

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

January 12-13, 2006

Helena Great Northern Hotel
835 Great Northern Blvd.
Western Star Room
Helena, MT 59601

From 8:30a.m. -12:30 p.m. the BOARD OF EDUCATION met in the Capitol Building, Room 317. The Board of Public Education met following this meeting at the Great Northern Hotel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Ms. Myers led the Board in the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Hopkins took roll call; a quorum was noted. Dr. Miller then read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed the visitors in the room. Dr. Miller proceeded to note some changes to the agenda; succeeding Item 12, Riverside Publishing has a psychomatrician who will be presenting on behalf of the Assessment Update; Item 13 will be an action item, to notice a rule for public hearing pending discussion. Item 21.5 will be added, presentation on Surveys of Enacted Curriculum, to be presented by Mr. McMilin and Ms. Bowles. Item 16 will be an action item, if the March Board of Public Education meeting date is changed.

Ms. Fladmo wished to make a few comments regarding the P-20 Committee, to be included in Item 19. Mr. Meloy stated that Item 15, University of Great Falls Review, would be expounded upon by Dr. Harold Jones to present the MA in Secondary Education.

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

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following board members: Chairperson Kirk Miller, Vice Chairperson Diane Fladmo, Storrs Bishop, John Fuller, Gay Ann Masolo, Cal Gilbert, Patty Myers, and Jack Jessop. Staff present at the meeting included Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education, Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council, and Suzan Hopkins, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Ex-officio members present included Superintendent Linda McCulloch (who joined the meeting at a later time). Visitors in attendance at the meeting included Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT; Bud Williams, OPI; Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Linda Peterson, OPI; Bob Runkel, OPI; Erik Burke, MEA-MFT; Judy Snow, OPI; Madalyn Quinlan, OPI; Larry Baker, MSU-Bozeman; Marty Greisen, Montana Association for the Blind; Cody Griesen, Montana Association for the Blind; Dan Burke, Montana Association for the Blind; K. Wilkinson, Legislative Audit Division (LAD); Beth Slouk, Bozeman Daily Chronicle; Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Norm Millikin, Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE); Jan Lombardi, Governor's Office; Louise Stump, MACIE; Carol Juneau, MIEA, MACIE; Darrell Rud, SAM; Harold Jones, University of Great Falls; Joyce Silverthorne, MACIE; Denise Juneau, OPI; David Huff, OPI; Al McMilin, OPI; Bridget Butler, LAD; and Angie Grove, LAD.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Bishop stated that the Board's finances have reached an elapsed time of 42% and everything is in order. Mr. Meloy stated that the CSPAC budget is over expended by 5% but SB 202 allows for us to utilize the Research Fund for over expenditures.

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

*****Items in the minutes appear in the order in which they were addressed at the meeting.***

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dr. Miller distributed a document outlining significant correspondence and also meetings that he has attended since the last Board of Public Education meeting.

Dr. Miller gave a synopsis of the Quality Schools Interim Committee activities which culminated with a failed vote (7-1); a press conference was called by the Governor's Office, which led to the crafting of SB 1 and the call to Special Legislative Session.

*Superintendent McCulloch joined the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Board Member Activities

Dr. Kirk Miller

11/18/05 Quality Schools Interim Committee (QSIC)
12/05/05 Final meeting of QSIC; attended Governor's press release conference outlining Governor's funding plan
12/14-15/05 Special Legislative Session
01/10/06 College Summit New Sites Montana Meeting in Havre

Patty Myers

12/04/05 Expressions of Silence (EOS) fundraiser, MSDB
12/18/05 Holiday Dinner, MSDB
12/20/05 Program, MSDB
01/03/06 MSDB Committee, MSDB Foundation Committee

Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Meloy outlined some of his activities that have transpired since the last Board meeting in November. A brief list follows:

- Attended all the meetings of the staff and full committee meetings for QSIC.
- Coordinated with operatives in arranging Jack Jessop's trip to Israel.
- Arranged for personnel audits of BPE staff positions
- Developed BOE work flow charts for P-20 Committee
- Attended MQEC remedy committee
- Worked on membership of Writing Proficiency implementation committee
- Met with ThinkOne architects regarding the Board's needs for new building
- "Cross trained" with Megan Kerzman on Suzan's job responsibilities in anticipation of her moving on.

