10 when the next review cycle of the standards is undertaken.

***Dr. Miller had to leave the meeting, so Ms. Fladmo, Vice Chairperson, chaired the remainder of the meeting.***

**Item 23 BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES**

Ms. Patty Myers reminded board members to hand in their forms documenting their appearances to the board secretary, Ms. Hopkins.

**Patty Myers**

3/28-3/29/03 MEA-MFT Representative  
Assembly/lobbying

**Derek Duncan**

3/17/03 HB 736 Hearing  
3/24/03 CSPAC Assessment Group  
5/07/03 Frenchtown High School-visit  
5/14/03 CSPAC Assessment Group

**John Fuller**

5/11-5/14/03 Dept. National Resource &  
Conservation Public Input meetings  
About school land trust usage.

**Storrs Bishop**

5/5/03 Northwest Regional Ed.  
Lab Rural Ed (Montana Small Schools  
Summit)

**Diane Fladmo**

Various dates-CSPAC Assessment Committee  
4/9/03 MASS regional meeting  
4/29/03 Prairie View Coop-report on BPE to Governing Board

**Item 24 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE 2-YEAR TERM**

Mr. Duncan presented information regarding proposal of a student representative two-year term, which he strongly recommends. He distributed two different language proposals addressing the two-year term. This proposal would allow the representative the ability to serve the board and the school with consistent information. It would also allow every student representative the opportunity to participate in the legislature.

It was brought to the board's attention by Ms. Myers that the last sentence of rule 10.51.102 was incorrect and should be revised.

**MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to post notice of a rule amendment to 10.51.102 to read, "A student ..."for not more than two years" and to drop the words, "in April" from the last sentence. The motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried.**

**Item 25 CSPAC APPOINTMENTS**

Ms. Myers presented the current applicants for position vacancies on the council. Mr. Donovan commented on some of the applicants and gave some background information.

**MOTION: Mr. Morris moved to accept the resignations of Cal Spangler and Shelly Fortune and to re-appoint current CSPAC members Melodee Smith-Burreson (Teacher, K-8) and Scott McCulloch (Teacher, 9-12)and to appoint Danny Villa (Trustee) and Douglas Reisiq (School Administrator). Ms.Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

**Item 26 ALTERNATIVE STANDARD REQUESTS-RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Linda Peterson, Administrator, Accreditation Division and Mr. Al McMilin, Accreditation Specialist, OPI, presented for consideration Alternative Standard Requests recommended either for approval or disapproval by Superintendent Linda McCulloch.

**MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to accept the OPI recommendations for initial approval of the Alternative Standard Requests: two-year cycle-8 schools in 5 counties and for renewal of approval: five-year cycle- 2 schools in 2 counties**

**specifically identified in the report. Also, to not recommend for approval the Alternative Standard applications from 4 schools in 4 counties identified in the same report. Mr. Morris seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

**Item 27 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING/REPORT**

1. Spotlight on Programs-MSDB's 5-Year Comprehensive Education Plan- Ms. Julie Alt, MSDB, gave a brief overview of the Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan.
2. Student Enrollment/Evaluation-On campus total (73), off campus total (273)
3. Personnel Actions-Two new temporary hires, one termination, one resignation, one retirement, and five vacancies.
4. Human Resources-Update on Activities-Interest Based Problem Solving Committee met on May 5.
5. Policies/Procedures-Draft policy has been developed which are necessary and related to the Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan, Section 4, under ARM 10.55.701 (3) (d-n)(5)
6. 2003 Legislative Session-Update on Activities-Statutory language changes regarding HB 60, SB 41, SB 42, and SB 43. HB 13 passed the legislature with two changes proposed by Governor Martz. HB 266 approved by both houses and signed by Governor on April 18.

7. Program Accreditation-Update on activities-

**MOTION: Mr. Morris moved to approve the Cooperative Agreement with Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative for 2003-2004 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fuller and unanimously carried.**

**MOTION: Mr. Morris moved to approve application for MHSA Cooperative Agreement with Great Falls Central High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fuller and unanimously carried.**

8. Professional Development Activities-Workshops and activities included: "Improving Educational Services for Students with Visual Impairments: What Every Stakeholder Should Know"-Jan.23 & 24; Braille classes for staff meeting weekly from Jan.20 through May 7; "The School Improvement Process"-April 11; and four teachers have signed up for workshops related to reading, math, and assessment with the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative Summer Institute 2003
9. MSDB Foundation Activities-Requesting application to the Murdock Charitable Trust for Transition Program, highlights of approved operating budget for FY 04 of \$156,170
10. Conferences, Meetings and Contacts-March 27-hearing on HB 2, May 2-3-MAB State Convention, May 7-Town hall meeting of Democratic Legislators, May 15-16-BOPE Meeting, June 12-14-MAB State Conference, July 15-State Agency Summit on Early Intervention
11. Budget and Finance-Update on Budget-Summary of expenditures for FY03 to date, revisions in Medicaid billing procedures related to a general reduction in reimbursement rates and allowances for services provided by school psychologists and paraprofessionals.
12. Plant and Facilities-Update of current projects-Carpet and interior remodel-Long Range Building
13. School Calendar of Events-March 14-17-Travel Weekend, April 3-Arbor Day and Spring Music Program, April 7-MontCAS Pilot Testing Grades 5-6 Math, April 25-Prom, May 9-12 Travel Weekend, May 31-Graduation, with Commencement Speaker Secretary of State Bob Brown, June 6-8-Family Learning Weekend for the Deaf, June 20-Kansas School for the Blind "Trails Project" visits MSDB
14. Student News and School Events-Six students and a teacher from the Department of the Hearing Impaired traveled to Washington, DC for the "Close-up" program, April 6-12, cooperative grant with UGF to enrich Art program continues through May with UGF students, Artist Kaye Russell helped VI students make canvas banners for the school, Senior Debbie McCoy is a recipient of the National Honor Roll Award.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**Executive Session-Meeting closed to public**

Called back into open session at 3:30 p.m.

## **PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – July 16 - 18, 2003**

- **Changing standards regarding HJR 10**
- **Western Governors University**
- **Aggregated NRT state scores**
- **Teachers Review-Carroll College**
- **PEPPS recommendation**
- **State Schools Trust Lands (meeting in Bozeman, Diane & Kirk to attend)**
- **UM-Western B.S. Degree in Health**
- **Board officer election**
- **Committee appointments and re-appointments**
- **Substantial Material Non-Performance disciplines**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.**

APPROVED