Ms. Myers noted an error on the P-20 Committee Member list of the Board of Education; Mr. Gilbert will be added to the list of Committee Members.

Item 3 CSPAC REPORT

Mr. Donovan gave an overview of the Western States Certification Conference that he just returned from in San Francisco.

He also noted that Thursday, January 19, 2006 would be the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council's next meeting. They will have a panel discussion on Performance Based Pay

Systems and Tiered Licensure Structures in other states. Presenters on this panel will include Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Erik Burke, MEA-MFT; and Randy Morris, DOA.

The Teacher Mobility Study that NASDTEC is conducting will be launched soon; working with a consulting group out of Illinois called Learning Points Associates. It is a study to examine teacher mobility amongst the states; hope to have a contract in place by February.

Item 4 PEPPS REVIEW UPDATE

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Office of Public Instruction, presented to the Board an update of the PEPPS (Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards) review. She provided a timeline of activities forthcoming which follows:

- November-December—Subcommittee work regarding format and structure, Indian Education Integration, and Outreach and Delivery Plan
- January 2006—Presentations as information
- February—Review Advisory Panel Meeting, Outreach and Delivery, Public Comment
- March—Presentation to Board for discussion
- May—Notice for Hearing-Anticipated Action
- September—Final Action anticipated
- Fall—Outreach and delivery of final PEPPS

Item 5 REPORT ON MONTANA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNITS

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Office of Public Instruction, presented information to the Board regarding the approved educator preparation programs at eight of the Institutions of Higher Education in Montana. These programs are reviewed every seven years to verify compliance with the ARM 10.58 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards and Procedures as adopted by the Board of Public Education.

In addition, according to the Title II, Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1998, Sec. 207 Accountability for Programs that Prepare Teachers requires that the state report the quality of teacher preparation. Dr. Peterson distributed the Title II, HEA Report as part of her report.

Item 6 STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTORS WHO PROVIDE BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

Mr. Runkel, Administrator, Division of Special Education, Office of Public Instruction, discussed House Bill 438 (Braille Bill), which was signed into law during the regular session of the 2005 Montana Legislature. This bill included a number of provisions intended to improve educational opportunities for students with blindness. Included in these provisions was a requirement that the Board of Public Education establish standards to ensure that individuals who provide Braille instruction are appropriately trained and supervised.

Mr. Runkel also wished to add a discussion item and a possible action item for the next Board meeting to establish a task force to advise the Board on standards for individuals who provide Braille instruction. Dr. Miller directed the Licensure Committee to work with CSPAC and the Board to address this issue.

Item 7 SPECIAL EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Runkel, Administrator, Division of Special Education, Office of Public Instruction provided an overview of special education in Montana. This report included a review of the number of students served by special education, an overview of special education funding, and a discussion of special education performance indicators. The performance indicators are established in the State Performance Plan recently submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The State Performance Plan can be viewed at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/SpecEd/index.html>.

July 1, 2005 was the effective date of the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The reauthorization has resulted in important changes in the procedures used in determining eligibility for special education, provided flexibility for serving students at risk of being identified as eligible for special education, and established standards for defining "highly qualified" special education teachers.

Item 8 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McCulloch reported to the Board on activities that have transpired in the Office of Public Instruction. Some of these activities are outlined below:

- Presented Bell Award for Montana history with Norma Ashby to Great Falls teacher Linda Ferguson
- Visited with staff from the Division of Educational Research and Service at the University of Montana regarding school crisis response program
- Spoke at the Veterans Day Assembly at Columbia Falls High School honoring local veterans
- Received an excellent fiscal audit from the Legislative Auditor for managing the largest general fund budget of any state agency
- Participated in the final meeting of the QSIC
- Participated in joint press conference on the school funding legislation that passed the Special Session
- Hosted OPI staff State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign drawing winners for lunch

Item 10 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Jessop presented an overview of his recent trip with the Youth Ambassador Student Exchange from November 9-December 3, 2005, which was made possible by the America-Israel Friendship League. Mr. Jessop visited New York City, Washington D.C., and Israel. He distributed a synopsis, along with photographs of his expedition.

Item 12 MONTANA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Dr. Norm Millikin, Executive Director, Montana Council on Economic Education, gave an overview of this organization. He distributed an Annual Report to give the Board an idea of what the MCEE is and what they do. The organization's goal is to help teachers and schools get a better understanding about the economy in which they live and work and they have been in business since 1971. The Board is made up of 30 members, consisting of educators, government, agriculture, and non-profit organizations. They are affiliated with the National Council on Economic Education.

Item 13 ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Ms. Snow, Assessment Coordinator, OPI; and Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI; were joined at the table by Dr. Sarah Hennings, Senior Research Scientist, Riverside Publishing Company.

The future of the NRT was discussed, along with a proposed rule change to ARM 10.55.603 and 10.56.101 relating to assessment, which is the subject of the motion below.

Dr. Hennings discussed the Montana Sampling Plan which has as its goal to determine a representative sample of Montana students that, when tested, yields mean test scores that would be comparable to the mean test scores for the entire Montana student population at grades 4, 8 and 11. Using a statistical computer software program, a random sample of districts will be selected. Given this model for sampling, approximately 1100 students per grade will be selected. The random sample will need to be monitored so that the mean test scores of the disaggregated populations are comparable to the mean test scores of these populations statewide.

****This item was re-visited on the second day of the meeting, Friday, January 13, 2006.**

****Dr. Miller was absent from the meeting on January 13, 2006.**

Item 14 MACIE REPORT

Ms. Stump summarized the discussion from the November 10, 2005 MACIE meeting. At this meeting the following topics were addressed: Indian Education for All implementation—Ready-to-Go grants (25 grants were submitted; 18 will be funded). There will also be opportunities for grants to

organizations as well as funding for research to colleges. Ongoing curriculum and materials development projects were presented and discussed. Also, brief reports were made on the revised writing proficiency assessment, the issues discussed by the Interim Quality Committee, and the revision of the Accreditation Standards.

It was recommended that the MACIE submit a proposal to the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) to research the impact of the loss of language on reading and writing proficiency in American Indian students. The purpose would be to clarify the language needs of Indian students identified as limited English proficient. Joyce Silverthorne, Leon Rattler, and Lynn Hinch will develop the language/rationale for this proposal.

Item 9 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT

Commissioner Stearns introduced the new student regent, Heather O'Loughlin. She also distributed and discussed the Montana University System's 2009 Biennium Budget Planning-New Proposals (January 2006).

Item 11 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Lombardi, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office, briefly mentioned the funeral arrangements for the Lieutenant Governor's wife, Bette Bohlinger.

She distributed a summary from the Special Session, which designated an increase in resources for schools by about \$37 million per year without raising taxes. This is in addition to \$88 million in new money that was allocated to K-12 education in the 2005 regular session.

Some of the factors that this funding will target are as follows:

- Quality Educator Component--\$24.5 million to help recruit and retain teachers
- Indian Education for All Component--\$3 million to help all students understand the rich cultural heritage of Montana's first people
- At-risk Student Component--\$5 million to help all students succeed
- American Indian Student Achievement Gap Component--\$3.3 million to help close the gap and improve student performance

She also briefly discussed the Board of Education meeting, which occurred on January 12, 2006.

Item 13 ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Ms. Snow, Assessment Coordinator, OPI; and Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI; discussed the proposed amendment to ARM 10.55.603 and 10.56.101 relating to assessment. She also distributed a document outlining the changes and noted that a public hearing would be held in the conference room at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, in the NY Building at 46 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena on February 27, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the amendments.

MOTION: Mr. Gilbert moved to strike the word *sample* from 10.56.101 in the first paragraph and also in paragraph (a). Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried. It was further noted to amend the Statement of Reasonable Necessity by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2006. The amendment would delete the word *can* from the first sentence and change it to *may*.

MOTION: Mr. Gilbert moved to accept the amended proposed rule and notice for hearing ARM 10.55.603 and 10.56.101. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 15 UNIVERSITY OF GREAT FALLS REVIEW

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Office of Public Instruction, discussed the Full State Review of the Professional Education Unit at the University of Great Falls, October 23-26, 2005. The purpose of this review was to validate the Unit's Institutional Report (IR). The Montana State Verification Team reviewed the unit and specific program standards as articulated in the IR of the Professional Education Unit at the University of Great Falls. The State Verification Team based the review on the Board of Public Education's Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) and Procedures Manual.

This presentation was an informative one, providing the Board with the Exit Report from the on-site review of the University of Great Falls.

Dr. Harold Jones, University of Great Falls, discussed the Great Falls Professional Education Unit Proposed Master of Arts (MAT) for Secondary Teaching Program changes.

Item 16 DATE CHANGE FOR MARCH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING

Ms. Fladmo, in the absence of Dr. Miller, brought the subject of a possible conflict with the date for the March Board of Public Education meeting with CSPAC's calendar. After a brief discussion, it was decided that no change to the March meeting was needed. The March Board of Public Education meeting will stay at March 9-10, 2006.

Item 17 TRAFFIC EDUCATION REPORT

Mr. David Huff, Traffic Education Director, OPI, presented an update on six programs covered in his division. They included the Novice Driver Education Program Summary 2003-2005, Montana DRIVE (Advanced Driver Education), Traffic Education Curriculum Rewrite, Graduated Drive License (GDL), the Belgrade Driver Ed Crash, and a Research Project.

Item 18 EXITING BOARD MEMBER-LAST MEETING

Ms. Fladmo reported that Ms. Masolo has sent in her application for re-appointment but as of this meeting, the Board has not heard from the Governor's Office. Ms. Masolo's term expires on February 2, 2006.

Item 19 NASBE UPDATE

Ms. Fladmo discussed the appointments to committees and study groups – Ms. Myers to Early Childhood, Mr. Miller to Governmental Affairs, and Mr. Fuller to awards. Ms. Fladmo also gave a brief update on the Texas Board's decision to withdraw from NASBE. She announced that NASBE had a third study group on Financial Education in addition to the Early Childhood and Civic Engagement groups.

Item 20 NCLB UPDATE

Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, OPI presented information concerning the approval by the U.S. Department of Education of requested amendments to the Montana Accountability Workbook.

Ms. Coopersmith gave the Board an overview of what the State Education Agency is involved in a typical month with NCLB and other federal programs. She invited the Board to attend the Title I Conference on February 13-16, 2006. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand, Billings and approximately 500 participants are expected to attend.

The First Annual Assessment Conference will be held May 1-2, 2006, sponsored in part with NCLB funds. It will be held at the Red Lion Inn, Helena, with an expected 400 participants.

Staff is working on a consolidated grant application used by schools and districts to apply for funding to the Office of Public Instruction. This is an electronic application and awards more than \$65 billion in funds to Montana schools.

Staff has begun work on a new newsletter that will focus on continuous improvement in education.

Item 21 LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION/DROP-OUT STUDY

Ms. Bridget Butler, Legislative Audit Division, along with Ms. Angie Grove explained the performance audit on the calculation of dropout and graduation rates. She discussed the four audit objectives that are listed below:

1. Determine if guidelines and definitions provided by OPI are designed to create consistent, accurate data on graduate and dropout students.
2. Determine if schools follow guidelines and definitions for graduate and dropout students in a consistent manner, so as to produce accurate, reliable data for OPI.
3. Determine if the new student information system is designed to provide comparable and uniform information on graduate and dropout students among Montana public schools.
4. Determine if data on high school dropout and graduates is needed or used by

educational stakeholders for the purpose of informing decisions.

Ms. Butler presented an audit timeframe, which states that the report is expected to be presented at the June 2006 Legislative Audit Committee meeting.

Item 21. 5 SURVEYS OF ENACTED CURRICULUM PRESENTATION

Mr. McMilin, Educator Quality Program Specialist, OPI, and Ms. Bowles, Accreditation Accountability Specialist, OPI, presented an overview of the Montana Surveys of Enacted Curriculum (MSEC) project which provides support and training in the use of Surveys of Enacted Curriculum, a research-based tool that collects, reports, and uses data on what content is taught and how it is taught in individual schools and districts in the areas of math, science and language arts/reading. This tool provides analyses on the relative "alignment" between standards, curriculum, assessments and instruction. This methodology uses surveys administered at the classroom and school levels which are either paper-based or Web-based. The resulting data analysis and reports are intended to assist teachers, administrators, and policy makers with planning for on-going instructional improvement as part of Montana's Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan (5YCEP).

ACTION ITEMS

Item 22 NCATE/MONTANA PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Dr. Peterson, Administrator, Office of Public Instruction reviewed the NCATE/Montana Partnership Agreement at the November 2005 meeting. Montana and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) have held a partnership agreement since 1987.

The proposed NCATE/Montana Partnership Agreement continues the past practice of conducting joint on-site reviews of NCATE participating institutions. The team composition consists of educators representing NCATE and Montana. The NCATE/State Team and State Verification Team work together, sharing equal roles and responsibilities in all functions of the review.

Under the on-site visit protocol, developed jointly, NCATE standards are accepted by the Board of Public Education as at least equivalent to Sub-Chapters 2,3,4 and 6 of its educator preparation program standards (ARM Title 10, Chapter 58), the unit standards. NCATE accepts Montana's state-based program review of subject area standards, as being at least equivalent to the NCATE folio process, Specialized Professional Associations (SPA).

The Montana State Verification Team reviews the specific program standards articulated in the Board of Public Education Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS). The NCATE/State Team examines the NCATE Unit Standards, which are incorporated into the Montana PEPPS as stated above.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve the NCATE/Montana Partnership Agreement. Ms. Masolo seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 23 ALTERNATIVE STANDARD REQUEST FORM AND PROCEDURE

Mr. Warhank, Accreditation Specialist, OPI presented the restructured Alternative Standard Request Form.

Mr. Warhank's presentation also included the Proposed Alternative Standard Requests Implementation and Timeline which is listed below:

- January-Send letters to all schools that have alternative standard applications "on the books" to inform them that they must re-apply
- Early February-Meet with a "strategy team" to develop a technical assistance model for schools applying for Alternative Standards
- Mid-February-Provide technical assistance to schools in North Central, East, West and South
- March-Application due date
- April-Present at the State County Superintendents Convention
- April/May-Make "on-site" visits to schools seeking renewals
- July-Bring some recommendations to BPE for consideration

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve the Alternative Standards Request Form. The motion was seconded by Ms. Masolo and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 24 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Mr. Sykes, Financial Officer, MSDB, and Bill Davis, Principal, MSDB presented an update of activities that have transpired since the last Board meeting. They are listed below:

1. Student Enrollment/Evaluation: On campus total: 71; off campus total: 277; Student evaluations to date: 18
2. Human Resources: Two resignations
3. School Improvement-Action Item: Adoption and revision of draft policies which are related to the NAAS accreditation review: STUDENTS 3520-Student Fees, Fines and Charges

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to adopt the revisions of policies STUDENTS 3520-Student Fees, Fines and Charges. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

4. Professional Development Activities: Curriculum reports of all teachers were reviewed and all show improvements from last year. Carol Clayton-Bye and Pam Boespflug attended Golden Triangle Curriculum Consortium reading or math committee for two days.
5. MSDB Foundation Activities: Foundation held its quarterly meeting on Monday, January 16, 2006.
6. Conferences, Meetings and Contacts:
7. Finance and Facilities: Update on Budget
8. School Calendar of Events:
9. Student News and School Events: Fall Enrichment/Goalball weekend was held November 11-12; students worked to create garland which included Braille for the Cascade County Christmas Tree at the Capitol in Helena; VIP performed at Missouri River Manor on December 14;
10. Public Comment for Non Agenda Items:

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – March 9-10, 2006

- Presentation for next MEA-MFT Conference and MCEL Conference
- Review and report from OPI on Distant Learning rule and how to make it more contemporary
- Letter to Marianne Krogstad for her years of performance with MSDB with Kirk's signature
- LFA presentation from PEPB committee
- Consideration of the University of Great Falls Master of Arts

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.